

Foreword

The symposia of The Royal College of Pathologists have all been concerned with topics of specialized interest in which knowledge is advancing so rapidly that even those fairly committed to the subject will always feel that their facts may be inadequate or their ideas inappropriate. This much the contributions of experts can rectify. But a more valuable achievement of the College is to bring together specialist subjects within a more general framework that defines a problem in need of closer scrutiny or provides a system within which further progress can most usefully be made. The present symposium on 'Molecular variants in disease' is no exception to this.

The Royal College of Pathologists is, indeed, most fortunate in the many outstanding specialists drawn from several countries who agreed to contribute to this symposium and records its thanks to them here.

Something that is not apparent in this published account of the proceedings is the quality and vigour of the discussion that took place throughout the two days. The four Chairmen—Professor J. V. Dacie, President of the Royal College of Pathologists, Professor Hermann Lehmann, Professor Charles E. Dent, and Professor Sir Douglas Black—not only managed this with diplomacy and skill but in making their own valuable contributions greatly enhanced the value of the occasion.

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While it is hoped that the present publication will find a useful place at the elbow of pathologists and be of value to all concerned with the care of inherited disease, perhaps the greatest measure of success will be the work already being undertaken by those, both audience and speakers, who participated in and were stimulated by the symposium.

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