FALK SYMPOSIUM 43

Modulation of Liver Cell **Expression**

FDITFD BY

W. Reutter

Institute of Molecular Biology and Biochemistry, Free University of Berlin Berlin, West Germany

P. C. Heinrich

Institute of Biochemistry University of Freiburg-im-Breisgau, West Germany

H. Popper

Mount Sinai School of Medicine of the City University of New York, USA

D. Keppler

Institute of Biochemistry, University of Freiburg-im-Breisgau, West Germany

I. M. Arias

Physiology Department, Tufts University School of Medicine. Boston, Maryland, USA

L. Landmann

Institute of Biochemistry Basel University Switzerland

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Induction of acute-phase protein synthesis: studies on the regulation of rat α_2 -macroglobulin *in vivo* and in hepatocyte primary cultures

T. GEIGER, T. ANDUS, D. KUNZ, M. HEISIG, H. NORTHOFF, J. BAUER, T.-A. TRAN-THI, K. DECKER AND P. C. HEINRICH

INTRODUCTION

Acute inflammation leads to the increased synthesis of an ensemble of proteins designated as acute-phase proteins¹⁻³. The major site of synthesis for these proteins is the liver. Many of the acute-phase proteins are proteinase inhibitors. We study acute-phase protein synthesis in the rat and are interested in

Table 1 The α_2 -macroglobulin family

Species	Protein	Concentration (mg/ml)		Molecular weight of	Number of	Carbohydrate content
		Normal plasma	AP-plasma	subunits(s)	subunits	%
Rat	$\alpha_1 M$	3.8	3.9	168 000 38 000	8 (?)	15
	$\alpha_2 \mathbf{M}$	< 0.02	2.0	182 000	4	15.9
Human	$\alpha_1 I_3$	6.0	2.1	186 000	1	15
	$\alpha_2 \mathbf{M}$	2–4	2-4	179 000	4	10.2
	PZP	< 0.01	1-1.4	180 000	4	10-12

a family of high molecular weight proteinase inhibitors, the α -macroglobulins. Table 1 shows the three members of the rat α -macroglobulin family: α_1 -macroglobulin, α_2 -macroglobulin and α_1 -inhibitor III. Although all three proteins are proteinase inhibitors, their regulation is different. Whereas α_1 -