

PREFACE

An International Symposium on "Microcirculation, Interstitium, Lymph. Pathophysiology and Disease", chaired by S. Witte, Karlsruhe, was held at Villa Principessa near Lucca, Italy on June 19-20, 1981. It was most generously sponsored by the Fondazione Valentino Baldacci, Pisa (Italy). The Foundation was constituted in 1953, in memory of the founder of the Laboratorio Chimico Farmaceutico V. Baldacci of Pisa. In former years the Foundation has organized several discussion-meetings about hemostasis, thrombosis, platelets, vessel wall and related topics in several countries.

The present Conference was linked to the former meetings by including discussions of blood vessels, in particular of permeability processes. The term "permeability" is understood not only with regard to the exchange functions of microcirculatory blood vessels, but also includes the processes, which occur within the interstitial space, across the parenchymal cell membrane and in the lymph. One may call these processes the "inner circulation". The normal morphology and physiology of microcirculatory vessels, the interstitial space, the parenchymal cells and the lymph vessels have been extensively studied. By contrast, pathological disturbances of this system, important to both pathologists and clinicians, have been substantially neglected.

The Symposium on "Kapillaren und Interstitium", organized in 1954 by Bartelheimer and KÜchmeister at Hamburg (Thieme, Stuttgart, 1955), has had a considerable influence on the field. Since that time progress has been made in fields like electron microscopy, intravital microscopy, biochemistry and coagulation, as well as clinical fields like research on shock, angiopathy, edematous disease and, last but not least, experimental and clinical hemorheology. Hopefully, this symposium will have a comparable effect.

Hemorheology must always include the vessel wall which is only one part of the ubiquitous mesenchyma. Clinical hemorheology need also to be aware of the extravascular aspects of flow and deformation of blood plasma components and must, therefore, include the interstitium, as well as the lymph.

Although the papers of this Symposium include non-hemorheological subjects, the Proceedings should be presented in toto to the Readers of CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY, because they are related and well suited to extend the fields of clinical hemorheology.

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