

# Introduction

The articles included in this supplement were contributions to a workshop on pancreas transplantation sponsored by the Kroc Foundation and held June 8 and 9, 1979, in Los Angeles, California. The stimulus for the meeting was the express wish of several participants for a gathering of workers actively engaged in research related to pancreas transplantation to share ideas and results. The focus of the workshop was on two aspects judged to be of current interest and intense activity.

The first area addressed was the current status of transplantation of the adult pancreas and islets in diabetic humans. Newer techniques for whole or segmental pancreas transplantation were presented and clinical results discussed. A review of the difficulties in isolating and purifying islets was presented together with some new approaches to overcome these limitations in the practical application of this approach to human diabetics. The human fetal pancreas as a donor organ was extensively discussed. The properties of this tissue in organ culture and its function were presented, and methods for cryopreservation were discussed. Results of transplantation into nude mice and preliminary trials in human subjects were presented.

The second subject covered was the problem of rejection of the transplanted pancreas and methods to overcome rejection. The pancreas allograft is acutely rejected and non-specific immunosuppression as currently used for kidney and heart transplantation is not acceptable in diabetes, since corticosteroids are diabetogenic and improved treatment rather than life-saving is the goal of this procedure. Prevention of rejection by more specific methods such as culture of donor tissues; newer, more specific immunologic regimens; and irradiation of the recipients may be possible. Preliminary results of these findings were presented.

The advice and support of Dr. Robert Kroc and Dr. Peter Amacher contributed greatly to an exciting and informative meeting. Dr. S. Ian Drew contributed the discussions and deserves much credit.

The following persons attended the conference:

Clyde F. Barker, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

R. G. Bretzel, Justus-Liebig Universität Giessen, Giessen, Federal Republic of Germany

Josiah Brown, University of California, Los Angeles, California

William Chick, Joslin Diabetes Foundation, Boston, Massachusetts

William H. Clark, University of California, Los Angeles, California

Frederick C. Goetz, M.D., University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

C. G. Groth, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

Claes Hellerström, University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden

Paul E. Lacy, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

Kevin Lafferty, Australian National University, Canberra City, Australia

P. J. Morris, Oxford University, England

Yoko Mullen, University of California, Los Angeles, California

Keith Reemtsma, Columbia University, New York, New York  
Lester Salans, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland

David Scharp, Washington University, St. Louis, Missouri

Shimon Slavin, Hadassah University, Jerusalem, Israel

David E. R. Sutherland, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

David W. Talmage, Webb Waring Lung Institute, University of Colorado, Denver, Colorado

John R. Turtle, The University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Klaus Usadel, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt, Federal Republic of Germany