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SCIENCE NEWS

NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMPARATIVE ENDOCRINOLOGY

The Reproduction Biology Unit, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi organized a symposium on "Comparative Endocrinology" at the above department during 29–31 December 1984. About one hundred scientists from different part of the country and faculty members of the Reproduction Biology Unit attended the symposium. Dr F. Fraschini, Chair of Chemotherapy, University of Milan also participated in the deliberations.

The symposium was supported by the Special Assistance Programme of the Department of Zoology (UGC), INSA, DST and BHU. The three-day symposium was conducted in three oral sessions, that include eight sub-sessions, and three poster sessions.

It is of importance that most of the research papers presented by the scientists either aimed at understanding reproductive physiology, that also includes fertility control, or restricted to related areas. Furthermore, predominantly experimental models were either from Piscine group or from Mammals or Aves. This simply provides testimony to the growing awareness of Indian Bioscientists of the burning problem of national as well as international importance—population pressure. Professor S. S. Guraya reviewed regulation of hormone receptors and mode of action of hormones during follicular growth and atresia. Dr A. R. Sheth in his lecture high-lighted the importance of a non-steroid-'inhibin' in reproduction. Furthermore, Dr N. A. Sheth read a paper on maiden demonstration of *de novo* 'inhibin' synthesis in the

prostate glands of rat and human. It appears that further research might help scientists to establish 'inhibin' as an effective contraceptive agent. Antifertility effects of superactive analogs of LHRH have also been discussed by Dr T. M. Jose and Dr E. Vijayan. Dr Jose suggested that LHRH-A (analog of LHRH) can be used for induced breeding in Indian Carps. Apart from these, that concern fertility and sterility, deliberations of the symposium covered many other frontier areas in Endocrinology, such as (i) Neuroendocrinology (ii) Environmental Endocrinology (iii) Thyroid and Parathyroid (iv) Adrenal and Endocrine Pancreas (v) Invertebrate Endocrinology. Looking into the quality of papers presented, Professor C. J. Dominic, one of the directors of the symposium announced to publish the proceedings in full at an early date.

The symposium assembled all the leading as well as young bioscientists under one roof for mutual interaction and opened new vistas of knowledge for study and research in Comparative Endocrinology. It was unequivocally accepted that the subject has grown to phenomenal dimensions and deserves an introduction at University level as an independent discipline.

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