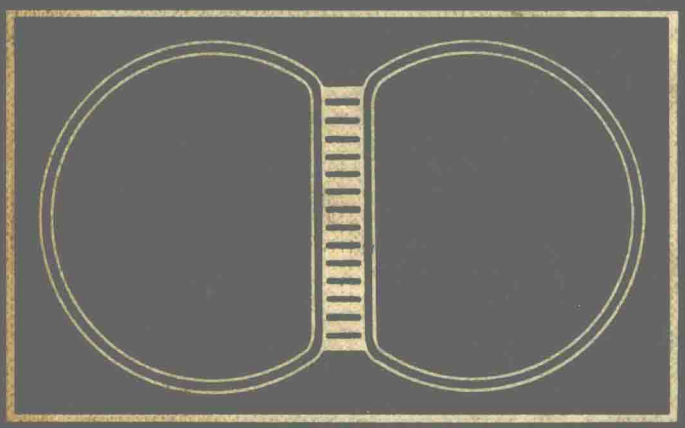
International Cell Biology 1980-1981

Papers Presented at the
Second International Congress on Cell Biology
Berlin (West), August 31 – September 5, 1980

Edited by H.G.Schweiger



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With 595 Figures

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Preface

In September, 1976, the International Federation for Cell Biology held its first congress in Boston. On this occasion Berlin was chosen as the site for the next congress. This meant an acknowledgement and at the same time a heavy burden for the still young European Cell Biology Organization, which represents a junction of European societies and groups for cell biology. In practical terms, this meant that the members of the young and, compared to the American Society for Cell Biology, small German Society for Cell Biology had to do a good deal of the organizing of the Cell Biology Congress. This is an opportunity for me, as Chairman of the Organizing Committee, and also on behalf of the German Society for Cell Biology, to express my gratitude to all those who have actively participated in the preparations for this Cell Biology Congress. The success of the Congress in Berlin was to a significant extent due to their work. In particular, I would like to especially thank the Secretary General of ECBO Werner Franke, Heidelberg, as well as the Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Peter Giesbrecht, Berlin, for the excellent job they did.

The Congress in Berlin proved to be significantly larger than that in Boston in 1976. The number of abstracts increased from 1200 to more than 1800. They have been published in the European Journal of Cell Biology. In a similar way the number of symposia and workshops expanded. This apparently guaranteed that the Congress covered more or less the whole spectrum of the different fields of cell biology.

In the Organizing Committee, a discussion came up whether one should try at all, after the extraordinary success of the Boston Meeting, to compile essential parts of the proceedings of the symposia and workshops as a second volume under the title *International Cell Biology 1980–1981*. The members of the Organizing Committee were hesitant since they so much admired the great work our American colleagues Drs. Brinkley and Porter did. The final decision was strongly influenced by the preface to the first volume where it was expressed "that subsequent congresses will find in this publication a precedent which they will choose to follow, so that in the decades to come we shall have a continuous summary of our progress toward understanding the cell". This is as true today as it was four years ago and does not need any addition.

From our correspondence with a number of cell biologists, we learned that they have high expectations for this book. We would like to express our hope that these expectations are fulfilled. In these days, the readiness to write a comprehensive article about the recent progress in one's own field continuously drops. In contrast to this general feeling, we were extraordinarily surprised to learn that a high percentage of the invited speakers were ready to write an article for this book. As a result of this enthusiastic participation the book grew from a planned 700 pages to its final 1100 pages. Needless to say, this

enlargement of the volume created a number of problems for the publisher. Thanks to the outspoken flexibility of the Springer Publishing House these problems were overcome. Exemplary work on the side of the Springer Publishing House was done by Dr. Czeschlik and Ms. Schuhmacher. Special thanks are also in order to Ms. Klempp for her help in the preparation of this volume.

The value of such a book to a great extent depends on the time span between the meeting and the appearance of the book. In order to overcome this problem in a satisfactory way, it was necessary to keep within strict deadlines. Because of these deadlines, a number of contributions could not be included. Some of them will be published in the European Journal of Cell Biology. The Publishing House and editor have tried to do their best to maintain the standard which was established by the first volume. Our colleagues in Japan, hosts of the Third International Congress on Cell Biology in 1984, will then have the possibility of extending this tradition.

The Second Congress for Cell Biology was held in Berlin. The choice of Berlin was fitting in light of the fundamental contributions which have been made in cell biology and general biology in Berlin. The development of sciences cannot be considered and not at all understood separately from other developments. This becomes obvious if one thinks about the role of Berlin in the development of cell biology. The introductory lecture by Henry Harris, contained in this volume, gives a critical analysis of what has been done in Berlin in the fields of cell biology and in the related sciences. It also shows, however, that the scientific life in this city has encountered highs and lows. However, this introductory lecture places our science, cell biology, into the framework of history and tradition and stimulates our own thinking about the origin and the roots of cell biology. But by doing so, it may give us a chance to better understand where we are now and where we are going from here.

January, 1981 H. G. SCHWEIGER

Contributors

You will find the addresses at the beginning of the respective contribution

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