Editorial

The *Journal of Vascular Research* (JVR) is proud to be the official journal of the European Society of Microcirculation and to have so many distinguished experts in the field of vascular research on its Editorial Board. It addresses an extremely exciting and growing research area, covering a broad variety of aspects that span from the birth of a vessel in the embryo (vasculogenesis) to the development of microvascular networks to vascular dysfunction and degeneration as may occur in old age and (prematurely) in many diseases. A better understanding of the vascular function and growth as well as of the underlying vascular signaling processes, especially in microvessels, is also pivotal for other fields of research such as organ regeneration or antitumor therapies.

JVR, with its new review series called 'Vascular Update', takes on the challenge of keeping you up to date with the most recent developments in the field. Our journal is therefore glad to announce that an expert in microvascular research, Akos Koller, has joined the editorial collegium as the new review editor. Dr. Koller is currently head of the Department of Pathophysiology and Gerontology at the University of Pécs, Hungary, with a double appointment at the Department of Physiology, New York Medical College, Valhalla, N.Y., USA. He is a

leading expert in research in isolated microvessels with special reference to the effects of hemodynamic forces on vascular function and growth. His proven editorial expertise will clearly help to identify review topics at the cutting edge of vascular research written by simply the best.

Special emphasis will be placed on microvascular research and its relation to diseases and new therapeutic strategies but other areas of interest for vascular biologists will also be covered. JVR will try hard to offer its readers comprehensive overviews on new developments in the understanding of vascular physiology and pathophysiology. By reviewing key results of major conferences on vascular research we will contribute to the rapid distribution of new knowledge to vascular biologists. It will be our goal to bridge molecular research with the function of the whole vascular system. We are convinced that with our 'Vascular Update' series we will further broaden the offer that JVR makes to its readers and further foster the understanding of the pivotal role of blood and lymphatic vessels of various sizes and types in organ function and disease.

Ulrich Pohl, Munich, Germany

Gerald Meininger, Columbia, Mo., USA