

# PROGRESS IN ENDOCRINOLOGY 1988

Vol. 1

# PROGRESS IN ENDOCRINOLOGY 1988

## Volume 1

Proceedings of the 8th International Congress of  
Endocrinology, Kyoto, 17–23 July 1988

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# Introduction

The International Congress of Endocrinology is held every 4 years under the auspices of the International Society of Endocrinology for the purpose of disseminating newly generated scientific information in the field of endocrinology. The 8th Congress was held in Kyoto, Japan and more than 3000 scientists from 57 countries gathered to discuss the many aspects of endocrinology.

The scientific program of the 8th International Congress of Endocrinology comprised 10 plenary lectures, 50 symposia with 200 lectures, 20 Meet-the-Professor sessions and 2237 free communications. The invited speakers for plenary lectures, symposia and Meet-the-Professor sessions were carefully selected by the Program Organizing Committee. Members of this committee were elected from among excellent scientists from many countries and different disciplines. They met together twice in order to organize the program which would cover recent progress in various fields of endocrinology and which would attract the interest of participants. Ten distinguished scientists with outstanding accomplishments were selected to present the plenary lectures. Fifty symposia, each of which consisted of 4 lectures, were carefully determined in order to cover most of the important fields in endocrinology.

Of the rapidly developing fields that received special attention from the Program Organizing Committee, we would especially like to mention molecular endocrinology. The use of recombinant DNA technology to study hormone precursors had already been discussed during the 6th International Congress of Endocrinology in 1980. During the past 4 years, however, the technique has been applied to a variety of endocrine researches, including those on hormone receptors and hereditary endocrine diseases. The primary structures of hormone receptors have been elucidated only by using this technique. Of the 10 plenary lectures, 3 were directly devoted to molecular endocrinology and in 3 other, the technique was also employed. Like radioimmunoassay, the recombinant DNA technology is now becoming an important tool in endocrine researches. Application of these techniques to the diagnosis of endocrine diseases has just started.

It must be emphasized, however, that physiology, morphology and clinical medicine should not be neglected in the International Congress of Endocrinology. Clinical endocrinology was covered by two plenary lectures and several symposia. In order to further provide new information concerning the diagnosis and treatment of endocrine diseases, 20 Meet-the-Professor sessions were all devoted to clinical problems. These sessions presented excellent opportunities for relatively intimate discussions between a distinguished professor and practicing physicians devoted to day-to-day problems in the clinics. Several new hormones, including atrial natriuretic peptide and inhibin, also drew the attention of participants.

All free communications were screened by the Local Scientific Committee, approved by the Program Organizing Committee and presented as posters. There were many good papers in the poster sessions that showed frontiers of endocrinology; however, due to space limitations and financial considerations, these have not been included in the Proceedings.

The Proceedings of the congress includes the plenary lectures, symposia and Meet-the-Professor sessions. The Proceedings should not only remind participants of the exciting sessions but also permit wider dissemination of scientific information presented at the congress to readers who were not able to come to Kyoto. We hope that this Proceedings will bring all readers the excitement and fascination that all participants experienced at the congress.

**Hiroo Imura, M.D.**  
**Chairman,**  
**Local Organizing Committee**

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