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The Second International Workshop on Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2 Syndromes

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The Second International Workshop on Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2 Syndromes

Multiple endocrine neoplasia syndromes "have an importance far beyond their low frequency in the population. . . . understanding the precise pathogenesis of each syndrome might well provide insight into the cause of hereditary malignant disease in particular and carcinogenesis in general."

R. Neil Schimke

(*N Engl J Med* 1986;314:1316)

The Second International Workshop on Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2 (MEN-2) Syndromes was held in Cambridge, England, on September 17 to 20, 1986. The first workshop held in Kingston, Ontario, in 1984, had over 40 participants from eight countries and allowed an exchange of ideas and wide discussion as a stimulus to research in this field. It is evidence of an increasing interest in MEN-2 that the Second Workshop attracted over 75 participants* from 14 countries. Friendly wide-ranging discussion and evidence of international cooperation in research were notable features of both workshops. The material from the first workshop, published in a 1984 issue of the *Henry Ford Hospital Medical Journal*, received much favorable attention, and the participants from the second workshop were invited to submit their manuscripts to this 1987 issue. Although many participants had obligated their material to other journals, the manuscripts published here provide good examples of the family screening and clinical studies (pp 94-132) and of the pathology and cell biology studies (pp 133-156) being performed on MEN-2 throughout the world. The rapidly expanding application of molecular biology technology (pp 157-171) provides much optimism that the next workshop planned for Heidelberg in 1989† will include reports of the actual MEN-2 gene localization and the exciting possibilities resulting from such findings. Actually the sharing of ideas and data from the workshop and the collaboration arranged between participants have already resulted in the localization of the MEN-2A gene to chromosome 10 (1,2).

The contributions of the following organizations to the second workshop have been greatly appreciated: the Cancer Research Campaign (London); the Dykstra Foundation; Novo Industri A/S; Celltech; Janssen Life Sciences Products; and

Northumbria Biologicals, Ltd. We are grateful to the *Henry Ford Hospital Medical Journal* for publishing this material. We thank the editor, Dr. Raymond C. Mellinger, as well as Sarah Whitehouse and Susan MacPhee for bringing the issue to a clear, concise fruition.

Bruce A. J. Ponder, MD‡
Charles E. Jackson, MD§
Guest Co-editors

References

1. Mathew CGP, Chin KS, Easton DF, et al. A linked genetic marker for multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2A on chromosome 10. *Nature* 1987;328:527-8.
2. Simpson NE, Kidd KK, Goodfellow PJ, et al. Assignment of multiple endocrine neoplasia type 2A to chromosome 10 by linkage. *Nature* 1987; 328: 528-30.

The affiliation of the authors to whom correspondence should be directed is provided in each paper, and the affiliations of all authors are provided on pages 172-173.

*Although the participants were greeted in Cambridge by the coldest September in over 40 years, each was impressed with Cambridge and the beautiful surrounding countryside and especially with the warm hospitality of Bruce A. J. Ponder and the organizing committee composed of R.K. Craig, J.R. Farndon, D. Heath, J. Stevenson, E.D. Williams, and Jean Miller (secretary). (CEJ)

†Arrangements are being made for a Third International Workshop on MEN-2 to be held in Heidelberg, West Germany, in October 1989. The program will include presentations on the screening, genetic, and clinical problems and pathological and molecular cell biologic aspects of MEN-2. For further information contact Dr. Friedhelm Raue, Medizinische Klinik, Universität Heidelberg, Bergheimerstr. 58, 6900 Heidelberg, W Germany.

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