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Conference on Steroid Determination

FROM May 31 to June 4, 1953, there was held at the laboratories of the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, a conference on "Methods of Steroid Determination in Blood and Urine," conducted by the Committee on Arrangements of the Laurentian Hormone Conference, and financed by a grant of \$8,900 from the National Science Foundation. Fifty-eight experts from North America and Europe attended as official members of the conference. The nineteen papers delivered and the discussions of them will be published as a volume of *Recent Progress in Hormone Research*, the official publication of the Laurentian Hormone Conference.

The papers covered such subjects as the isolation of hormones from body tissues and fluids, the separation of cortisone and related steroids from blood, and the use of steroids tagged with radioactive atoms as biological tracers.

The members of the conference voted unanimously to authorize Gregory Pincus, chairman of the conference, to transmit to the National Science Foundation their sincere thanks for making possible the meetings, and to express their vigorous endorsement of a policy which makes possible informal, basic scientific meetings of this type, which are desirable not only because

of the benefit accruing to the participants, but also because the formal papers and the extensive discussions of the conference are to be made available in the form of a published volume. As a result of such conferences many previously unpublished and frequently controversial and discordant data in an important area of science, in which many investigators are working, are brought forward, discussed, criticized, and evaluated, making possible conclusions regarding the present status of the problems in a particular field, and providing a sounder basis for further investigations. Finally, it was agreed that conferences of this type serve the important function of expediting oral communication among groups of scientists, and thereby not infrequently reveal important details of investigative procedure which have not been adequately discussed or are somewhat ambiguous in published papers.

The British delegates requested that their very sincere thanks should be conveyed to the National Science Foundation for the financial assistance which made possible their attendance at and participation in the conference. They also requested that it should be put on record that in their view the conference has fulfilled a most valuable function in promoting cooperation and good will between workers in the field of endocrinology in the United States and Great Britain.

GREGORY PINCUS

Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology

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