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Lynn C. Yeoman, Charles W. Taylor, and Harris Busch.


Cover Legend

The understanding of the role of the anterior pituitary gland secretions in normal and abnormal growth has been advanced by the work of H. M. Evans and C. H. Li, both of the University of California at Berkeley and San Francisco.

Herbert M. Evans (1882–1971), born in Modesto, California, was educated at the University of California and Johns Hopkins University, graduating with an M.D. in 1908. In 1915, Dr. Evans became affiliated with the Department of Anatomy at the University of California, where he engaged in teaching and in research on reproduction physiology, hormones, and vitamins until his final retirement in 1966. With J. A. Long, he described the estrous cycle in the rat in 1921, produced gigantism in rats with anterior pituitary fractions in 1922, and separated the growth-promoting substance in 1939. He was the author of over 500 scientific papers. His Harvey Lecture (19: 212–235, 1924) summarized his work on the functions of the anterior hypophysis.

Choh Hao Li (b. 1913), a native of China, graduated from the University of Nanking in 1933. He received a doctorate in chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1938. His whole career has been spent at the University of California where, since 1950, he has been Professor of Biochemistry, Professor of Experimental Endocrinology, and Director of the Hormone Research Laboratory. Since 1938, he has devoted his research to the biochemical aspects of the pituitary hormones, initially collaborating with Evans in the studies. Through the efforts of Li and his associates, as well as those at other laboratories, all of the 10 adenohypophyseal hormones have now been isolated, and the primary structure of 9 have been elucidated. The list includes interstitial cell-stimulating hormone, 1940; lactogenic hormone, 1942; bovine growth hormone, 1944; adrenocorticotropic hormone, 1953; β-melanotropin, 1956; follicle-stimulating hormone, 1964; and β-lipotropin, 1965. Human growth hormone was isolated and purified in 1956 and its structure determined in 1966. In 1970, Li and D. Yamashiro (J. Am. Chem. Soc., 92: 7608, 1970) succeeded in synthesizing a protein with human growth hormone activities. The work on the chemical biology of pituitary hormones was summarized by Li (Proc. Am. Phil. Soc., 116: 365–382, 1972).

The portrait of Evans, by Paul Bishop of Berkeley, was furnished by Dr. Nicholas Petrakis (University of California, Berkeley). The photograph of Li is from the National Library of Medicine. We are indebted to Dr. Petrakis and Dr. Li for information and references.