

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIORHEOLOGY
SYMPOSIUM ON SOFT TISSUES AROUND A DIARTHRODIAL JOINT

INTRODUCTION

This three hour symposium was presented during the 3rd International Congress of Biorheology in La Jolla, California U.S.A. on August 28, 1978. The purpose was to demonstrate the complexity of joint tissue structure and function, and to illustrate the need for a multidisciplinary approach in the study of joint rheology.

The invited lecturers included Dr. Eric Baer on "The Multicomposite Structure of Tendon Collagen - Relationship between Ultrastructure and Mechanical Properties", Dr. Paul D. Benya (on behalf of Dr. Marcel E. Nimni) on "Collagen: Its Structure and Function in Normal and Pathological Connective Tissues", Dr. Van C. Mow on "Biphasic Rheological Analyses of Cartilage Creep and Stress Relaxation", Dr. Allan S. Hoffman on "Application of Enzyme Probes in Connective Tissue Biomechanics", and Dr. Wayne H. Akeson on "Mechanical Imperatives for Synovial Joint Homeostasis: The Present Potential and Therapeutic Manipulation". I, as Chairman, also gave a short introduction on "Biorheology of Soft Tissues: The Need for Interdisciplinary Studies".

With Dr. A.L. Copley, the Editor-in-Chief's kind invitation, and with the urging of Professor Y.C. Fung, the Congress Chairman, I proceeded to solicit opinions from the lecturers about writing their lectures. All the invited lecturers graciously consented, and thus it became possible to present the aforementioned symposium in manuscript form. The minor changes in authorships and titles of present manuscripts as compared to those abstracts published in the Congress Proceedings are a reflection of more current contents which have been added since the Congress.

I am honored and privileged to organize this symposium and to serve as a guest editor for four of the articles. Special thanks are to be given to all the authors for their fine contributions and cooperation. I also wish to thank Dr. Copley for editing the remaining two articles.

Savio L-Y. Woo, Ph.D.
Guest Editor