International Symposium on Environmental Endocrine Disrupters 2000

Saturday, December 16 - Monday, December 18, 2000

特別講演

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Special Lecture

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Endocrine Disruption Testing: Toward a Better Understanding of Inner Space

Theo Colborn
World Wildlife Fund

Currently, there are no government-approved, standardized protocols to test chemicals for their possible endocrine disrupting effects. Yet, the scientific literature abounds with reports about the endocrine disrupting effects of natural and xenobiotic compounds in laboratory animals, wildlife, and humans. Scientific investigators from many different disciplinary backgrounds using a vast number of techniques have provided this evidence. The protocols for determining the untoward effects reported in the literature are as varied as the animals studied, the compounds tracked, the organ systems or tissues examined, and the endpoints measured. Common sense alone suggests that here in this vast literature must be one or two elemental or basic testing models for adaptation, validation and standardization.

So much knowledge about what happens from conception to birth under natural and perturbed conditions has accumulated over the past ten years, that the study of endocrine disruption is now emerging as a new discipline that cuts across a wide range of traditional fields. As a result of this inner-space research, new departments have been established, and programs and courses have sprung up on campuses around the world in biology, zoology, public health, veterinary medicine, policy, law, philosophy, and religion. Similarly, government agencies have devoted divisions or budget lines to endocrine disruption. Response such as this by academia and governments to the concept of endocrine disruption would not have happened without the data contributed by many of you in attendance today. Your inner-space research has prompted elected officials from many nations to dictate that their federal agencies develop technologies to detect chemicals with endocrine disrupting potential and to take appropriate action to reduce human and environmental exposure. With all this interest by academics and governments in inner-space research, why are there no standardized and validated tests yet to detect possible endocrine disrupting chemicals?

This presentation will discuss what may have caused delays in meeting government mandates to reduce exposure to endocrine disruptors. It will briefly review the current status of endocrine disruption testing research as we enter the 21st century. It will also provide options that just might hasten the development of new assays and streamline validation and standardization. And hopefully, it will encourage you to move toward making the 21st century the Inner Space Age of research–research to prevent further damage to those in the womb or the egg in order to preserve the integrity and survival of future generations of humans and wildlife.

Welcome to the Inner Space Age.