

This book covers part of the presentations at the Twelfth Workshop on Vitamin D held at the Maastricht Exhibition and Congress Centre in Maastricht, The Netherlands from July 6 to July 10, 2003. A total of 323 registered delegates from 30 countries were in attendance.

The primary function of the Vitamin D Workshop is to organize and present scientific meetings on any aspect related to vitamin D. The substantial attendance at the Maastricht Workshop reflected the continuing high level of worldwide interest in research developments related to vitamin D.

This book is organized by general topics. The table of contents is presented in two levels of organization. First appears a Table of Contents that identifies the major sections amongst which the individual chapters are grouped. This is followed by a Detailed Table of Contents which enumerates the complete titles and names of all authors for each of the 114 chapters that comprise this book. Within each topic, the first series of chapters are written by Invited or Plenary Speakers followed by the Free Communications.

The quality and diversity of the science presented at the Twelfth Workshop on Vitamin D was again at an exceptionally high level. Remarkable progress continues to be made in research areas related to the vitamin D analogs of $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$, the study of the biochemistry and cell biological effects in a wide variety of systems (including calcium homeostasis, vitamin D metabolism, regulation of gene transcription, and action of rapid responses). Also, an important component of the Workshop Program was dedicated to clinically related topics which included presentations concerning treatment of psoriasis, the application of $1\alpha,25(\text{OH})_2\text{D}_3$ and its analogs, in the treatment of osteoporosis and application of prostate cancer.



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