Branched Chain Amino and Keto Acids in Health and Disease

THE GEORGIA AUGUSTA UNIVERSITY was opened in 1737 by Electoral Prince Georg August of Hanover. It was the first modern university, in the sense that freedom of thought and instruction was granted in full. Twenty-eight Nobel-prizewinners studied or taught in Göttingen.

The "Goose Girl Fountain" keeps telling to the students of Göttingen, that science is only one aspect in life. After passing their examination, young doctors climb this statue to kiss the "goose girl" goodbye. She has been kissed more often than any other girl in the world.

International Symposium on Branched Chain Amino and Keto Acids in Health and Disease, Göttingen, October 21-23, 1983

Branched Chain Amino and Keto Acids in Health and Disease

Editors
S. A. Adibi, Pittsburgh; W. Fekl, Erlangen;
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Preface
Within the past few years there has been a large expansion of knowledge regarding the regulation of metabolism of branched-chain amino acids, and the effects of these amino acids and their metabolites on a range of metabolic reactions in various tissues of the body. This knowledge has already been used by clinical investigators to explain biochemical or physiological mechanisms of altered metabolism in common diseases, and to advocate the use of branched-chain amino acids and/or their ketoacid derivatives for therapeutic purposes. The first objective of this book is to bring together current reviews of these advances by basic and clinical scientists who have been the eminent leaders in this field. The editors hope that this book will be useful to the growing world-wide interest in metabolism and medical applications of branched-chain amino acids.

With any emerging new field there is always controversy and differing viewpoints. The field of branched-chain amino acids is no exception to this rule. The second objective of this book is to allow these controversies to be brought together to stimulate further research toward their resolutions.

While there has already been substantial progress in the metabolism of branched-chain amino acids and their involvement in metabolic reactions, much remains to be explored. The third objective of this book is to further stimulate basic and clinical research in this field.

Finally, under the auspices of the University of Göttingen School of Medicine and the Research Institute of Experimental Nutrition of Erlangen, an international symposium was held last October at the Max-Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Göttingen. A select group of basic scientists and clinical investigators from different countries were invited to share observations and exchange ideas regarding their work on branched-chain amino acids in the intimate environment of this ancient and historic German city. The material covered in this book is largely, but not entirely, derived from the presentations made at this symposium.

S. A. Adibi
W. Fekl
U. Langenbeck
P. Schauder
The editors gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship of the symposium by the German Diabetes Association, the Jacques Pfrimmer Foundation, and the B. Braun Foundation. The staff and the members of the Research Institute of Experimental Nutrition, Erlangen, in particular Dr. Maria Brandi, Elke Becher and Irene Rotter, were greatly helpful both in organizing the meeting and in preparing the book. We thank the medical and scientific publishers of the S. Karger GmbH for their interest and cooperation in publishing this book.

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