AMYLOID AND AMYLOIDOSIS 1990

VIth International Symposium on Amyloidosis, August 5–8, 1990, Oslo, Norway

edited by

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PREFACE

Both scientifically and socially the VIth International Symposium on Amyloidosis, August 5 - 8, 1990 in Oslo was a great success. There were three and a half intensive days.

It started with the Opening Ceremony, particularly highlighted with the Norway-Norway multi media show by David Cochron, and ended with a visit to the Edvard Munch museum and the Farewell Salmon-Dinner on the evening of August 8 (not to forget the "happy birthday" song for Dorothea Zucker-Franklin at the breakfast table the following morning).

In between was the intellectual penetration into the science of amyloidosis and amyloid proteins, and a deepening of many friendships among young and old "amyloidologists", together with some of the cultural and historical features of Oslo and Norway. Among the numerous letters of thanks and gratitude that we have received, the senior organizer of the previous meeting, Takashi Isobe said it briefly and eloquently:

"You have overwhelmed us, you have performed a drama with joy and cheer, you have hosted so nicely with lovely secretariat, you have arranged impressive hospitality in every respect, you certainly did for all of us"

Now we are left with the proceedings book for the three coming years until the next symposium in Kingston, Canada, which will be organized by Drs. Robert Kisilevsky and Thomas Muckle from the Department of Pathology at Queens University in 1993.

The scientific contributions herein cover all the sessions of the meeting. In order to keep the structure of the book within the framework of about 900 pages, we have had to limit the size of each contribution in the following way. For each abstract submitted, we have allotted four pages of printed report to the proceedings, and for the introductory and summing up speakers, six pages. In a few instances we have accepted that contributors who submitted a shorter

manuscript than required could add another, slightly longer manuscript, as long as the total was within the number of pages allotted. Some people have put in several abstracts and therefore had a greater amount of space available. In a couple of exceptional cases, for people who had only submitted one abstract and were session chairmen etc., we have accepted the same number of pages as for an introductory speaker.

The contributions have come in very rapidly. The best service to the scientific community is a speedy publication. Therefore, we decided to make the deadline for accepting more papers the end of August 1990, and left all the manuscripts to the efficient "camera-ready" publication of the book. We thank Kluwer Academic Publishers for all their efforts in making this publication of the proceedings a success. In addition, we would also like to particularly thank our two secretaries at the Institute of Immunology and Rheumatology in Oslo, Ms. Bente Brenna and Ms. Suzanne Garman-Vik for their conscientious help throughout the symposium and in organizing the scientific papers for the book. We also thank Ms. Hanne Haugen at the Winge Travel Bureau, Drammen, who did so much to see that everything went well. In addition, a group of students from the Department of Biochemistry, University of Oslo, contributed a great deal to the scientific success of the meeting. Finally, we will again thank our advertisers, exhibitors and sponsors who made the conducting of the symposium possible as well as the publication of this symposium book.

Linköping, Oslo, Tromsø, September 1990

Jacob B. Natvig
Øystein Førre Gunnar Husby
Anne Husebekk Bjørn Skogen
Knut Sletten Per Westermark

WELCOME!

Jacob B. Natvig Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

Welcome to the Soria Moria Conference Center, to Oslo and Norway

for the VIth International Symposium on Amyloidosis.

At the very pleasant and active meeting in Hakone, Japan three years ago, it was decided to hold the next meeting in Oslo. An organizing committee was established with Knut Sletten, Øystein Førre and myself from the Oslo group, Gunnar Husby, Anne Husebekk and Bjørn Skogen from the Tromsø group, and our close friend and collaborator through many years, Per Westermark from Linköping, Sweden. We have worked hard to try and organize a good meeting.

The best guarantee for a successful meeting, however, is all of you, the participating scientists from 18 different countries all over the world. We are very happy that so many came, altogether 235 registered participants and 70 accompanying persons bringing the total to just over 300. We are very pleased that all the senior scientists who are still in the field came to participate. There were also many young researchers, and several are here for the first time attending an International Symposium on Amyloidosis.

Perhaps most impressively, 226 abstracts have been submitted. They have been selected for oral presentations or for posters. This means that there is virtually a 1:1 ratio between scientific contributions and active participants. This should make the foundation for a most

dynamic and vibrant scientific meeting.

The field of amyloidosis research is presently growing, and the numbers of participants and abstracts are the highest to date in the

series of international symposia.

Who and what are we? We are not a society. Maybe we are a club? However, that is not an adequate expression either. A club is often a closed circle, but here we are a very open, outgoing group that would still like to have many more participants to help us solve all the problems and questions about amyloidosis and amyloid proteins.

And what should we name ourselves? Perhaps you would like to be named an "amyloidologist"? One of our problems is that the name of our group of scientists is as well as the name of the disease and these

terms are very unfamiliar to most people.

This reminds me of the "diagnosis law" by Professor Gudmund Hernes, Oslo; "Even if the doctor has a name for your disease, it does not mean that he knows what you are suffering from" (1). This notion that we doctors in a deeper sense do not know what our patients are suffering from is certainly true in many ways of amyloidosis. We have had a name for this condition for about 150 years. However, only in the last 20 years have we been able to identify and classify a number of proteins that can give rise to amyloidosis. We certainly expect there to be even new reports of such proteins at this symposium. However, the true nature of amyloidosis and how we can prevent it, or cure it, is still only in the initial stages of research. Therefore, although we have had great success in classifying, describing and diagnosing amyloid proteins and amyloidosis, a curative therapy or an effective prophylaxis is still pending.

When the first Nobel Prize in medicine was awarded in 1901 to Emil von Behring it was for; "his work on serum therapy, especially its application against diphtheria by which he has opened a new road in the domain of medical science and thereby placed in the hands of the physicians a victorious weapon against illness and death". This is our aim as scientists in the amyloidosis field also: To find a victorious

weapon against illness and death from amyloidosis.

Now, why are we scientists and why are we struggling for these goals? Many different forces may drive us. In my experience, curiosity is perhaps the most central factor. Let me tell you a small episode about curiosity. As a young boy I walked hand in hand along the road with my father on a nice, nordic summer evening like this one here in Oslo. As usual I asked some questions. What the questions were is long forgotten, but not the answer to one of them; "this is something you will learn when you get older". I felt uncomfortable with the answer. That is probably why I still remember it so vividly almost 50 years later. Perhaps that was the moment that out of curiosity something was born inside that made me want to become a scientist, dissatisfaction with unanswered questions.

That is what science is all about, we strive to know the unknown and to penetrate the dark areas of the map of knowledge. In this way, science becomes not only a work, but a life style. A famous professor, Otto Lous Mohr, gave many excellent talks when he was the dean of the University of Oslo after the second world war. Several times he cited his teacher and friend, the Nobel Laureate T.H. Morgan, who once said; "A scientist is a man who loves science more than himself" (2). Morgan also, according to Professor Mohr, once divided his experiments into "fool experiments, damned fool experiments and those that are still worse". "No matter what the circumstances, you want to do those tiresome and sometimes silly experiments in order to know

and to answer the unanswered questions". These quotations from a great scientist of this century tell a lot about science and scientists.

So I welcome you again to this international group of "amyloidologists" and this symposium of "amyloidology" where we will put together all our experiments, fool, damned fool and those that are still worse, as well as all our knowledge and efforts to try what Emil von Behring achieved, namely to place in the hands of the physician a victorious weapon against illness and death.

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1952, pp. 145.

"Truth exists for the wise, beauty for a sensitive heart. The two are destined for each other." (Beethoven's own words by P. Kruseman)



Dr. Elliott F. Osserman died on April 13, 1989. He was an active participant in amyloidosis symposia. In 1974 at the 2nd International Symposium, he delivered a closing remarks, summarizing the great wealth of information. In 1984, he organized the 4th International symposium at Arden House, New York. Elliott spent his entire career in Columbia University, College of Physicians & Surgeons, New York. He became a physician in 1947 and was promoted to Professor of Medicine in 1971. He also received a life-time Professorship of American Cancer Society at the age of 43.

Without question, Elliott was a major contributor to amyloidosis research starting with the publication of "Amyloidosis: Tissue proteinosis: Gammaloidosis (editorial)", appeared in Annals of Internal Medicine in 1961. He continued to insist that certain Bence Jones proteins could be responsible to the antibody to certain tissue components and in-situ deposition of Ig-light chains or their fragments by means of his immunochemical method. Later in 1971, "Ig light chain origin of amyloid" was clearly established on the basis of amino-acid sequence study of the purified amyloid-fibril-proteins from patients with primary amyloidosis. He had a rare quality of combining the important biological observation with the laboratory study of molecular basis of the clinical manifestations derived from amyloidosis, myeloma, heavy chain disease and lysozyme-related disorders. He was the man who was passionate to provide essential knowledge on the general concept of plasma cell dyscrasia, including AL amyloidosis.

Most of us know that Elliott was very bright and charming. Beyond and above Elliott's scientific achievements, there are the international friendships he made. These are not only professional acquaintances, but warm relationships that continued across countries, oceans, and time.

Takashi Isobe, M.D.



Members of The International Nomenclature Committee for Amyloidosis. The committee was appointed at the Vth International Symposium on Amyloidosis in Hakone, Japan in October 1987 and finished it's work during the VIth International Symposium on Amyloidosis in Oslo, Norway in August 1990. The members are front row from left to right Gunnar Husby (chairman), Earl P. Benditt, Alan S. Cohen, Shukuro Araki. Back row from left to right Blas Frangione, Merrill D. Benson, Jacob B. Natvig, George G. Glenner, Per Westermark.

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