(35) PE Lucchelli, N Bergamini, and V Bachini (eds) (1976)
Rationality in Drug Development: Proceedings of the second International Meeting of Medical Advisers in the Pharmaceutical Industry, Florence, October 13 – 15, 1975
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Preamble
The first international meeting of Medical Advisers in the Pharmaceutical Industry was held in London in April 1972, and published as *International Aspects of Drug Evaluation and Usage* (edited by AJ Jouhar and MF Grayson; Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1973; see no. (26) above). At the second international meeting, in Florence, detailed here, the society changed its name to the International Federation of Associations of Pharmaceutical Physicians and Pharmaceutical Medicine (IFAPP). The third international meeting was held in Brussels in 1978 and published as *Pharmaceutical Medicine – the Future* (edited by H Lahon; RK Rondel and C Kratochvil; Brussels: Acta Therapeutica, 1979). The fourth international meeting was held in Paris in April 1981 and published as *Drug Safety – Progress and Controversies* (edited by Michel Auriche, John Burke and Jacques Duchier; Oxford: Pergamon Press, 1982). IFAPP continues to organise international meetings and details can be found on its website (ifapp.org/history-2).

Aims
The second international meeting of the Medical Advisers in the Pharmaceutical Industry took place in Florence from October 12th to 15th, 1975. More than 400 representatives of 29 countries and 83 pharmaceutical companies were present. The first meeting, held in London in 1972 had been conceived as "an attempt to assess the current state of the evaluation and use of drugs throughout the world, as seen through the eyes of medically qualified people working in the pharmaceutical industry. The second meeting went a step further, trying to make the point of the current state of the international cooperation in drug testing. There is now greater interest in international trials: it seems that the elements in common in the results of multi-national trials exceed those which contrast and that the so-called ethnical differences and the differences in therapeutic responses due to the different medical and social cultures, if kept under control by the experimental design, allow an unbiased enlargement of the inference resulting from the experimental data. Increased international cooperation enables one to avoid dispersion of effort in unnecessary duplication and, in the end, leads to a more rapid development of better medicines, which are much in demand in our time. This book is divided into three sections, which correspond to the main sections of the meeting: the first one reviews from a scientific, technical and operational standpoint what was done, what was drawn, what can be developed in the field of clinical trials organized on an international basis. In the second session the Health Authorities of a few representative countries expose their position in regard of data coming from non-national or international studies. In the third section, finally, a selection of papers on current problems in drug research methodology is presented (Preface, page vii).

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