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The Third International Workshop on Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2 Syndromes

Science is the most communal of human endeavors
Lewis Thomas
(*Foreign Affairs* 1984;63:966-94)

The Third International Workshop on Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2 (MEN 2) was held in Heidelberg, West Germany, September 28-30, 1989. The first workshop, held in Kingston, Ontario, in 1984, had over 40 participants from eight countries (1), and the second workshop, held in Cambridge, England, September 17-20, 1986, attracted over 75 participants from 14 countries (2). The friendly, wide-ranging discussions allowed an exchange of ideas which has provided a stimulus to research in this field and to the international collaboration which has contributed significantly to the progress not only in understanding this rare hereditary malignant disease but also in our understanding of carcinogenesis in general. This third workshop, with over 92 participants from 18 countries, was characterized by the same friendly collegiality and international cooperation.*

At the time of the second workshop in Cambridge in 1986, the gene for MEN 2 had not yet been localized. Largely due to collaboration arranged through these workshops, the localization of the gene to chromosome 10 was reported the following year by two groups composed of many of the participants of these workshops (3,4). Because of these major advances, it seemed appropriate to begin this issue with the article by Simpson and Kidd entitled "Closing in on the MEN2A Locus" (pp 100-105) followed by other genetic papers directed toward further localization of the gene(s) and the applications of these findings in clinical situations and in understanding the mechanisms of tumor initiation and progression (pp 106-119). Although some participants had obligated their material to other journals, the manuscripts published here provide examples of the family screening and clinical studies (pp 120-166), imaging technique studies (pp 167-184), and pathology and cell biology studies (pp 185-203) being performed on MEN 2 throughout the world. Although abstracts of some of the additional material presented are published here (pp 204-209), other important papers and formal and informal discussions are not covered (for example, the report by N. T. Schulz and others from the US National Cancer

Institute on the development of medullary thyroid cancers and pheochromocytomas in transgenic mice carrying the *c-mos* proto-oncogene [data to be published elsewhere in 1990]). The rapid progress in many aspects of MEN 2 provides exciting prospects for the next workshop to be held in Houston, Texas, in 1991.†

Financial contributions from the following organizations for the third workshop have been greatly appreciated: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Bonn, West Germany; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Endokrinologie; Tumorzentrum Heidelberg, Mannheim, West Germany; Dykstra Foundation, Detroit, MI; Firma Henning Berlin GmbH, Berlin, West Germany; Firma Rorer, Bielefeld, West Germany; Firma Isotopen Diagnostik CIS, Dreieich, West Germany; Firma Amersham Buchler, Braunschweig, West Germany; and Firma IBL, Hamburg, West Germany.

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Guest Coeditors

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2. The Second International Workshop on Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Type 2 Syndromes. *Henry Ford Hosp Med J* 1987;35:93-175.
3. 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.
4. 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.

*Heidelberg provided a beautiful setting for the workshop and the participants were impressed with the efficient organization and warm hospitality of Friedhelm Raue, Reinhard Ziegler, and their committees (CEJ).

†Arrangements are being made for the Fourth International Workshop on MEN 2 to be held in Houston, Texas, in September or October 1991. For further information contact Dr. Robert F. Gagel, Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology (111E), Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 2002 Holcombe Blvd, Houston, TX 77030.

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