Foreword

This issue of Blood Vessels includes the proceedings of the invited lectures presented during the Fifth International Symposium on 'Mechanisms of Vasodilatation', which was held in Strasbourg, France, from July 5 to 7, 1989. Like its predecessors, it achieved a broad coverage of the different components of the blood vessel wall involved in vasodilatation, including autonomic nerves, vascular smooth muscle and endothelial cells. These proceedings reflect the concerns of the organizers to continue to address all issues relevant to active decreases in diameter of the blood vessels, and hopefully represent a useful update in vascular physiology and pharmacology. In particular, they contain the two highlights of the meeting: the 2nd John T. Shepherd Lecture by Dr. Christ-er Owman, who addressed the crucial issue of peptidergic nerves, and the 1st Robert F. Furchgott lecture, delivered by Dr. Salvador Moncada, on nitric oxide as the 'old' endothelium-derived relaxing factor and the 'new' transduction system. The accolade between Dr. Moncada and Dr. Furchgott at the end of the lecture was an emotional highlight that the participants will not easily forget. But, in addition to those two named lectures, the meeting hosted an impressive number of presentations, many of which are contained in this volume. We believe that these proceedings maintain the tradition to be the true reflection of the most up-to-date thinking and experimentation in the area of vascular control. Hence, it should be of interest and help, not only for cardiovascular physiologists and pharmacologists, but also for the academic cardiologists and neurologists. The guest editors would like to emphasize that the meeting in Strasbourg, and thus these proceedings, would not have been possible without the dedication of Mrs. Martine Delena in Strasbourg and Mrs. Cindy Camrud in Rochester. On behalf of all participants, they would like to thank them, and the other members of the Strasbourg team, for a superb effort of hospitality. Paul M. Vanhoutte J.C. Stoclet