

BRITISH DIABETIC ASSOCIATION

Autumn Meeting September 1986

*Dr. Ashok Kumar Das**

Cardiff in North Wales was the venue for the three-day (4th-6th September) autumn meeting of the British Diabetic Association. The opening day was marked by a symposium on Psychological Aspects of Diabetes Mellitus. In this uses and abuses of psychological tests, eating disorders and management of brittle diabetes were discussed. The interesting part of the symposium was the question-answer session on various aspects of psychology in diabetes with Dr Robert Tattersall in the chair.

The rest of the two day programmes were split between three plenary sessions (on Immunology, Genetics and Complications), State of the Art and Banting memorial lectures and two parallel paper presentations of poster sessions. The areas in which maximum research data were presented included genetics (including genetics of migrant Asian diabetics in the UK), auto-immunity in autonomic neuropathy; renal replacement in Type II diabetes mellitus and trial of aldolase reductase inhibitors (Sorbitol and Tolrestat) for diabetic peripheral neuropathy. At the end of one year trial Sorbitol was not very promising. Some investigators reported minimal beneficial effect of a few newer aldolase reductase inhibitors (Tolrestat, Statil, ICI).

Dr. P.J. Watkins, as Chairman of the Joint Working Party on diabetic renal failure of the British Diabetic Association and the Research Unit of the Royal College of Physicians, presented the highlights of the UK Survey of Diabetic Renal Failure. This described the number and characteristics of diabetes in renal failure and suggested the outline of management that would be needed in the future.

Dr. T. Deckert's Banting memorial lecture was on "Micro & Macro angiopathy- a possible link". This talk mainly highlighted the connection between nephropathy and cardiovascular deaths.

Professor S. R. Bloom's State of the Art lecture on "Diabetes and regulatory peptides" outlined the detailed work on enteroinsular axis and role of various other peptides in carbohydrate metabolism and aetiopathogenesis of diabetes mellitus.

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