opportunity to understand the mechanism underlying the expression of genetic information in mammalian liver. This induction of enzymes by corticoids is currently believed to be secondary to the hormonal stimulation of hepatic RNA synthesis (see brief review by Agarwal, Hanoune, Yu, Weinstein & Feigelson, 1969).

To determine whether induction of enzymes can still be selectively modified when hormonally increased RNA synthesis remains unimpaired, a mixture of [5-³H]orotate and [U-¹⁴C]glycine was employed to evaluate hepatic RNA and protein synthesis in relation to specific enzyme modifications after endotoxin administration in adrenalectomized rats. In the first few hours endotoxin modified neither the endogenous nor the cortisone-stimulated rate of precursor incorporation into RNA and protein. The native activity and the hormonal induction of tryptophan oxygenase, but not of tyrosine transaminase, are repressed at these and earlier time-points by endotoxin.

On the other hand, in the first few hours of carbon tetrachloride administration in mice, a normal activity of tryptophan oxygenase and some induction of tyrosine transaminase were obtained; subsequently both these activities were adversely affected. Incorporation of [5-³H]orotate, however, was 30% below normal within 3h of carbon tetrachloride administration and remained low 18–20h later. Cortisone did not augment the subnormal rate of RNA synthesis in carbon tetrachloride-injected mice, but fully induced both the enzymes in the first few hours of carbon tetrachloride poisoning; enzyme induction was subsequently eliminated.

These studies established unequivocally that the general, non-specific, increase in total RNA synthesis effected by cortisone does not seem to be necessary for the induction of specific enzymes by the hormone. So it appears that biogenesis of specific proteins does not proceed via a mass-action or 'pushing' mechanism due to a grossly increased content of total RNA. All the evidence suggests that some specific events of transcription and/or translation may be required for the inductive process in intact mammalian liver.

Finally, cortisone, endotoxin and carbon tetrachloride all rapidly and markedly alter Kupffer-cell function in liver (Snyder, Agarwal & Berry, 1967). So the reticuloendothelial system may be involved in the expression of genetic information in mammalian liver in an as yet undefined manner (Agarwal, Hoffman & Rosen, 1969).

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Oestradiol, Adenosine 3':5'-Cyclic Monophosphate and Nucleolar Ribonucleic Acid Polymerase in Calf Endometrium

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Two types of enzyme showing RNA polymerase activity have been isolated simultaneously from calf uteri. One of them, 'soluble RNA polymerase', is not bound to the gene; it is inhibited by α -amanitin and is not stimulated by the cytoplasmic 5S receptor-oestradiol complex.

The other, 'nucleolar RNA polymerase', is recovered from nucleoli that have been obtained by sonication of the isolated nuclei. This enzyme is stimulated by the cytoplasmic 5S receptor-oestradiol complex.

When the endometrium is incubated in [³H]oestradiol, the radioactivity of the nuclei is concentrated in the nucleoli. The RNA polymerase isolated from these nucleoli is also radioactive, and its enzyme activity is greatly enhanced compared with enzyme prepared from tissue that has not been treated with the hormone. A radioactive protein with a sedimentation coefficient of approx. 5S can be liberated by treatment with potassium chloride from the nucleoli that have been labelled with [³H]oestradiol.

These results place one of the effects of the hormone in the nucleolus. The 5S receptor-oestradiol complex could be a factor that stimulates nucleolar RNA polymerase (Arnaud, Beziat, Guilleux & Mousseron-Canet, 1971).

The effect of the hormone on the sedimentation profile of nucleolar RNA has been investigated.

A relationship between oestradiol, cyclic AMP (adenosine 3':5'-cyclic monophosphate) and nucleolar RNA polymerase has been demonstrated.

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A Chromatin-Bound Receptor-Oestradiol Complex in Chicken Oviduct and its Effect on Chromatin-Bound Deoxyribonucleic Acid-Dependent Ribonucleic Acid Polymerase Activity

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Our work has been concerned with evaluating the technique of incubation of chicken oviduct tissue with labelled oestradiol *in vitro* as a model