

13662 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

than proper insulin delivery which leads to these harmful effects on the blood vessels? Basic and clinical investigators are working on this question with respect to insulin at present. Since no answer exists for insulin, which is a direct hormone replacement therapy, obviously no answer exists for the oral hypoglycemic agents. For this reason, I feel there is no direct evidence that these oral agents are beneficial, i.e., life-saving or life-preserving.

4. The problems of translating the results of basic research developed by medical scientists to the practice of medicine.

This is a very broad question, and we could spend a great deal of time discussing it. Briefly, I am of the opinion that scientists today are more aware than ever before of the importance of applying their fundamental studies to the practice of medicine. For example, in my own field, Pharmacology, there has been a strong development in the area of Clinical Pharmacology which addresses itself to this problem: namely, the application of fundamental laboratory findings to the patient in order to understand and treat the disease process. For example, the sulfonylureas have been used clinically for about 20 years, yet a great deal of information regarding these compounds is still lacking. The metabolism of these compounds in patients and their precise mechanism of action are still unknown. These have been complicated problems and require additional studies in both animal systems as well as patients. Scientists are very interested in coordinating such diverse efforts and studies. I feel that