This book is a report of an international conference held at Data Point, California, in February 1992. It is the most comprehensive, up-to-date work on gastrin published to date, and consists of seven parts from 31 contributors, most of whom are actively working in the field and have contributed significantly to new developments. There is an excellent section on gastrin cell function covering regulation of G cell proliferation, receptor functions on G cells and cell-to-cell interactions. The latest data on the gastrin receptor structure, its role in regulating acid secretion and growth, and mechanisms of signal transduction are well discussed. Gastrin’s physiological role in acid secretion and its trophic effects on gastrointestinal mucosal growth are succinctly described.

For the clinician, there are two excellent sections on clinical hypergastrinemia and gastrin associations with malignancy. New data concerning gastrin release associated with Helicobacter pylori gastritis, the role of hypergastrinemia in endocrine cell hyperplasia and changes associated with drugs used to treat peptic ulceration are well covered. Experimental data concerning gastrin as a growth factor for different types of cancer cells detail new knowledge in this area.

This very well written book is the best comprehensive text on gastrin yet assembled. Although it is aimed at a very small audience, it will find great use as a reference text for gastrointestinal units, libraries and physiology departments. This state-of-the-art text will be a well referenced source.

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