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INTERFERONS

edited by
THOMAS C. MERIGAN
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Preface

This volume documents the proceedings of a major international conference on Chemistry and Biology of Interferons: Relationship to Therapeutics held at Squaw Valley, California in March 1982. The meeting was one of the 1982 UCLA Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology organized through the Molecular Biology Institute of the University of California at Los Angeles. The meeting was attended by nearly 300 participants. Papers were presented on (1) recombinant DNA production of interferon, (2) the biology of interferons, (3) factors relevant to clinical application of interferons, and (4) clinical studies of interferon. In addition to 44 speakers in the nine plenary sessions, there were three poster sessions as well as one afternoon workshop on immunological correlates of interferon treatment in man. This volume includes papers from the plenary session speakers and abstracts from the workshop participants. They describe the current state of research on the specific topic areas. A difficult decision had to be made because of space limitation in this volume and we sincerely regret that we were unable to include papers from the excellent posters presented. We have arranged the papers in the volume roughly according to their organization in the meeting with an attempt to group plenary session contributions together. We hope that the result represents a complete treatment of the rapidly moving field of interferon research as of early 1982. In addition, a special paper was presented at the meeting in remembrance of Lowell Glasgow, M.D., who was to speak at this meeting. Dr. Glasgow died suddenly a few weeks before the meeting. Because of Lowell's important contributions to this field, the published proceedings are dedicated to him.

With the increased numbers of clinical trials that are possible because of the availability of interferons through recombinant DNA research, this conference was especially timely. Not only were new collaborations sparked, but old friendships were renewed during the many informal discussions that were possible because of this meeting format. It was especially important that researchers on interferon meet at this time because of the rapid progress in the field. Also, the field now includes a diversity of scientists from many disciplines including biochemistry, genetics, biology, molecular biology, and clinical medicine. Scientists in these disciplines are affiliated with different national and international scientific societies and the field

of interferon research now has an important place in these many scientific organizations. Interferon research also requires multidisciplinary gatherings such as this conference in order to promote free interchange of information and advancement of the field.

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