

BOOK REVIEW

The Mechanism of Action of Androgens. By W. I. P. Mainwaring

This book is volume 10 of a series of Monographs on Endocrinology edited by: F. Gross, M. M. Grumbach, A. Labhart, M. B. Lipsett, T. Mann, L. T. Samules and J. Zander: Springer-Verlag, New York-Heidelberg-Berlin.

The book contains up-to-date information on different steps in the mechanism of action of androgens as well as its biological activities. In the first part a general summary of the transformation of androgens, in particular testosterone, during fetal, neo-natal and adult periods of life are indicated. Extensive information is given concerning the conversion of testosterone into its potent biologically active metabolite 5 α -dihydrotestosterone. Other parts of the book are concerned with the presence of specific cytosol and nuclear receptors for androgens in target tissues, their inter-relationship, purification of the receptor molecule and its physico-chemical characteristics. The book also contains very recent data on the action of androgens on specific protein synthesis, RNA synthesis and morphology as well as a biochemical approach to the regulation of mitosis in target tissues. Basic concepts of the action of androgens and anti-androgens on DNA replication and their possible implication in endocrine pathology, particularly in hyperplasia and carcinoma of human prostate, opens up interesting and stimulating perspectives in the treatment of these diseases. The book contains an extensive and very recent literature and will be useful for people working in general endocrinology, biochemistry, molecular biology, reproduction, gynecology, and general pathology.

ERRATUM

Abstract No. 44 of a paper presented at the *8th Congress of the International Study Group for Steroid Hormones*, entitled **Production of adrenal androgens in normal postmenopausal women** by J. POORTMAN, R. ANDRIESSE, A. AGEMA, G. DONKER, G. MULDER and J. H. H. THUSSEN. *J. steroid Biochem.* Vol. 8, issue 12, p. xix.

The final sentence should read:

With the assumption of a MCR of Adiol-mono-sulphate identical to that of DHEA-S, the conversion rates from the 12-h-infusion were calculated as $\rho^{\text{DHEA} \rightarrow \text{DHEA-S}}$ 60%, $\rho^{\text{DHEA} \rightarrow \text{Adiol-S}}$ 5.6%, $\rho^{\text{Adiol} \rightarrow \text{Adiol-S}}$ 6.0%, $\rho^{\text{Adiol} \rightarrow \text{DHEA-S}}$ 40% and $\rho^{\text{DHEA-S} \rightarrow \text{Adiol-S}}$ 9.7%.