Recent Advances in Ventricular Conduction

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Recent Advances in
Ventricular Conduction

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Pre-excitation Syndromes
We are experiencing a period of exceptional and renewed interest and progress in the understanding of cardiac arrhythmias. In this field, normal and abnormal mechanisms underlying ventricular conduction are now under strenuous and multidisciplinary approaches.

There are many reasons for this. But, above all, new views are being expressed by a number of creative people. We know at the present time that the understanding of normal and abnormal mechanisms of ventricular conduction is essential to enlighten the pathophysiology as well as the proper diagnosis and management of most types of ventricular arrhythmias.

The Department of Medicine of Porto University Medical School invited a group of the most outstanding world experts in this field to participate in a symposium that would highlight the recent advances in ventricular conduction. The symposium was held on July 29-31, 1973, and was attended by about 400 participants from all over the world.
Different approaches were analyzed and discussed. Physiological, pathological, as well as clinical aspects were presented. Recent developments were reviewed concerning certain mechanisms of ventricular arrhythmias, namely re-entry, concealed conduction and functional bundle branch block, on left hemiblocks and bilateral bundle branch block, on pre-excitation syndromes, on the contribution of invasive and noninvasive techniques in the understanding of ventricular conduction defects, and on therapeutic aspects.

The content of the symposium itself and the book that is emerging from it were created by our guests and the authors. As editor, I am particularly proud to include their contributions and wish to thank them for teaching us about the recent advances in ventricular conduction.

Preface IX

The Instituto de Alta Cultura (IAC), as the official department in charge of university research in Portugal, supported and sponsored the meeting, which was co-sponsored by the International Society of Cardiology. We wish to thank the then controlling board of the IAC, the chairman Miss MARIA DE LOURDES BELCHIOR, the vice-chairman Mr. JOS M. DE ARAJO and Dr. DANIEL SERRO, of the advisory committee, who made this symposium possible. We also would like to express our grateful appreciation to our associates in the Department of Medicine of the Porto University Medical School for their assistance in the organisation. We hope that the advances in the field of ventricular conduction will continue rapidly. Indeed, as the editorialist from The Lancet wrote three weeks after this meeting, 'it was quite clear from the symposium that cardiac arrhythmias are becoming better understood; so good therapy must be round the corner'.

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