

S.J. KONTUREK, W.W. PAWLIK, J. JAWOREK:

REMARKS ON 2nd POLISH CONFERENCE OF YOUNG PHYSIOLOGISTS
ENTITLED "GASTROINTESTINAL FUNCTIONS IN HEALTH
AND DISEASES"

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The concept of organizing regular meetings of basic and clinical, medical and veterinary young gastroenterologists, has been initiated by Professor R. Zabielski in Warsaw and this supplement of *J. Physiol. Pharmacol.* includes some of the interesting overviews and original papers included into the program of Cracow meeting organized by Professor J. Jaworek. Introductory lecture by S.J. Konturek on the duodenal mucosoprotection against gastric acid, showed involvement of mucus-alkaline secretion activated COX-prostaglandins system, neuro-reflexes and various neurohormones. R. Zabielski discussed the problem of periodicity of motor, secretory and absorptive activities of the GI system to commemorate 100 yr anniversary of Boldyreff's description of this periodicity, but now explained by the periodic release of various entero-hormones such as motilin, ghrelin, PP VIP and CCK. LejaSzlapak et al. demonstrated for the first time that luminally applied melatonin or its precursor L-tryptophane, are capable of stimulating exocrine pancreas in rats *via* releasing CCK and activating entero-pancreatic reflexes. Similarly, Nawrot et al. showed that leptin in the gut lumen may affect pancreatic secretion by releasing CCK and activate duodeno-pancreatic reflexes. Matyjek et al. provide evidence for the important role of stomach in the release of gastrin, ghrelin and leptin by demonstrating that fundectomy in rats raised plasma gastrin, while lowering levels of ghrelin and leptin. Dobrek et al. attempted to answer the question whether the disturbance of parasympathetic activity in patients with gastro-esophageal reflux disease (GERD) is the primary or secondary phenomenon in esophagitis and found that this disturbance is the primary factor contributing to pathophysiology of GERD. Machowska et al. showed that gonads and sexual hormones, especially testosterone, contribute to

the gastric mucosal integrity and ulcer healing, acting *via* releasing of proinflammatory cytokines. Czesnikiewicz et al. disproved general belief that oral cavity could be the source of *H. pylori*, responsible for gastric reinfection by this germ and showed that it may serve only as transient food-related bacterial reservoir without relation to gastric infection. Malecka-Panas et al., and Talar et al. showed that pancreatic and colorectal cancers are accompanied by certain gene overexpression and mutation that may be involved in the process of carcinogenesis. The most important aspect of this meeting and enclosed papers is that for the first time young gastroenterologists showed their research activities in various areas of physiology and pathology of GI system, prepared the paper for publication in our J. Physiol. Pharmacol. and showed determination to continue this endeavor in future.