



Fig. 4. Clamp with groove for securing the needle or catheter in position in the aorta. a) lateral view; b) frontal view, and needles or catheters for the perfusion of Chinese hamsters (c), mice (d), and rats (e).

<sup>5</sup> M. BORGERS, I. SCHAPER and W. SCHAPER, *J. Histochem. Cytochem.* 19, 526 (1971).

<sup>6</sup> Thanks are due to Dr. J. W. BUCHANAN, University of Pennsylvania, for advice during the development of the system.

This more complex system provides accurately controlled fixation where this is required for histochemical reactions, e.g. nucleoside phosphorylase determinations in endothelium and fibroblasts<sup>5</sup>. The short fixation period does not drastically inhibit enzymatic activity and permits cryostate sectioning without artefacts which could impair subsequent electron microscopic study of the tissue.

Catheters or needles used for entering the abdominal aorta differ in outside diameters depending on the size of the animal. For larger animals, such as adult rats, a short length of polyethylene arterial catheter may be mounted on a cut hypodermic needle (Figure 4, e). With smaller animals, Chinese hamsters for example, a hypodermic needle (Figure 4, c) outer diameter 0.3 mm, with tip shortened and slanted to 45°, in which case the aorta can be entered directly without need for clamp. A grooved clamp to hold catheters or needles in aortas is shown in lateral (Figure 4, a) and frontal views (Figure 4, b).

These systems avoid the use of peristaltic pumps or of gravity to ensure perfusion. Pressures provided by peristaltic pumps are not easily reproducible, and the pumps costly. Pressure by gravity, for example for rats with hypertension of 250 mm Hg or higher would be difficult to achieve in the laboratory<sup>6</sup>.

*Summary.* Control on duration of application and pressure of fixative is achieved with an apparatus of simple construction. This allows optimal fixation of laboratory animals for morphological and cytochemical studies.

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## CONGRESSUS

### Canada

#### International Symposium on Flammability and Fire Retardants

*in Toronto, 6-7 May 1976*

Papers should deal with flammability and fire retardancy of polyurethanes, plastics, textiles and fabrics, paints and coatings, testing procedures and marketing. Papers are now being solicited and tentative titles should be sent by October 15, 1975 to: Vijay Mohan Bhatnagar, Editor, *Advances in Fire Retardants*, 209 Dover Road, Cornwall, Ontario, Canada K6J 1T7.

### Italy

#### International Symposium on Thrombosis and Urokinase

*in Roma, 30 October-1 November 1975*

The Symposium is organized by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità and the chairmen are: Prof. Sol Sherry of Philadelphia, USA, and Prof. R. Paoletti of Milano, Italy. Main topics: Physiopathology of thrombosis. Chemical, biochemical and pharmacological aspects of urokinase. Effects of urokinase on thrombosis. Clinical applications of urokinase.

Registration fee will be US Dollars 30.00. Information and registration by Prof. Rodolfo Paoletti, Via A. Del Sarto 21, I-20129 Milano, Italy.

## Corrigendum

G. Tortolani and E. Ramagnoli: Estimation of Molecular Weight of Acid Mucopolysaccharides by Thin-Layer Electrophoresis on Sephadex-Cellulose, *Experientia*

31, 389 (1975). The explanation of the symbols in the caption of Figure 3 should correctly read as follows: ●, CSC; ○, CSB; ⊙, FB; ⊚, CSA; ⊛, 3GS; ⊜, HP.