

Foreword

We are pleased to introduce the selected papers of the first seminar on Cardiovascular Engineering held in Nancy (April 2004) and organized by PhD School on Biology, Health and Environment of Lorraine. Tissue engineering is now a vigorous branch of mechanobiology which concerns the growth of tissues, the influence of mechanical forces on cells and tissues and the clinical applications. As we are now at the age of proteomics, genomics and cell micromechanics, using methods like laser tweezers or confocal microscopy, mechanobiology brings new challenges. With these researches, tissues engineering is the promise of new therapeutical developments.

The main aim of this seminar was to focus on researches in cardiovascular engineering. We are very pleased that the speakers kindly accepted our invitation. We thank also Region of Lorraine for the financial assistance provided for the meeting, and the PhD School "Biology, Health Sciences and Environment BIOSE" of the universities of Lorraine.

In order to ensure continuity of this seminar, a second one on "Cell and Tissue Engineering and Therapy" will be organized in May 2005.

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Vandoeuvre lés Nancy, 15 April 2005