

Preface

The Fifth Asian Congress for Microcirculation (ACM'03) was held from February 20–22, 2003, at Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel, Manila, Philippines under the presidency of Prof. Xenia T. Tigno (College of Medicine, University of the Philippines, Manila). The main theme of the congress was “Microcirculation: bridging the gap from bench to clinics”. On February 20, 2003, the pre-congress symposium was held with the theme of “Asian traditional medicine: based on *in vivo* microcirculation evidence”. As a related meeting, a microcirculation conference was held during *International Symposium on Advanced Experimental Physiology: excitable cell, pancreatic beta cell and endothelial cell*, which Profs. P. Siriviriyakul and S. Cheakskul presided from March 10–14, 2003, at Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand.

The fifth Congress (ACM'03) marked ten years since the first Asian Congress was held in Osaka, Japan in 1993. In attendance at that time were scientists from Asia, Australia, Europe and the America who had a common dream: that of fostering microcirculation research in the Asia-Pacific region, and encouraging collaboration across national boundaries and across continents. The subsequent Congresses were held in Beijing, China in 1995, Bangkok, Thailand in 1997 and Bandung, Indonesia in 2000. On its tenth year, the Congress was held in Manila, the Philippines.

Since the Asian Union for Microcirculation (AUM) was established in 1991, the Union has been instrumental in bringing about many joint research efforts across the Asian region. As our scientific programs for the last ten years at test, no conflict appears between western mainstream and eastern traditional medicine. In the Philippines, a core group of scientists organized the Asian Union for Microcirculation – Philippines Chapter less than two years ago. The Chapter reflects a spectrum of various medical specialties, emphasizing that the area of Microcirculation represents a convergence of multiple scientific disciplines, and encompasses everything from the intricacies of molecular biology to the realities of surgical practice.

A number of societies joined to organize various symposia/workshops during this Congress. These were the three Microcirculation Societies of Japan, China and Thailand; 12 Philippines Societies, among them the Societies of Atherosclerosis & Vascular Diseases, Vessels, Occupational Medicine, Dermatology, Diabetes, Lipid, Vascular Medicine, Cutaneous Medicine, Endocrinology & Metabolism, Hematology & Blood Transfusion, Hypertension, Ultrasound in Clinical Medicine, Physiology, Vascular Surgery, Vascular Medicine, Stroke, Vitreoretina and so on. The scientific program featured 6 plenary sessions, 18 congress symposia and 3 lunch symposia. A Young Investigators Forum and Free poster sessions were also held.

Despite the delicate political atmosphere prevailing in the world, there were more than 700 participants with expertise in various fields (basic, experimental and clinic), coming from the Asia-Pacific Region (Canada, China, Israel, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, USA) and Europe (Germany). The ACM Award was presented to Prof. Peter Gaehtgens (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany) for his contributions to the development of Microcirculation in Asia. Dr. Manuel M. Dayrit, Secretary of Department of Health, Philippines, graced the occasion as the keynote speaker during the opening ceremony.

This volume contains selected proceedings from the congress, consisting of plenary lectures, workshop/symposium lectures, and selected papers presented in free communications during the Asian

Congress in Manila and the related meeting in Bangkok. The contributions reflect recent advances in experimental and clinical microcirculation in Asia. Among the important topics included are those on Asian traditional medicine, microvascular disorders in organ/tissue, as well as molecular and cellular aspects of microvascular function.

We would like to express our thanks to all the contributors who obliged us by submitting their manuscripts within the time limit. We are obliged to all the members of Philippines Organizing Committees, especially to Dr. Ricardo T. Quintos (Secretary General) and his staffs whose efforts made the Congress possible. We are also grateful to Prof. Srichitra Bunnag (President of Thai Society of Microcirculation) who generously allowed us to include presentations during the related meeting.

Xenia T. Tigno, Manila
Suthiluk Patumraj, Bangkok
Hideyuki Niimi, Osaka