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Contributing Authors

ALEXANDER, J.K., M.D., Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX 77025.
BATTACK, D.J., M.D., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Ave., Denver, CO 80220.
BERNE, R.M., M.D., University of Virginia School of Medicine, Charlottesville, VA
BISGARD, G.E., D.V.M., M.S., University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI 53706.
BLOUNT, S.G., Jr., M.D., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.
BRAKE, D., M.D., 625 Vera Ct., Madison, WI 53706.
BYRNE-QUINN, E., M.D., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.
CHIDSEY, C.A., M.D., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.
COGSWELL, J., M.D., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.
COTTON, E.K., M.D., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.
CROPP, G., M.D., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.
DAOUD, F., M.D., University of Kentucky Medical Center, Lexington, KY 40506.
DAVIES, D.H., Veterans Administration Hospital, Denver, CO 80220.
DELIVORIA-PAPADOPOULOS, M., M.D., University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104.
DULING, B.R., Ph. D., University of Virginia School of Medicine, Charlottesville, VA 2290l.
ELIOT, R.S., M.D., Veterans Administration Hospital and College of Medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL 3260l.
FILLEY, G.F., M.D., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.
GENSINI, G., M.D., St. Joseph's Hospital, Syracuse, NY 13203.
GENTON, E., M.D., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.
GROVER, R.F., M.D., Ph.D., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.

VIII Contributing Authors

HULTGREN, H.N., M.D., Stanford University School of Medicine, Palo Alto, CA 94305.
HUTCHERSON, J.D., M.D., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.
JAMIESON, G., B.A., University of Colorado Medical Center, 4200 East Ninth Avenue, Denver, CO 80220.
LUEKER, R.D., M.D., University of New Mexico School of Medicine, Albuquerque, NM 87106.
LUFSCHANOWSKI, R., M.D., Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX 77025.
Introduction

This is the first cardiovascular conference to be held in Snowmass-at-Aspen and it seemed fitting that we start with the effects of hypoxia on the heart and lungs. The information obtained from high altitude studies has provided
a better understanding of the effects of hypoxia on cardiovascular performance, and by integrating these observations with those obtained in patients with various diseased states, it should be possible to develop a more sophisticated appreciation of the effects of hypoxia. The conference has been arranged in a manner that hopefully will provide a provocative learning experience and time for an enthusiastic interchange of ideas. The continuous help and advice of Dr. S. GILBERT BLOUNT, Jr. in developing this conference is gratefully acknowledged.

I am particularly indebted to my secretary, Mrs. MARILYN LEeK, for her help in the preparations and arrangements for this conference, as well as Miss MARY ANN McINERNY and Mr. WILLIAM NELLIGAN of the American College of Cardiology who helped coordinate the meeting. In addition, appreciation is expressed to Mrs. JUDY DEBORD for her help in editing the manuscripts.

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JOHN H.K. VOGEL