

EDITORIAL

Antiviral Chemotherapy has come of age. In this second issue of our new Journal, *Antiviral Research*, G.J. Galasso reviews the antiviral agents that are presently available and generally accepted for use in the treatment of viral diseases. These include iododeoxyuridine, adenine arabinoside and trifluorothymidine for topical treatment of herpes virus infections and adenine arabinoside and amantadine for the systemic treatment of herpes virus and influenza A virus infections, respectively. Newer and more specific antiviral agents such as acyclovir, phosphonoformate and bromovinyldeoxyuridine are being clinically evaluated, and, although these compounds hold great promise for the systemic and/or topical treatment of herpes virus infections, it is obvious that carefully controlled, preferably double-blind placebo-controlled studies must be done before they can be accepted as antiviral drugs.

Two articles of this issue are focused on the prevention and treatment of influenza A virus infections. S. Stridh et al. examined the possibility of inhibiting influenza virus replication by either di-, oligo- or polynucleotides, and F. van Voorthuizen et al. assessed the efficacy and safety of a live influenza vaccine prepared by genetic recombination of an H₁N₁ and H₂N₂ strain.

Interferon was taken up as subject matter in two reports. Both reports addressed the mechanism of action of interferon. C. Vaquero et al. evaluated the role of interferon in the shut-off of cellular RNA and protein synthesis in mouse L-cells infected with Mengo virus, and H. Schellekens et al. provided evidence for a close link in the kinetics of the antiviral and anticellular activities of interferon in rat cells.

The subjects treated in this second issue testify as to the truly interdisciplinary coverage of our Journal. It is directed towards the different possible means in the control of virus infections, i.e. by vaccines, chemotherapeutics or host resistance factors like interferon. All three effector mechanisms are represented in this issue, and, as we hope, will continue to form the core of many issues to come.

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