Medical Virology 8

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Medical Virology 8

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SPRINGER SCIENCE+BUSINESS MEDIA, LLC

Library of Congress Card Catalog Number 89-657524
ISBN 978-1-4899-0893-3 ISBN 978-1-4899-0891-9 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-4899-0891-9

Proceedings of the 1988 International Symposium on Medical Virology,
held September 22–24, 1988, in San Francisco, California

© 1989 Springer Science+Business Media New York
Originally published by Plenum Press, New York in 1989
Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1989

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FOREWORD

No other area of biology has grown as fast and become as relevant over the last decade as virology. It is with no little amount of amazement, that the more we learn about fundamental biological questions and mechanisms of diseases, the more obvious it becomes that viruses permeate all facets of our lives. While on one hand viruses are known to cause acute and chronic, mild and fatal, focal and generalized diseases, on the other hand, they are used as tools for gaining an understanding of the structure and function of higher organisms, and as vehicles for carrying protective or curative therapies. The wide scope of approaches to different biological and medical virological questions was well represented by the speakers that participated in this year's Symposium. While the epidemic by the human immunodeficiency virus type 1 continues to spread without hope for much relief in sight, intriguing questions and answers in the area of diagnostics, clinical manifestations and therapeutical approaches to viral infections are unveiled daily. Let us hope, that with the increasing awareness by our society of the role played by viruses, not only as causative agents of diseases, but also as models for better understanding basic biological principles, more efforts and resources are placed into their study.

Luis M. de la Maza
Ellena M. Peterson

Irvine, California
March, 1989

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To organize an international meeting is a task that requires the efforts of many individuals, and thus it would be very difficult to recognize all those that have contributed to this year's undertaking. We want, however, to at least name those individuals that in a most unselfish manner, put forth the time and effort to make this Symposium a reality. Our thanks go to all the speakers for their excellent lectures and the chapters that they contribute for this book, and to Drs. Thomas C. Cesario and Edwin E. Lennette for chairing the sessions. We want to acknowledge also the participants for their willingness to share their knowledge and their questions and by so doing making the meeting a stimulating intellectual experience.

Throughout the year the staff of the Division of Medical Microbiology at the University of California Irvine, provided us with continuous support and particular mention should be made of Marie Pezzlo and Sandra Aarnaes, who shared their efforts with us almost on a daily basis. The completion of these Proceedings would not have been possible without the secretarial support of Penny Richardson and the assistance of Mirtha Nodal and Lillian Dalglish in preparing the manuscripts. The Plenum Publishing Co. helped us with their editorial support throughout this undertaking. We are particularly grateful to Melanie Yelity and Gregory Safford for their support.

We want also to express our appreciation to the following organizations that provided the financial support to make the Symposium a reality:

Bayer AG/Miles, Inc.
Bethesda Research Laboratories
Bion Enterprises, LTD
Bio-Rad Laboratories
Coulter Immunology
Eastman Pharmaceuticals
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Gull Laboratories, Inc.
Hoffman-La Roche, Inc.
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Ortho Diagnostics Systems, Inc.
Pharmacia LKB Biotechnology, Inc.
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Sandoz Research Institute
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SmithKline & French Laboratories
Syva Company
Triton Biosciences, Inc.
The Upjohn Company
Virion (U.S.), Inc.
ViroMED Laboratories, Inc.
Whittaker Bioproducts
Wyeth Laboratories

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