Clinical Biochemistry Reviews

Volume 3

Edited by

David M. Goldberg, M.D., Ph.D.

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Preface

The initial aim of this series was to gather a team of contributors who would summarize, in a critical fashion, the important papers in their area over a single calendar year. For the purpose of continuity, they were asked to serve for a three-year term. Some have persevered in this task through adversity. It is my special pleasure to acknowledge a debt of gratitude to that heroic band: Dr. Paul Wolf; Dr. Gordon Forstner; Dr. Donald Laurence and Dr. Alexander Neville; Dr. Arthur Henderson; Dr. Beverley Murphy; Dr. Janakiraman Ramachandran; Dr. Arne Lundblad and Dr. Per-Arne Öckerman. I sincerely believe that what they have accomplished in the past three years will serve as an inspiration to their readers and a model for other reviewers.

Mr. Peter Broughton, too, belongs in that distinguished company, although he has changed topics, and this year, together with his colleague Dr. Timothy Carter, has directed his perceptive analysis toward developments in the field of Instrumentation. Those authors who have returned to this assignment for a second year include Dr. John Dupré, who this year brings with him Dr. Wilson Rodger to cover "Selected Topics in Diabetes Nellitus"; Dr. Peter Jatlow, who this year has written the chapter on "Toxicology and Therapeutic Drug Monitoring" without the benefit of a co-author; and Dr. Alan Chester for a second year joins his colleagues from Lund in describing "Biochemical Aspects of Genetic Disease."

To most of our readers, the new authors will need no introduction. Dr. Bernard Statland has made many personal contributions to the theme of the first chapter. Dr. Dan nelson is, under the tutelage his mentor, fast becoming one of the most respected young clinical enzymologists in North America. Dr. David Galton and Dr. Richard Thompson exemplify the best qualities of the London Medical School - the ability of its academic leaders to integrate clinical science with basic science. Their chapters on Lipoproteins and Hepatobiliary Disease respectively demonstrate, with the aid of younger colleagues, the happy results of such an effective synthesis. Finally, Dr. Ted Peters and Dr. Roberta Reed have achieved what previous contributors informed me was impossible: complete or nearly complete coverage of the fascinating proteins which circulate in our plasma; and in so doing, they have achieved a practical balance between matters of interest to the chemist, the analyst, and the clinician.

This third volume, in my view, is the most comprehensive and well-balanced collection in the series so far. Our critics have been kind, but they have pointed out obvious shortcomings, notably, a failure to achieve the uniformity of approach originally sought; the obvious selectivity adopted by many of the authors; and the thought that perhaps in most fields, there would not be sufficient material of real interest to merit review year after year. The option is now available to publish these Reviews less than annually. Perhaps every second year would be the optimal timeframe. Perhaps, also, the rigid chapter structure can give way to a more flexible format. These matters to which I will be giving deep consideration over the next few months, and any input from readers would be very welcome. In closing, I would like to acknowledge the efforts of both Mrs. Marj Fleming and Ms. Rosalind Straley, who have helped in the publication of this volume.

David M. Goldberg

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