

# Clinical Science

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**Proceedings of a  
Workshop on  $\alpha$ -Adrenoceptors**

**Ross Priory, Loch Lomond  
27 – 28 July 1984**

MEDICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY AND THE  
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## Editorial Preface

In July 1984 a group of basic and applied clinical scientists met in a closed Workshop to review the present state of knowledge of mechanisms and functions of  $\alpha$ -adrenoceptors. Although the meeting was particularly directed to cardiovascular and circulatory viewpoints, applied endocrine and neuropsychiatric aspects were also discussed. The programme was structured but a considerable amount of time was set aside for discussion and debate. To facilitate a free exchange, the meeting was closed to a small group of distinguished international scientists.

Many new and interesting observations were put forward at the Workshop. This publication is an attempt to bring the material discussed to the attention of a wider audience of scientists and clinicians. *Clinical Science* has always been an interface between basic and clinical research. It is thus appropriate that the proceedings of the meeting should be published as a supplement to *Clinical Science*.

The Workshop did not attempt to address all aspects of the biology of  $\alpha$ -adrenoceptors but focused upon four questions or areas. These were:

1. How many types of  $\alpha$ -adrenoceptors are currently required to explain research observations?
2. What are the activation steps set in motion by  $\alpha$ -adrenoceptors?
3. What are the physiological roles of  $\alpha$ -adrenoceptors in circulatory control?
4. What of the pathophysiological role of  $\alpha$ -adrenoceptors in disease and the manipulation of  $\alpha$ -adrenoceptors by drug therapy?

These four questions have been retained in the published proceedings as four sections which move stepwise from basic research on molecular aspects to new understandings of pathophysiology and treatment.

We are most grateful to Pfizer Central Research for a grant towards the support of the meeting and the publication of the proceedings in this *Clinical Science* Supplement. In addition we thank the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde for the use of facilities and resources. Professor Peter Sever and Dr Morris Brown, who are currently editors on the Editorial Board of *Clinical Science*, kindly assisted in the editing and review of manuscripts. Miss E. J. Newell in Glasgow and the *Clinical Science* Editorial Office staff in London have our sincere thanks for their hard work in their secretarial and subediting roles respectively to ensure that this Supplement actually appeared!

Glasgow  
October 1984

JOHN L. REID  
JOHN C. McGRATH