Third Brook Lodge Workshop on Spontaneous Diabetes in Laboratory Animals

held at Brook Lodge, Augusta, Michigan, May 2 to 4, 1974

Introduction by Workshop Editors

The studies presented in this issue are those which were reported to the Third Brook Lodge Workshop on Spontaneous Diabetes in Laboratory Animals in the Spring of 1974. The First Workshop took place in October, 1966, and the Second, in November, 1969. Thus, the three Workshop reports, taken together, are a good reflection of the work, during the last decade, in the field of spontaneous, inappropriate hyperglycemia in rodents, often associated with obesity. For all who are interested in potential models of abnormal intermediary metabolism, as related to storage or utilisation of food energy, will appreciate the convenience and efficiency of having available a significant percentage of the relevant literature in three issues of the same journal, *Diabetologia*. The Workshop editors wish to express their appreciation to the Upjohn Company for having initiated and supported the Workshops themselves, as well as their publication. They are also grateful to the editors of *Diabetologia*, to the European Association for the Study of Diabetes, and to the Springer-Verlag, for understanding the scientific advantages to be gained from this convenient collection and centralisation of much of the information and the bibliography concerned with a still relatively restricted subject, yet a quite inter-disciplinary one.

The Workshop editors also wish to reiterate their admiration for two major contributions of an institutional nature, both of which have added greatly to research concerned with the potential usefulness of spontaneous diabetes in laboratory animals. Meyer and Yerganian, working at the Childrens' Cancer Research Foundation in Boston, discovered, some fifteen years ago, that inbreeding within lines and sub-lines of Chinese hamsters, may lead to the occurrence of spontaneous glycosuria and hyperglycemia. Ten years ago the management of the Upjohn Company approved a long-range programme providing support for the systematic analysis of that observation of fundamental pathophysiologic interest. Much of the significant information accumulated since, can be largely credited to that decision. As evidenced by the many contribu-

tions published by Gerritsen, Dulin, Chang and their collaborators, adherence to the initial policy has been maintained and knowledge of real importance has been accumulated.

Secondly, whenever dealing with inbred strains of mice and their mutations, especially mutations of metabolic interest, it is difficult not to acknowledge the exceptional pioneering, as well as persistent contribution of the Jackson Memorial Laboratories in Bar Harbor, Maine, without which most of the genetically well defined syndromes in mice would either not have been discovered at all or would not be available for study throughout the world.

In closing, the Workshop editors wish to emphasise that the coverage of the subject matter in the present Workshop makes no claim whatsoever to completeness as to the contributions made to the area of spontaneous diabetes in animals during the interval since the Second Workshop was held. They do hope, however, that some of the most important contributions concerning some, and only some, of the syndromes, have been included, and for this they are grateful to all contributing authors and laboratories. Although great care has to be exercised in transferring information from one species to another, they nevertheless hope that much of the information gained, in the long run, proves profitable to diabetes-related biomedical research.

References

- First Brook Lodge Workshop on Spontaneous Diabetes in Laboratory Animals. *Diabetologia* **3**, 63—286 (1967)
- Second Brook Lodge Workshop on Spontaneous Diabetes in Laboratory Animals. *Diabetologia* **6**, 12—372 (1970)

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