

INTRODUCTION

The first xenobiochemical symposium in Czechoslovakia took place in Bratislava thanks to the efforts of the late Prof. A. Jindra. Later meetings of this series have been organised by the biochemistry department of the Faculty of Pharmacy of Bratislava, as well as by the departments of Prague, Hradec Králové and Kosice, and, eventually, under the auspices of the Xenobiochemistry Section of the Czechoslovak Biochemical Society. Of these symposia, those of Pezinok in 1975 and Bratislava in 1980 were held on an international basis and were described by their participants as a great success.

Selected papers from the 17th Symposium (Hradec Králové, June 22-23, 1991), published in this issue, represent a typical sample of the present-day fields of interest within xenobiochemistry.

Papers dealing with the influences of biological systems on xenobiotics (biotransformation and distribution) are found in the first part of this issue, including two minireviews. The later part consists of studies of the effects of xenobiotics on biological systems. Papers which can be grouped in both of these categories are found in-between.

Oxidative processes still maintain their prominent standing in drug metabolism. In addition to cytochrome P-450-dependent and flavin mixed-function oxidases, interesting papers included in this issue point to the role of peroxides in oxidative biotransformations. Interactions of xenobiotics with membranes have also attracted attention. A number of the studies reported here have bearing on the evaluation of drugs, both established and potential, and of toxins.

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