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Reply

SIR,—We appreciate the helpful and very positive comments made by Dr Gerbes. Indeed there is evidence from animal models, that both ANF and vasopressin influence the action or level of activity of the other and interact at the level of the kidney.¹ Although vasopressin itself, in pharmacological doses, is a potent diuretic that most likely exerts this effect by directly inhibiting sodium reabsorption at a point in the nephron distal to the proximal tube.² Furthermore it has been shown, that vasopressin analogues may stimulate ANF secretion in cirrhotic patients⁴ and infusion ANF has a natriuretic effect at least in some cirrhotic patients.³ Therefore orni-pressin induced stimulation of ANF secretion and enhancement of ANF action at the level of the kidney

could be an important factor of natriuresis in our patients.

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News

Lady Sobell Gastrointestinal Unit

The official opening on 5th June 1989 by H R H Princess Alexandra of the new Lady Sobell Gastrointestinal Unit at Wexham Park Hospital, Slough marked the successful culmination of a major fund raising campaign, which raised £1.5 million in three years, to build, equip and endow a single storey, 320 m² building comprising an endoscopy suite of two rooms, one with a full x-ray unit, recovery and waiting areas, seminar room, two research laboratories, four offices and appropriate ancillary accommodation. The new unit, headed by Dr P I Reed, will allow development of a fully integrated gastrointestinal service to serve a large health district and expand research activities.

Sir Francis Avery Jones BSG Research Award 1990

A three page summary of personal research work is invited by the Education Committee of the British Society of Gastroenterology who will recommend to Council the recipient of the 1990 Award. A biblio-

graphy may also be submitted if desired. The Award consists of a medal and £100 prize. Entrants must be 40 years or less on 31 December 1990 but need not be a member of the BSG. All (or a substantial part) of the work must have been performed in the UK or Eire. The recipient will be required to deliver a 40 minute lecture at the Plenary Session of the Spring meeting of the Society at the University of Warwick in 1990. Applications (15 COPIES) should be made to: The Honorary Secretary, BSG, 3 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London, NW1 4LB, BY 1 DECEMBER 1989.

Future BSG Meetings

1989: Autumn—Dublin (27–29 September); 1990: Spring—Warwick (28–30 March); Autumn—Southampton (26–28 September); 1991: Spring—UMIST (Manchester) (10–12 April); Autumn—London (25–27 September); 1992: Spring—Sheffield (25–27 March); Autumn—Warwick (9–11 September); 1993: Spring—Scottish Exhibition Centre (24–26 March); Autumn—Warwick (15–17 September); 1994: Spring—UMIST (23–25 March); Autumn—York (21–23 September—provisional)