Workshop on the Role of Renal Medullary Circulation in the Pathogenesis of Acute Renal Failure

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Introduction

During the 15th annual meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation in Basel, a Satellite Workshop on 'The Role of Medullary Circulation in the Pathogenesis of Acute Renal Failure' was held on March 18, 1981.

For the last 20 years, changes in renal cortical blood flow were thought to be of paramount importance in the pathogenesis of acute renal failure. It was not until recently that a number of investigators pointed to a previously underestimated, but possibly decisive role of the renal medullary circulation.

This workshop has provided an opportunity for those few investigators currently working in this field to get together and discuss their most recent experimental findings and their interpretation of them. Since this is the very first time that a scientific meeting has been devoted to this subject, it seemed opportune to publish the papers presented at the workshop in the hope of stimulating more wide-

spread interest in this topic. In addition, we thought it useful to publish the discussion of the individual papers together with a summary of the round-table discussion in order that the reader can see more clearly where there are differences in observations, interpretations and in postulated pathophysiological mechanisms.