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CIBA Tissue Transplantation Symposium

A SYMPOSIUM on the Preservation of Normal Tissues for Transplantation was held in London, March 16-18, 1953, by The Ciba Foundation for the Promotion of International Co-operation in Medical and Chemical Research. Though the majority of those participating in the symposium were British research workers in the fields of tissue transplantation and tissue preservation, guests from Holland, Switzerland, France, and the United States also attended. Among those from the United States who read papers or took part in the informal discussions which followed were: C. M. Pomerat, The Tissue Culture Laboratory, Medical Branch, University of Texas; E. J. Eichwald, Salt Lake General Hospital; Virginia J. Evans and W. R. Earle, Laboratory of Biology, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda; G. W. Hyatt, J. W. Pate, and W. R. Strong, U.S. Naval Medical Center, Bethesda; C. A. Hufnagel, Department of Experimental Surgery, Georgetown University; J. P. Merrill, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston; W. P. Longmire, Jr., U.S.A.F., Europe, and Department of Surgery, University of California; and B. O. Rogers, Department of Plastic Surgery, Presbyterian Hospital, New York City.

The program of the first day was opened by a lucid discussion of the general problems of immunity as they affect homotransplanted skin, by P. B. Medawar, of the Department of Zoology, University College, London. W. P. Longmire, Jr., reviewed the general surgical problems which arise in the clinical transplantation of homotransplanted tissues. An introduction to the techniques used in the cultivation of tissues over long periods of time on a large scale in tissue cultures by W. R. Earle, and a presentation of the recent findings in the transplantation of preserved nonviable tissue by J. W. Pate closed the first day's sessions.

The second day's program included the presentation of work performed by Ruth Deanesly, Audrey Smith, and A. S. Parkes (the symposium chairman), in the histology and storage of endocrine homografts at the National Institute for Medical Research, London. P. J. Gaillard, of the Institute for Experimental Histology, Leiden, Holland, gave a summary of his most recent findings in the

transplantation of cultivated parathyroid gland tissue in man. P. F. Jones, of the Department of Surgery, St. Bart's Hospital, London, reported the results of his experimental and clinical study in the use of foetal and neonatal endocrine homografts. The problems which confront those who are interested in the preservation of blood were reviewed by P. L. Mollison, of the Postgraduate Medical School, London. J. E. Lovelock, National Institute for Medical Research, London, explained the biophysical changes which occur when living cells are frozen. Methods for analyzing thermal stress with tissue culture techniques were demonstrated by a noteworthy film on the reaction of living cells to thermal stress by C. M. Pomerat.

The third and final day's program included a discussion by R. E. Billingham, Department of Zoology, University College, London, on the storage of skin, with emphasis placed upon the use of glycerol in storage at reduced temperatures. F. K. Sanders, Department of Zoology, Oxford, spoke on the preservation and application of nerve autografts and homografts. The clinical use of preserved arteries and other tissues was described by C. G. Rob and H. H. G. Eastcott, Department of Surgery, St. Mary's Hospital, London. Many new experimental and clinical observations on the transplantation of blood vessel homografts and heterografts were reported by C. A. Hufnagel. A thorough review of the current status of corneal transplantation and the methods of preserving cornea was presented by B. W. Rycroft, Corneoplastic Unit, Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead. The last paper of the symposium was given by W. R. Strong, who fully detailed the methods of operation and management of a tissue bank, using as his guide the bank established by the U.S. Navy at Bethesda.

The symposium was limited to about 45 participants, making it a closely knit, smoothly functioning, working conference. Much of the credit for the remarkable efficiency with which the symposium moved along can be attributed to the efforts of Dr. Gordon E. W. Wolstenholme, director of The Ciba Foundation, and his staff. A book is to be published containing the proceedings of the symposium. It will include all the papers and the complete transcribed discussions which followed them.

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