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DEVELOPMENTAL ASPECTS OF ANTIBODY FORMATION AND STRUCTURE

Proceedings of a Symposium
held in Prague and Slapy
on June 1—7, 1969

Organized by the
Department of Immunology, Institute of Microbiology,
Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences

supported by the
World Health Organization
International Atomic Energy Agency
International Union of Biological Sciences

Edited by
**J. Šterzl and I. Říha with the co-workers
of the Department of Immunology**

Volume I.



**Academia
Publishing House of the
Czechoslovak Academy
of Sciences, Prague**



**Academic Press
New York and London**

1970



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Distributed throughout the World with
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Academic Press, Inc.
111 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10003

United Kingdom Edition published by
Academic Press, Inc. (London) Ltd.
Berkeley Square House, London W1X6BA

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 70-104305

Printed in Czechoslovakia

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CZECHOSLOVAK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

Scientific Editor: Academician Ivan Málek

Foreign Language Editor: J. H. Cort

Graphic Design by Josef Prchal

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Distributed throughout the World with
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Academic Press, Inc.
111 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10003

United Kingdom Edition published by
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- Introduced by G. M. Edelman
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PREFACE

The volumes of proceedings of Prague symposia on immunology (Mechanisms of Antibody Formation, 1960; Molecular and Cellular Basis of Antibody Formation, 1965) are more than simple documents of symposium contents. At five-year intervals they have reflected the situation in the field of immunology and witnessed both the qualitative and quantitative growth of this branch of science.

The subject of the present symposium, "Developmental Aspects of Antibody Formation and Structure", seemed to the organizers to express the prevailing trend in theoretical immunology in the five past years: the manner in which immune mechanisms develop in stages under natural selective pressures. Phylogenetic and ontogenetic aspects of the main important problems were discussed: the origin of lymphatic tissue and its cells, the function and mutual relations of cells of different types and origin, the protein products (immunoglobulins) of lymphatic cells compared in terms of primary structure.

The symposium was opened in the oldest part of the Charles University in Prague, in the Carolinum. The major part of the symposium took place outside Prague, in a small summer resort, Slapy, which enabled the participants to concentrate for one week on the presentations and discussion. We hope to be able to keep up the tradition of scientific meetings at five-year intervals also in the future, and believe that the next volume will bring experimental data on subjects proposed in the present volume only as actual trends.

The organizers of the symposium are grateful for financial support from the international organizations mentioned on the front page. In addition, support was obtained from organizations and firms: C.I.O.M.S., Paris; Burroughs, Wellcome & Co. Inc., Tuckahoe, N. Y.; Merck & Co. Inc., Rahway, N. J.; Miles Laboratories Inc., Elkhart, Ind.; Ortho Research Foundation, Raritan, N. J.; Smith Kline & French Laboratories, Philadelphia, Pa., which was used to cover travel expenses and allowed all the invited participants to be present at the meeting.

Prague, July 1969

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