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Boy Frame

John T. Potts

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Feature Articles

The Frances and Anthony D'Anna International Symposium on Clinical Disorders of Bone and Mineral Metabolism

Six hundred physicians and medical scientists from more than 30 countries attended the Frances and Anthony D'Anna International Symposium on Clinical Disorders of Bone and Mineral Metabolism held from May 9 to 13, 1983, in Dearborn, Michigan. The plenary sessions were supplemented by scientific posters, simultaneous oral sessions, and workshops.

The purpose of the Symposium was to provide a critical review of current concepts in the pathophysiology of diseases of bone and mineral metabolism. The emphasis of the meeting was to review recent approaches in diagnosis and treatment of these disorders for practicing clinicians as well as for clinical investigators.

The meeting was divided into major clinical sessions which included the following: clinical applications of parathyroid hormone assays, assessment of trabecular bone status, the role of vitamin D in clinical medicine, assessment of mineral and matrix turnover, pathogenesis of hyperparathyroidism, management of hypercalcemic hyperparathyroidism, recent developments in bone physiology, secondary hyperparathyroidism, PTH-mediated bone loss, osteomalacia and nutritional bone disease, renal osteodystrophy, nonparathyroid hypercalcemia, osteoporosis, Paget's disease, idiopathic hypercalciuria, and calcium disorders in childhood, including pseudohypoparathyroidism.

Each session opened with a short review by a session moderator who posed critical questions in the topic area for the attention of speakers and discussants from the audience. This special issue of the Henry Ford Hospital Medical Journal includes these overviews written by the moderators of each of the major sessions. Questions and discussions following individual papers or groups of papers proved to be especially valuable. Most of the edited discussions are included in the Proceedings of the Symposium published by Excerpta Medica.

Three poster sessions were held at which 55 to 75 posters were available for review with the authors. Twelve of the

posters in each session were chosen for further oral presentation and discussion at a plenary session. Four short oral sessions, consisting of separate papers on a variety of clinical topics in the bone and mineral field, were held on the last morning of the meeting. These were conducted and synchronized in such a way that those in attendance could be selective in attending the presentation of papers of personal interest to the participant.

On the last afternoon of the meeting, two workshops were conducted. One concerned current status of the radiology of metabolic bone disease and the other reviewed approaches to an effective randomized trial in management of patients with mild asymptomatic hyperparathyroidism.

In planning for the Symposium, the Steering Committee attempted to choose major items of *clinical* interest in the bone and mineral field. Recent findings of basic investigators were presented only to illustrate clinical issues. Attempts were made to keep major presentations short so that more time could be spent in questions and discussion between the speakers, moderators, and audience. This gave the attendees an opportunity to learn about the state of the art in the clinical field of bone and mineral diseases, as of 1983. The lively and enthusiastic exchanges among participants suggested that these goals were attained.

Guest Co-Editors

Boy Frame, MD
Physician in Charge
Bone and Mineral Metabolism Division
Henry Ford Hospital
Clinical Professor of Medicine
The University of Michigan Medical School

John T. Potts, Jr, MD
Chairman, Department of Medicine
Massachusetts General Hospital
Jackson Professor of Medicine
Harvard Medical School