

13676 COMPETITIVE PROBLEMS IN THE DRUG INDUSTRY

STATEMENT BY
ETHAN A. H. SIMS, M. D.
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401
(on sabbatical leave at Endocrine Div., Tufts N. E. Medical Center
Boston, MA 02111
BEFORE MONOPOLY SUBCOMMITTEE
SENATE SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE
JULY 10, 1975

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee: I am glad to have the opportunity to testify before this Committee relative to the proper labeling of oral hypoglycemic agents in the light of recent studies, and on the problems of translating the results of research to the practice of medicine. I plan to center my remarks on the optimal management of the overweight, non-insulin-dependent diabetic as this relates to the recommendations included in the proposed labeling. My qualifications include care of diabetic patients at Yale-New Haven Hospital and in Vermont over the past 30 years and former direction of a Metabolic Unit and of an NIAMD training program in diabetes. I have served on special study sections of the NIH for review of proposals for Diabetes and for Obesity Centers. I am a member of the advisory and editorial group for the Fogarty International Center Conferences on obesity and of the workshop on Obesity of the National Diabetes Commission.

SUMMARY

I. Obesity is now recognized as a factor predisposing to non-insulin-dependent diabetes in a genetically susceptible person. Untreated obesity may pose a greater long-term risk in relation to cardiovascular and other disease than the use of oral agents.

II. Insulin, in addition to its well known function of lowering blood glucose, is a storage hormone. The use of insulin, or of oral agents