

12. Stockholm 1997

The 12th International Workshop on Surfactant Replacement took place in the inner archipelago of Stockholm, Sweden in 1997. This meeting attracted more than 200 participants from 31 countries in Europe, North and South America, and Asia, representing different health care systems and a variety of approaches to surfactant research. At this time, surfactant therapy had already become an established part of clinical management of RDS. Several thousand babies had been enrolled in randomised clinical trials comparing various surfactant preparations, dose regimens and timing of treatment. Meta-analyses of data from these trials were presented at the Workshop by Henry Halliday and Roger Soll confirming the superiority of natural surfactant preparations (isolated from animal lungs) in comparison with synthetic surfactants lacking the specific hydrophobic surfactant proteins SP-B and SP-C. First attempts to produce artificial surfactant based on synthetic analogs of hydrophobic surfactant proteins were reviewed at the meeting as well as the surprisingly rapid deleterious effects of resuscitation of immature newborn lambs with large tidal volumes. Ventilator-induced lung injury in surfactant-depleted adult lungs was discussed in relation to pathophysiology of the acute ("adult") respiratory distress syndrome, regarded by many as a potential target for surfactant therapy. Circulatory effects of exogenous surfactant were discussed as well as interaction between nitric oxide, free oxygen radicals and surfactant. A state of the art review of experimental bronchopulmonary dysplasia was also presented. The early history of surfactant replacement was recalled by Goran Enhorning, a true pioneer in the field, who worked in Stockholm when he designed the first crucial experiments showing efficacy of surfactant treatment in immature newborn rabbits. It was obvious from the wide panorama of topics reviewed that surfactant replacement for lung disease was still a hot topic and that many problems remained to be solved. The Proceedings of the Workshop were published in *Biology of the Neonate* [12].

Music by Johan Helmich Roman and Carl Michael Bellman, two eminent composers from the 18th century, helped the participants relax between and after the lectures.



BENGT ROBERTSON (THE PRESIDENT) IN A RELAXED MOOD