

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Blood Viscosity and Psoriasis

To the Editor,

Wolf and Macthey's article, recently published in your journal (*Acta Dermatovener* 61: 153, 1981), refers to a significant increase in whole-blood viscosity in 11 psoriatic patients. In a recent study of 21 psoriatic patients which we have just completed, no increase in viscosity was found. We used a Wells-Brookfield plate-cone viscometer (Brookfield Laboratories, Stoughton, Mass., USA) for viscosity determinations at 22°C and at 37°C. The shear rates were 230, 115, 46 and 23 sec<sup>-1</sup>. No significant statistical difference was found for whole-blood, plasmatic, or relative viscosities with respect to 15 normal control subjects of similar age and same sex. Even factors capable of influencing whole-blood and plasmatic viscosity (Hct, RBCs, fibrinogen, total plasma protein and gamma-globulin) were within normal limits in our psoriatic patients. Furthermore, in our clinical experience with over 1000

patients affected by long-standing psoriasis, thromboembolic episodes were very rare and were only present in patients who had psoriasis plus another disease which by itself predisposed to thromboembolism, such as diabetes mellitus, atherosclerosis, hypertension and obesity (1). In conclusion, on the basis of our results, we strongly doubt that psoriasis can be a cause of hyperviscosity or that hyperviscosity in these patients can be a contributing factor to thromboembolism.

#### REFERENCE

1. McDonald, C. J. & Calabresi, P.: Psoriasis and occlusive vascular disease. *Br J Dermatol* 99: 469, 1978.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Annual Clinically Oriented Symposium of the E.S.D.R.* The Annual Clinically Oriented Symposium of the European Society for Dermatological Research will be held in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, January 31 to February 1, 1983. The theme of this meeting will be: "Brain and Skin". Abstracts should be submitted in English, typed double-spaced on A4-sized paper (five copies). The deadline for submission is October 1, 1982.

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*At the 12th Annual Scientific Meeting of the E.S.D.R.* held at the RAI Congresscentrum, Amsterdam, 4-7 April, 1982, the following Poster Awards were made:

1. Friends of Bill Reed Committee (\$800.00)

to: "Production of Type III Collagen: Cell Free Synthesis and Regulation of pN-Propeptides", L. Phan-Thanh, T. Krieg, R. Timpl, P. Müller, MPI für Biochemie, Martinsried and Dermatologische Klinik der LMU, München, West Germany.

2. Italian Foundation for Research in Dermatology (\$500.00) to: "β-Adrenergic and Histamine Receptors in Cultured Skin Fibroblasts and Keratinocytes", J. Gazith, M. T. Cavey, P. P. Elena, B. Schroot, U. Reichert, Centre International de Recherches Dermatologiques, Sophia Antipolis, Valbonne, France.

*Cambridge University Medical School. Progress in the Biological Sciences in Relation to Dermatology. Preliminary notice.* The sixth 5-year course aimed at bringing clinical dermatologists and others up to date with Progress in the Biological Sciences in Relation to Dermatology will be held in Churchill