

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

PROFESSOR COLIN BLAKEMORE

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL IN THE UK AND WAYNFLETE
PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

Professor Blakemore began the afternoon session by stating that it was important to share international expertise and experience on the therapeutic potential of illicit drugs. This did not necessarily have a direct bearing on the issue of their illicit use as recreational intoxicants or by dependent users. But drug policy should be informed by an understanding of toxicology and the effects of psychoactive substances on the human brain. There was growing evidence that drugs that are consumed illegally can have beneficial therapeutic uses in the treatment of a range of medical conditions.