

MONONUCLEAR PHAGOCYTES

**IN IMMUNITY, INFECTION
AND PATHOLOGY**

**Edited by
Ralph van Furth**



Mononuclear Phagocytes

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AND PATHOLOGY

EDITED BY

RALPH VAN FURTH

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Preface

In the last fifteen years a great deal of new information has been acquired about the mononuclear phagocytes, which include the macrophages, monocytes, promonocytes, and monoblasts forming a cell line that participates in the defence mechanism of the host. The First Conference on Mononuclear Phagocytes was held in Leiden in 1969, and the proceedings of this conference, published in 1970 by Blackwell Scientific Publications, constitute a review of what was known up to that time about the structure, biochemistry, origin, and function of these cells. Interest in this field continued to increase, and the Second Conference on Mononuclear Phagocytes was held in 1973. Although this conference dealt with a wide variety of subjects, they can be grouped according to the role of the mononuclear phagocytes in immunity, infection, and pathology.

During the 1969 conference a proposal for a new classification of the mononuclear cells was put forward and the concept of the Mononuclear Phagocyte System (MPS) was introduced. After consultation with a large number of experts, a slightly modified version of this concept was published in the *WHO Bulletin* in 1972. During the Second Conference, discussion of the applications of the Mononuclear Phagocyte System to human pathology resulted in a proposal for an approach to a better classification of diseases in which mononuclear phagocytes are involved.

The Second Conference on Mononuclear Phagocytes, held in the Eysingahuis at Leiden, 2nd to 7th September 1973, was organized by Z.A.Cohn, W.G. Spector, and R.van Furth, and was made possible by the financial support received from various pharmaceutical firms including Beecham Nederland NV, Bristol-Myers Nederland, Essex (Nederland) BV, Gist-Brocades NV, Hoechst Pharma, Inpharzam-Nederland NV, Janssen Pharmaceutica, Lepetit NV, Merck Sharp & Dohme BV, Norwich Benelux NV, and Upjohn International Inc., as well as from the Netherlands Ministry of Education and Science, The Netherlands Heart Foundation, The Netherlands Association against Rheumatism, and The Wellcome Trust, which is gratefully acknowledged. Special mention must also be made of the technical and other assistance provided by Merck Sharp & Dohme and by the secretarial and other staff members of the Department of Microbial Diseases. It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the help of Mrs I.Seeger, Leiden, and Mr J.L.Robson and his staff at Blackwell Scientific

Publications, who made it possible to publish this volume with the minimum of trouble.

This monograph on mononuclear phagocytes in immunity, infection, and pathology comprises the articles corresponding to the papers given at the meeting, supplemented by the edited discussions.

R. VAN FURTH

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