Standardization,
Documentation and Normal
Values in Haematology

2nd Transactions of the Standardizing Committee of the
European Society of Haematology and
Proceedings of a Symposium held at the Xth Congress of the
International Society of Haematology

Stockholm, 30th August and ist September, 1964

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With 56 figures and 49 tables

BASEL (Switzerland) S. KARGER NEW YORK

Erscheint gleichzeitig als

Bibliotheca Haematologica

Additamentum ad

Acta Haematologica

International Journal of Haematology - Journal International d’Hématologie
Internationale Zeitschrift für Hämatologie

Contributing Editors:
L. Heilmeyer, Freiburg i. Br. - E. Meulengracht, København - S. Moeschlin,
Solothurn - J. Waldenström, Lund


et

Additamentum ad

Vox Sanguinis
Preface

The universal and lively interest displayed by more than 200 participants from 34 countries throughout the world with regard to our meetings shows how topical are the themes cited in the title of the symposium (and this report) and which have until now been so sadly neglected.

Among the questions of standardization, the first main theme of our symposium, that of haemometry, still occupied the focal point of most papers. In addition, however, the problems of standardizing numerous other haematological methods were mentioned, thus outlining the path to be taken by the relevant research during the next few years. With regard to haemometry, it was of great importance that the majority of the world leaders in this field were present for this question; and that at last the discussion revealed the possibility of worldwide agreement. Other papers were devoted to the important theme of documentation of haematological findings, diseases, methods and the literature, and showed what immense opportunities for technical progress are offered in this field. The third section of the papers was concerned with the question “What is normal?” and contributed a large number of haematological normal values from widely varying countries and continents.
At the meeting of the European Standardizing Committee the delegates from a dozen European countries reported on, inter alia, the problems of organisation, as well as on their experiences up to the present of the work of haematological standardization in their own countries. They exchanged experiences, and brought a significant stimulus to the work still to be accomplished. Here, too, the question of haemometry was in the forefront (one delegate even communicated a norm draft worked out to the last detail) but other methods were also discussed.

The present volume contains all papers and discussions together with extensive bibliographies, and forms the companion to the Fasc. 18 of the Bibliotheca Haematologica “Erythrocytometric Methods and their Standardization”, which in the few months since it appeared has already met with an enthusiastic reception.

It is my pleasant duty to thank Prof. Waldenström, the President, and Prof. Böttiger, the General Secretary of the Congress, and Prof. Thorell, who have rendered possible the realisation of these meetings. I have also to thank Prof. Heilmeyer for presiding at our conferences; the authors for their brilliant scientific work; and all participants, whose vigorous co-operation has helped to make both of these meetings an outstanding success. My thanks are due to Prof. Astaldi, Dr. Coster, Dr. Lewis and Dr. Spaander, who so kindly undertook the editorship of large sections of the second part. My thanks are also due to the publishers, S. Karger, for the rapid publication of this work and for its moderate price, which was also rendered possible by the generous support of the Ministry of Public Health of Germany and of the firms mentioned overleaf. Finally, I have to thank Mrs. Gózon and Mr. Preston for their skilful assistance in interpreting and correcting this volume.

Freiburg im Breisgau, November 1964

Ch. G. de Boroviczény

Acknowledgement

The organization of the symposium and the publication of this issue was supported by:
The German Ministry of Health

furthermore by:

Asal, Chemische Fabrik, i Berlin
M. Christ, 336 Osterode
P. A. E. Heilige, 614 Bensheim
R. Kallmeyer, 817 Bad Tölz
C. Schleicher & Schüll, 3354 Dassel
C. Zeiss, 7082 Oberkochen
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Sandoz AG, 4000 Basel
Vitatron AG, Dieren

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