4th Teupitzer Colloquium September 28 to October 1, 2001

Free Radicals and Skin – Proceedings

Preface

We are pleased to introduce the proceedings of the Colloquium that took place from September 28 to October 1, 2001 in Teupitz/Brandenburg, Germany. The 4th Teupitzer Colloquium continues a series of meetings founded in 1998 and now organized every year by the Department of Dermatology at the Free University of Berlin, Germany. The aim of these meetings is to bring together basic researchers and clinicians inside and outside Dermatology, leading to interactive discussions of new and relevant developments in skin research. Last year, 'Free Radicals and Skin' was the general theme of the meeting held at the lakeside land castle in Teupitz, a picturesque village close to Berlin, with numerous participants from 14 different countries of Europe and Overseas.

Free radicals are implicated in the pathogenesis of a wide variety of human disorders. More recently, it became obvious that these compounds are partly involved in the pathogenesis of acute and chronic skin damage. Growing interest in this field is reflected in

increasing knowledge of the pathomechanisms involved and a large number of published papers focussing on this topic. The scientific programme of the meeting included sections on 'UV and radical formation', 'Skin aging', and 'Photocarcinogenesis', all framed by short presentations on apoptosis, dysfunction of the immune system and detection of free radicals in skin. Topical or systemic administration of antioxidants as discussed in 'Prevention and therapy' was an upcoming topic of interest that has also been widely discussed during this meeting.

The present issue includes 15 selected papers representative for the scope and the level of the 4th Teupitzer Colloquium. We are grateful to all authors for submitting their papers and making possible the presentation of this issue. Also, we wish to express our sincere thanks to H. Merk, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal *Skin Pharmacology and Applied Skin Physiology*, and to Karger and its staff for providing us the opportunity to make these proceedings available to the readers.

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