

## **The physiology of the smooth muscle: an interdisciplinary review**

### **A tribute to Edith Bülbbring**

*The Editors of Experientia are indebted to Prof. R. Casteels and Dr A. F. Brading for making this tribute possible.*

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\*Part II will appear in the August issue of Experientia.

**Introductory Comments**

The concept of a special review in *Experientia* devoted to smooth muscle research sprang from our consideration of how to celebrate Edith Bülbbring's 80th birthday in 1983. Those who know Edith will appreciate that owing to the power of her veto a 'Festschrift' was out of the question. Publication of 'Smooth Muscle' in 1970 on her retirement and of 'Smooth Muscle: an assessment of current knowledge' some 10 years later were undertaken by authors who had all been Edith's colleagues. We have felt, however, that these volumes suffer omissions, both in content and particularly in authors, since there are an increasing number of excellent scientists working in the field who have never worked with Edith. In 1983 there was the 29th International Congress of Physiological Sci-

ences in Sydney, an excellent satellite meeting on smooth muscle at Hayman Island and a dinner party to celebrate Edith's 80th birthday – an event which those who attended will long remember. This occasion triggered those working in the field of smooth muscle to instigate this *Experientia* review, and as a consequence invitation to contribute was limited to scientists who had participated in these meetings. Unfortunately many people we would have liked to ask have been eliminated by this rather arbitrary criterion, and to them we apologize, and hope they will forgive us. We know they all, like us, appreciate the tremendous influence Edith has had, and still has, in establishing the field of smooth muscle research.

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