After several years of careful preparation, the Frances and Anthony D’Anna International Memorial Symposium on Clinical Disorders of Bone and Mineral Metabolism took place in Dearborn, Michigan, on May 9-13, 1983. As intended, this meeting was broadly inclusive and drew together authorities from all over the world. The Symposium was a resounding success.

For the generalist like this writer, the most stimulating sessions were those concerned with topics of clinical interest:

- methods of interpreting different parathyroid hormone assays;
- the expanding role of vitamin D and its metabolites in diagnosis and therapy;
- the mechanisms and management of hyperparathyroid states;
- osteomalacia, especially the recent knowledge of aluminum-induced defects in mineralization in some patients undergoing hemodialysis or receiving total parenteral nutrition;
- the complexities of renal osteodystrophy;
- advances in understanding of nonparathyroid hypercalcemia;
- the intricacies of osteoporosis, with new insights into its pathogenesis and treatment;
- Paget’s disease, its nature, possible mechanisms and management;
- recognition and treatment of idiopathic hypercalcuria, with a lively discussion of efforts to unify the manifold concepts of this disorder.

In fact, contesting ideas pervaded the conference, mostly relative to the effort to apply the tightly structured world of the experimentalist to the open-ended vision of the clinician. There was little solace for those seeking simple answers. On the other hand, new research data, pathogenetic theories, and therapeutic proposals were presented as concepts for discussion, not fixed principles.

The description of the conference is important to evaluating the just published Proceedings, entitled Clinical Disorders of Bone and Mineral Metabolism. Such a book must fulfill two basic requirements: timeliness and fidelity. Given the nature of the material presented, which is the cutting edge of the current research effort in bone and mineral metabolism disorders, delay in publication would be self-defeating. Resorting to novel techniques, Excerpta Medica and the Editors have accomplished an impressive feat of timeliness: the book was published only six months after the meeting took place. The second requirement, fidelity of reporting, has two aspects: one is content, the other, ambiance. Elsewhere in this issue, the overviews of session moderators are reproduced and provide the reader insights into the actual content of the presentations. Some moderators have provided a précis of their particular session, while others have expanded on the points covered. In the Proceedings, these overviews serve as hubs for the encircling presentations. But it is in the reported discussions that the vigorous atmosphere of the meeting is captured. The Editors have dealt admirably with the difficulties of transcribing these lively ideas.

This Proceedings is a comprehensive record of the state of the art, in 1983, of clinical disorders of bone and mineral metabolism. For those who were at the meeting but lacked the stamina to attend each and every session, the pages of this volume offer a thoughtful revisiting of topics which merit a more lengthy sojourn. Moreover, the simultaneous oral sessions may now be reviewed completely in correct sequence. Of course, the searching reader can catch scattered flaws in spelling and punctuation, misused words, minor omissions, and inconsistencies. But these defects are seldom distracting, never misleading, and are of little importance in the light of the splendid achievements of the Steering Committee, the moderators, the discerning Editors, and the publishers.

Carlos Petrozzi, MD
Department of Internal Medicine
Second Medical Division
Henry Ford Hospital

Clinical Disorders of Bone and Mineral Metabolism

Proceedings of the Frances and Anthony D'Anna Memorial Symposium, Detroit, MI. May 9-13, 1983
edited by Boy Frame and John T. Potts Jr.
International Congress Series No. 617
1983 xxii + 554 pages
US$111.50 (in USA & Canada)
Dfl. 290.00 (rest of world)
ISBN 0-444-90315-1

The purpose of the above symposium was to discuss laboratory, clinical and therapeutic features of diseases that are related to disturbances in bone and mineral metabolism. Rapid developments in the field of bone and mineral metabolism with new assays for parathyroid hormone, vitamin D metabolites, and calcitonin, plus improvement in methods of measuring bone mineral content, have enhanced our knowledge in this field. This work discusses the pathogenesis, clinical findings, pathophysiology and treatment of this particular field. Each section is introduced with an overview followed by selected manuscripts that are pertinent to the session and this is followed by edited questions and discussion relating to each of the sections.

Contents: Preface.
I Clinical Application of Parathyroid Hormone Assays.
II Assessment of Trabecular Bone Status.
III Vitamin D in Clinical Medicine.
IV Assessment of Mineral and Matrix Turnover.
V Pathogenesis of Hyperparathyroidism.
VI Management of Hypercalcemic Hyperparathyroidism.
VII Recent Developments in Bone Physiology.
VIII Secondary Hyperparathyroidism and PTH Mediated Bone Loss.
IX Osteomalacia and Nutritional Bone Disease.
X Renal Osteodystrophy.
XI Non-Parathyroid Hypercalcemia.
XII Ectopic Calcitriol Production Including Sarcoidosis.
XIII Osteoporosis - Pathogenesis, Prevention and Treatment.
XIV Paget's Disease.
XV Idiopathic Hypercalciiuria.
XVI Calcium Disorders in Childhood.
XVII Pseudohypoparathyroidism (PHP) and Related Disorders.
XVIII Scientific Poster Sessions.
XIX Oral Sessions.
XX Workshops.
Author Index. Subject Index.