Preface

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This Symposium on New Aspects of Treatment of Hemophilia represents the third symposium since the introduction of recombinant factor VIIa (rFVIIa) for the treatment of patients who have inhibitors to factor VIII or factor IX. All three symposia featured both basic and clinical reports on FVII and its cofactor, tissue factor. They took place during an exciting era in the understanding of blood coagulation reactions, namely the realization that the initiation of hemostasis occurs via the FVII-tissue factor pathway and that both hemophilia A and B represent, in a sense, defects in the tissue factor pathway. The remarkable advances related to FVII, tissue factor and tissue factor pathway inhibitors represent milestone achievements in the field of blood coagulation, and are perhaps the most important achievements in the field of blood coagulation in the last decade. The most recent basic advances are all described in these proceedings.

Advances in basic knowledge have also led to advances in the clinical arena. Thus, rFVIIa has been found to be both safe and effective in the treatment of bleeding episodes in patients with antifactor VIII and antifactor IX antibodies. More recent data also indicate that rFVIIa is effective in controlling hemorrhage in patients with thrombocytopenia, liver disease, and antibodies to von Willebrand's factor. Furthermore, additional data indicate that rFVIIa is hemostatically effective in inhibitor patients who require surgery. Finally, all the data indicate that rFVIIa can be used safely and that thromboembolic events are unlikely to complicate its use.

The development of rFVIIa has not only led to an improved therapy for patients with inhibitors to factors VIII or IX, but it has also led to the development of a new class of anticoagulant agents, which promise to be of great benefit in preventing thrombosis. Current studies in animals suggest that rFVIIa, which is inhibited at its active site by chloromethylketones, so-called rFVIIai, can prevent arterial thrombotic complications. The use of rFVIIai in inhibiting thrombosis is reviewed in these proceedings and represents an exciting new development in anticoagulant therapy.

The journal *Haemostasis* has agreed to publish the proceedings of the Third Symposium on New Aspects of Treatment of Hemophilia. The papers in this volume contain much useful and important basic and clinical information. As guest editors, we are grateful to *Haemostasis* for agreeing to make these proceedings available to all those interested in blood coagulation, hemostasis, and thrombosis.

V

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Drug Dosage

The authors and the publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that drug selection and dosage set forth in this text are in accord with current recommendations and practice at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, changes in government regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package insert for each drug for any change in indications and dosage and for added warnings and precautions. This is particularly important when the recommended agent is a new and/or infrequently employed drug.

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