International Symposia at Henry Ford Hospital: A Thirty-Year Perspective

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Editorials

International Symposia at Henry Ford Hospital: 
A Thirty-Year Perspective

This issue of the Henry Ford Hospital Medical Journal contains overviews of the material presented at the recent International Symposium on Clinical Disorders of Bone and Mineral Metabolism, which was dedicated to the principal benefactors, Frances and Anthony D’Anna. This meeting, nineteenth in the series of HFH symposia, was held thirty years after the first one in 1953.

The original suggestion for these international symposia came from Dr. Robin C. Buerki, Executive Director of Henry Ford Hospital from 1951 to 1964. Dr. Buerki had in mind meetings of the foremost authorities in the field chosen for discussion, who would be brought together even from remote parts of the world. The first symposium, “The Dynamics of Viral and Rickettsial Infections,” was proposed by Drs. Frank Hartman and Gerald LoGrippo of the HFH staff. Among the speakers at this notable meeting were Jonas Salk, Albert Sabin, and Thomas Francis, Jr, all of whom became associated with the conquest of poliomyelitis.

The second symposium a year later in 1954 was entitled “Hypophyseal Growth Hormone: Nature and Actions.” At that time, there had been no clinical use of human growth hormone. HFH staff members Drs. Richmond W. Smith, Ollivery H. Gaebler, and J.A. Johnston were joined by Drs. C.N.H. Long and Ephraim Shore to organize the symposium, and the participants included two Nobel laureates, Drs. Charles Best of Toronto and B.A. Houssay of Buenos Aires. Dr. Hans Selye, famed for his observations on stress, was among the speakers.

The third symposium, held in March 1955, was clinically oriented, although its full title was “Cardiovascular Surgery: Studies in Physiology, Diagnosis and Techniques.” The HFH committee of Conrad R. Lam, John W. Keyes, D. Emerick Szilagyi, and Robert F. Ziegler was joined by an advisory committee which included Dr. Michael DeBakey. The keynote address was given by the famed London surgeon, Sir Russell Brock. Dr. Clarence Crafoord of Sweden reported the removal of a cardiac tumor with the aid of the heart-lung machine, an historic operation. The program included Drs. Charles Bailey, Dwight Harken, Helen Taussig, and Denton Cooley. Twenty years later, these pioneers were back on the same platform, at the 1975 symposium on cardiac surgery organized by Dr. Julio Davila.

Succeeding symposia concerned a wide variety of subjects in biomedical science. All brought together distinguished clinicians and investigators. The published proceedings from these symposia, listed at the end of this article, represent a valuable contribution to medical knowledge in the last quarter of this century.

The 1983 symposium, from which this issue of the Journal is taken, completes a trilogy of conferences concerned with problems of bone and mineral metabolism. In 1963, Dr. Harold M. Frost headed the first of these meetings, entitled “Bone Biodynamics.” Drs. Boy Frame, A. Michael Parfitt, and Howard Duncan guided “Clinical Aspects of Metabolic Disease” in 1972, while earlier this year Dr. John Potts, Jr joined Dr. Frame and a large group of prominent scientists to organize a highly successful, week-long meeting.

Robin Buerki is no longer present in person at the Henry Ford Hospital symposia, but their continued success is testimony to his timely idea and early guidance.

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Henry Ford Hospital International Symposia:
A Chronological List of Published Proceedings

1953 The Dynamics of Virus and Rickettsial Infections.
Editors: Frank W. Hartman, Frank L. Horsfall, Jr, and

Editors: Richmond W. Smith, Jr, Oliver H. Gaebler, and

1955 Cardiovascular Surgery: Recent Studies in Physiology,
Diagnosis, and Techniques.
Editor: Conrad R. Lam. Philadelphia: WB Saunders,
1955.

1955 Enzymes: Units of Biological Structure and Function.
Editor: Oliver H. Gaebler. New York: Academic Press,
1956.

1956 The Leukemias: Etiology, Pathophysiology, and
Treatment.
Editors: John W. Rebuck, Frank H. Bethell, and Ray­

1956 Hepatitis Frontiers.

1957 Reticular Formation of the Brain.

Editors: Joseph H. Shaffer, Gerald A. LoGrippo and

1959 Biology of Pyelonephritis.

1960 Blood Platelets.
Editors: Shirley A. Johnson, Raymond W. Monto, John
W. Reubuck and Robert C. Horn. Boston: Little, Brown,
1961.

1960 Otosclerosis.
Editor: Harold F. Schuknecht. Boston: Little, Brown,
1962.

1961 Biological Interactions in Normal and Neoplastic
Growth.

1961 Etiology of Myocardial Infarction.

1963 Bone Biodynamics.

1964 Pain.
Editors: Robert S. Knighton and Paul R. Dumke. Bos­

1965 Sensorineural Hearing Processes and Disorders.

1972 Clinical Aspects of Metabolic Bone Disease.

1975 Second Henry Ford Hospital International Symposium
on Cardiac Surgery.
Editor: Julio C. Davila. New York: Appleton-Century-­

1983 International Symposium on Clinical Disorders of
Bone and Mineral Metabolism.
Editors: Boy Frame and John T. Potts, Jr. Amsterdam: Excerpta Medica, 1983.