Editor's foreword

The timely aim of this Royal College of Pathologist's symposium held in February 1979 was to focus attention on some of the rapidly growing salients along immunology's advancing front where significant additions are being made or promised to the practice of clinical immunology. Immune deficiencies and other disturbances of lymphocyte function, differentiation, and distribution; the control of antibody formation; the elucidation of the mechanisms of antibody-mediated tissue damage; and the therapeutic implications emerging are topics increasingly relevant to the day-to-day work of pathologists. There is an ever-growing professional demand for up-to-date information about them. This, the published proceedings of the symposium, presents new-minted the arguments, opinions, and conclusions of that generous majority of the speakers who have earned the editor's lively gratitude by taking the trouble to transmute the perishable message of the spoken word into the tempered precept of the written one, thus achieving a main design of the organising committee. The latter, under the chairmanship of Professor E. V. Flynn, comprised Professor I. C. M. MacLennan, Dr A. Milford Ward, Dr Joan Silva, and myself. We acknowledge with thanks the assistance of the College secretariat and are especially grateful for the financial support provided by the following firms: Abbott Laboratories Limited; Action Research for the Crippled Child; Becton, Dickinson UK Limited; Boehringer Ingelheim Limited; Boots Company Limited; Fisons Limited; Glaxo Group; Hoechst UK Limited; Arnold R. Horwell Limited; Imperial Chemical Industries Limited; Immuno Limited; Leo Laboratories Limited; Merck Sharp & Dohme Limited; Ortho Pharmaceutical Limited; Pfizer Central Research; Projectina Company Limited; Roche Products Limited; Shandon Southern Products Limited; E. R. Squibb & Sons Limited; Technicon Instruments Company Limited; Upjohn Limited; Wellcome Research Laboratories; and Winthrop Laboratories.

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