Introduction

The Venetian Symposia have been founded in order to enable ample scientific exchange between scientists of Romanic and Germanic origins. Thus, the Venetian Symposia of the past years have dealt with the progress in diagnosis and treatment of various diseases and were based on the relevant new knowledge of scientific development. The topic of the 16th Venetian Symposium devoted to hemorheology was of great interdisciplinary actuality. Therefore, this volume should supply important results to those who have not been able to attend this meeting. Firstly, the basic physiological and experimental background of hemorheology and its importance in energy supply to the brain was discussed. Then the relationship of different parameters to blood viscosity was elucidated, whereby the dependence of cerebral blood flow on blood viscosity was seen to be a prominent feature. Thus, it provides the basis for a new therapeutic concept for improving cerebral blood flow without the use of vasodilating agents. The hemorheologic concept thereby enlarges the multidimensional therapeutic approach to acute and chronic cerebrovascular diseases as well as to the prevention of recurrent ischemic episodes. The scientific board wishes to thank Hoechst AG and especially Dr. R. Muller, Dr. A. Carandente and Mr. F. Lehrach for their generous support in the organisation of this meeting. May this volume further spread the idea of the Venetian Symposia and help realize the multidimensional concept for treatment and prevention of cerebrovascular disease.

H. Lechner	
D.	Fontanari
H. Kugler	
E.	Ott