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Editor: RALPH READER
National Heart Foundation of Australia, Canberra

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Introductory Statement

A Conference on the Myocardium organised by the National Heart Foundation of Australia was held in Canberra, Australia, on May 29-31, 1973.

At first sight the objectives may have seemed over-ambitious with the subject matter covering cellular structure, sub-cellular function, myocardial metabolism, energetics and contractility, neurogenic control and coronary flow. Each of these fields provides ample stimulus and scope for its own kind of research worker and there is a tendency for each group to be preoccupied with its own thing. The Conference, however, was extremely successful in exposing the various groups to the problems and achievements of the others.

There were some 160 participants and the speakers came from the United Kingdom and the European continent, Japan, South Africa, New Zealand, the United States of America and of course Australia. They presented their current research results against a perspective of recent advances in their own field. Many of them have made outstanding contributions to knowledge in these fields and the collected papers, which are now published, provide an account of the advancing edge of knowledge in myocardial function and myocardial failure.

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