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SYMPOSIUM ON PERMEABILITY AND THE BLOOD VESSEL WALL

Concluding Remarks

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I will make no attempt to summarize all that we have learned today. We have made great strides forward. Each contribution stood by itself and dealt with different aspects of transendothelial exchange. I will also not present a lecture of my own. I would only like to make and emphasize one point. In modeling the interstitium, the formed, elastic elements must be properly taken into account, whether they arise on the luminal surface of the endothelium, or in the cleft between two cells, or in the structured space of the vessel wall, or in the surrounding connective tissue, or, indeed, within the cell itself. The continuous solid-like, extra-stress-bearing component is essential for the creation and control of the gradients along which transport can take place and by which flow is managed.

To my mind, the most important contributions are to identify, in each locality, what these structural elements are and to understand their biorheological function and mode of action. This is the key to any molecular accounting and to a fruitful assessment of material exchange as a process driven by gradients of chemical potentials and induced stress.