

ALCOHOL AND THE LIVER

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ALCOHOL AND THE LIVER

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PREFACE

Alcohol abuse is this culture's most important drug problem. Statistics indicate that it is exacting a great and relentlessly increasing toll of human suffering. It is clear that the problem is not being dealt with in any effective manner.

At the invitation of the Canadian Hepatic Foundation, many of the world's experts gathered in Toronto, May 14-15 1976, to focus attention on one of the most important aspects of the alcohol problem - alcohol induced liver damage.

The epidemiology of alcohol induced liver disease was discussed and current views on the pathogenesis of the problem were reviewed. New insight into the pathological alterations of the liver was presented and some of our current therapeutic capabilities were discussed. Dr. Hans Popper summarized the Symposium and presented some of his views on those aspects of the problem which will require early attention by the research community.

The Symposium achieved its immediate objective - that of bringing together the committed experts of various disciplines for an updating of our understanding of alcohol and the liver and for a discussion of new approaches to the problem. As a backdrop to the Symposium, however, was large writing on the wall to the effect that we are expending our research talents and efforts on a totally unnecessary problem. Right now we probably know enough and have sufficient resources at our disposal to solve the problem. The less immediate, but more important, objective of the Symposium was to raise the general level of awareness that the time is long overdue for our culture to adopt a much more aggressive and organized approach to the prevention of alcohol induced liver disease.

The Canadian Hepatic Foundation believes that this was an important and successful Symposium and it is particularly grateful to the members of the Faculty who insured that success.

NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Editing is a challenging way of life! Many helped reduce the particular challenge presented by "Alcohol and the Liver".

We appreciate the authors who submitted high quality manuscripts within the time requested.

We appreciate Louise Amantea who typed the manuscripts in an expert manner.

We appreciate Valerie Price who more or less did all the work.

Murray M. Fisher

James G. Rankin

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