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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To My Wife, Lisa
and to Our Children,
Linda and Christopher

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Preface

The purpose of this book, entitled Cardiovascular Emergencies: Current Therapy, is not to discuss every aspect of cardiovascular emergencies. Rather, the book includes only common cardiovascular emergencies which are frequently encountered in our daily medical practice. Particular emphasis is placed on various aspects of cardiac arrhythmias because busy medical practitioners confront these cardiac rhythm problems on a daily basis. Thus, antiarrhythmic drug therapy, digitalization, digitalis toxicity, artificial cardiac pacing, direct current shock, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and acute coronary care have been discussed in detail. In addition, common cardiovascular emergencies including hypertensive emergencies, coronary artery spasm, pulmonary embolism, congestive heart failure and cardiogenic shock are described in detail. Furthermore, sick sinus syndrome, Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome as well as carotid sinus stimulation are also included because of their clinical importance from the viewpoint of cardiovascular emergencies.

The content is concise and practical, and the style of the book is somewhat comparable to a 'cookbook' so that it will be easily and rapidly understandable by busy practitioners without spending too much time and effort. Accordingly, this book, Cardiovascular Emergencies:
Current Therapy, will be extremely valuable to all primary care physicians (e.g. family physicians, internists, emergency room physicians, cardiologists, etc.), medical house officers (interns and residents) and cardiology fellows. In addition, medical students, anesthesiologists, cardiovascular surgeons and cardiac care nurses will obtain great benefits by reading this book. Furthermore, the book will offer a great educational value to paramedical personnel with a variety of background.

An endless cooperation of the staff of the S. Karger publishers is deeply appreciated for the completion of this book.

Finally, I owe a deep gratitude to my father, Il-Chun Chung, MD, who always provides a valuable guidance and inspiration for me.

Edward K. Chung, MD
Bryn Mawr, Pa.