Insulin

Chemistry, Structure and Function of Insulin and Related Hormones

Editors
D. Brandenburg • A. Wollmer

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Chemistry, Structure and Function of Insulin and Related Hormones

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Aachen, Germany, September 4-7, 1979

Editors
Dietrich Brandenburg · Axel Wollmer

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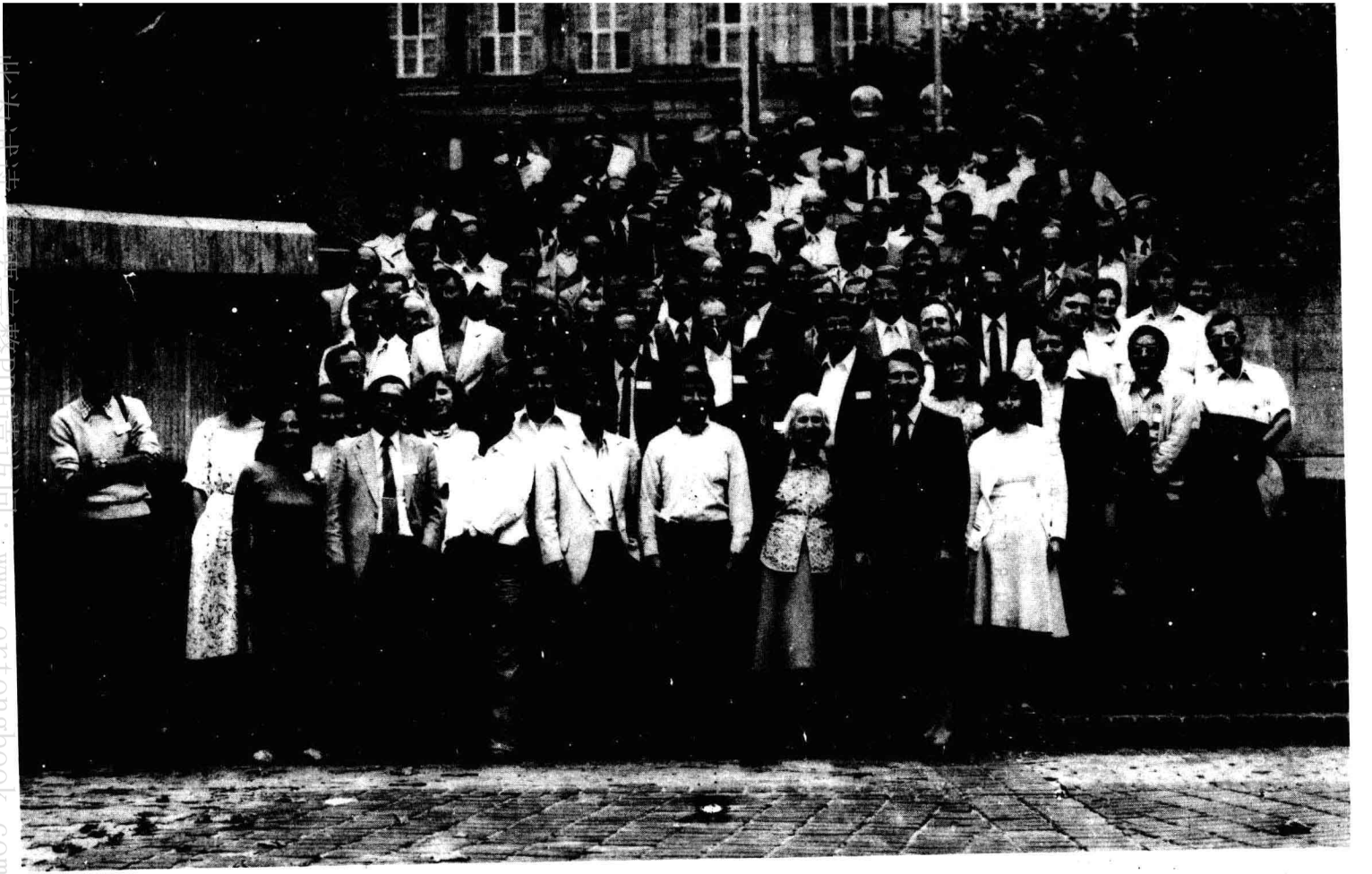
TO

PROFESSOR

DOROTHY HODGKIN



Professor Dorothy Hodgkin with participants
of the Insulin Symposium, Aachen 1979.

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organized by

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in cooperation with

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and
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Preface

More than fifty years after its discovery, twenty-five years after the determination of its amino acid sequence and ten years after the elucidation of its three-dimensional structure, insulin has still not lost its fascination. The driving force for the continued efforts to study this hormone lies mainly in the still unsolved problem of diabetes, which ranks among the most wide-spread diseases of our time. In addition insulin continues to play an important part in many fields of science, and often takes a leading role as a model or even nearly a symbol. Undoubtedly this molecule can be regarded as a fine example of interdisciplinary cooperation and the interrelation between basic and applied research.

This again became impressively apparent during the 2nd International Insulin Symposium in Aachen. The first Symposium had been held in 1973 on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Aachen insulin synthesis. Both Symposia were linked to a Congress of the International Diabetes Federation (Brussels and Vienna resp.). Whilst in those large meetings emphasis fell rather on the manifold aspects of the disease, the Aachen Symposia were designed to concentrate on the hormone. In 1973 insulin chemistry was treated successfully in a specialized meeting which also managed to present some of the various connections with other disciplines. Our proposal to intensify and adequately complement these relations in a Second Symposium had an extremely positive echo. We were therefore delighted to welcome to Aachen about 180 colleagues actively working in the fields of chemistry, biochemistry, biology, crystallography, immunology and medicine in 16 countries. Their 35 lectures and 61 poster presentations make up the body of this book. Since all of the communications contained new experimental results, these Proceedings present an up-to-date state of the art. Despite previous good intentions, it proved impossible to paraphrase the lively discussions throughout the Symposium adequately within this framework; they properly deserve an edition of their own.

"Wir sollten wieder ein Insulinsymposium machen"; with these words, and a promise of assistance from all members of the Deutsches Wollforschungs-

institut, Professor Zahn set this Symposium in motion late in 1977. We wish to thank him for his encouragement and help. Indeed, without the active involvement of everybody at the Institute, especially in the Insulin Division, the Symposium would have never materialized. We thank all concerned.

We most gratefully appreciate the co-operation of our colleagues on the Symposium and the Programme Committees, and the Chairmen of the Sessions.

Our sincere thanks are due to our colleagues from all over the world, whose participation and contributions made the Symposium a success.

Once again we would like to gratefully acknowledge the generous support by the institutions and individuals listed above.

We wish to express our warm thanks to our Symposium Secretary Mrs. Pamela Kaplin, and also to Dr. B.-E. Rudolph and Dr. D. Saunders for their invaluable help in the preparation of this volume.

Lastly, we are indebted to Walter de Gruyter & Co. for agreeing to publish the Proceedings, and to Dr. Weber for overseeing its production.

Aachen, January 1980.

Dietrich Brandenburg
Axel Wollmer

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