This meeting like the two previous meetings in this series concerns the physiology, pharmacology and pathophysiology of the resistance vasculature. Interest in this field has increased substantially in the course of the past 10 years, due mainly to the technical advances which have recently made it possible to make direct investigations of vessels small enough to contribute to the peripheral resistance, the small arteries and arterioles.

As will be seen from the abstracts, a wide range of topics is covered: the role of calcium and cytoplasmic calcium, receptor activation and membrane mechanisms in the control of resistance artery tone; resistance artery structure and factors affecting vascular growth; flow- and pressure-mediated control of vascular calibre; endothelial and neural factors; methodology. Furthermore, in recognition of the importance of the peripheral vasculature in the pathogenesis of hypertension, a number of abstracts are concerned with the role of resistance arteries in this disease. Other disease states such as diabetes are also covered. The abstracts presented here thus provide a status concerning resistance artery research, and it is hoped therefore that this issue of Blood Vessels will not only prove a useful source of reference, but will also provide a framework for future research in this rapidly growing field.

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Preface
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