PPARs: FROM BASIC SCIENCE TO CLINICAL APPLICATIONS

Preface

Less than one decade after the cloning of the first peroxisome proliferator-activated receptor, PPARs attract great attention in light of the wide spectrum of genes of biological and medical relevance identified as under their control. As a consequence, our knowledge of the role of these receptors in physiology and pathology continues to grow at a fast pace, and PPARs have become an interesting target for the treatment of many pathological conditions, including diabetes and atherosclerosis.

Within this framework the First International Symposium on PPARs: From Basic Science to Clinical Applications was held in Florence on April 4-7, 2001, promoted and organized by the Giovanni Lorenzini Medical Foundation (Milan, Italy and Houston, Texas, U.S.A.). The aim of the Symposium was to provide the participants with an update on the latest aspects of basic research and of clinical applications of PPAR ligands, as well as to offer an authoritative review of the field.

Attention was focused on the understanding of the molecular mechanisms involved in PPAR activation and on the interaction with other nuclear factors/cofactors. On the clinical side, the meeting succeeded in assessing the potential of the most recently developed drugs in the areas of pathology and therapy, such as diabetes and atherosclerosis.

A selection of lectures presented at the Symposium is included in this volume of Proceeding and we envision the volume as a means of readily available access to current knowledge through the publication of critical opinions from leading clinical and scientific experts.

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The Editors