

(2) Report of a Symposium on Clinical Trials held at the Royal Society of Medicine, London on Friday, April 25th, 1958 (1958)

Chairman: Professor Sir Charles Dodds, MVO, FRS

Pfizer Ltd

Preamble

The chapter on “Controls” by Crofton clearly sets out the basis of treatment allocation by randomisation thereby establishing this text as the first, outside of research papers, and within the period studied, to do so (but see *Pre-amble* to (3) below).

Aims

The growing number and complexity of chemical compounds that are being developed for the treatment of disease is making the problem of clinical evaluation increasingly acute. To accord a new remedy its due place in medicine is no easy task and often it is only after extensive trial that any definite conclusions can be reached. The pharmaceutical houses, with their research facilities, play a part in the progress of medicine, not least through the discovery and production of new drugs. Close liaison between the industry and the medical profession is therefore of first importance. The purpose of this symposium was to examine the main problems involved in the carrying out of clinical trials with a view to producing, if possible, a general picture of how such trials might best be conducted (Foreword, page iii).

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Foreword (AM Brunton)

Acknowledgements

Present

Programme

Introduction (W Williams, C Dodds)

Aims and ethics (JG Scadding)

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Clinical management (FD Hart)

Presentation of results (M Davidson)

Financing of clinical trials (A Kekwick)

Discussion

Authors

There is no named editor of this volume and the only name on the title page is that of the chairman. The foreword was written by Dr AM Brunton (Director of Medical Services, Pfizer Ltd). The authors are Dr W Williams MB, BS (Pfizer Ltd); Professor Sir Charles Dodds MVO, FRS (Middlesex Hospital, London); Dr JG Scadding MD, FRGP (Institute of Diseases of the Chest, Brompton Hospital, London); Professor JW Crofton MD, FRCP (University of Edinburgh); Professor R Cruickshank MD, FRCP (University of Edinburgh); Dr Oswald Savage OBE, FRCP (The Arthur Stanley Institute, Middlesex Hospital, London); Dr I Sutherland MA, DPHIL (Statistical Research Unit, Medical Research Council, London); Dr F Dudley Hart MD, FRCP (Westminster Hospital, London); Dr Maurice Davidson MA, DM, FRCP (Brompton Hospital, London); and, Professor A Kekwick MA, MB, FRCP (Middlesex Hospital, London).