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The Interferon System

Second, enlarged edition

Springer-Verlag
Wien New York



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Softcover reprint of the hardcover 2nd edition 1981

With 23 Figures

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data. Stewart, William E. 1940- . The interferon system.
Bibliography: p. Includes index. I. Interferons. I. Title. [DNLM: 1. Interferon. QW 800 S852i.]
QR 187.5.S73. 1981.599.0295.81-1775

ISBN 978-3-7091-8617-6

ISBN 978-3-7091-8615-2 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-3-7091-8615-2

Preface to the First Edition

This book is an update of *Interferon*, published in 1969 by Dr. Jan Vilček. The field of interferon research has since expanded from its former narrow treatment of interferon strictly as an antiviral substance, such that *The Interferon System* now encompasses cellular modulations ranging from immune alterations to cell proliferative restrictions to antitumor activities. The steadily increasing number of these *non-antiviral* functions of interferons emphasizes the need for a comprehensive – and critical – review of the entire literature of interferon studies.

The text, with its supporting bibliography, provides complete coverage of interferon research. A newcomer to the area should find here all the information necessary to understand why interferon, which has been studied for more than twenty years and which originally stirred excitement over its clinical prospects, is still inspiring speculation about this potential. For those already familiar with the seemingly perpetual clinical promise of interferon, this volume should serve as a valuable reference source, the largest bibliography on the subject ever to appear under one cover.

Clearly, this book should be considered only as an introduction to the topic and as a reference source; most questions about the interferon system are still unanswered – even unasked. Hopefully this summation and critical evaluation of work done to date will stimulate and facilitate further progress.

New York, N. Y., February 1979

William E. Stewart II

Preface to the Second Edition

This second edition of *The Interferon System* includes an Appendix to the References to incorporate most of the papers that have been published on interferon between mid-1978 and the end of 1980. I have also included references to several of the older papers that were not referred to in the original text, to provide as complete a reference source on interferon as possible. The text, however, remains unchanged.

The format for the Second Edition derives from the fact that the publishers exhausted their supply of the First Edition in less than two years, and I felt it was premature to attempt a revision of the text at this stage. Data collection in the field of interferon research is presently proceeding at a rapid rate, both in basic molecular biology and in clinical evaluations. Hence, it will likely be some time before I shall undertake to revise the text for the Third Edition. However, be assured that when I do so, I shall again interject critical evaluations (personal animus?) against anyone publishing erroneous information on The Interferon System.

New York, N. Y., February 1981

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