Therapeutic Photomedicine

Current Problems in Dermatology

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H. Hönigsmann, Vienna

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Volume Editors
H. Hönigsmann, Vienna
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Preface

In the past decade, phototherapy has dramatically influenced the treatment of many different diseases and, in particular, of skin diseases. A resurgence of interest in photobiology has initiated a new era in interdisciplinary photomedicine. This book is based on a clinically oriented symposium of the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR) for which efforts have been made to create a programme that combined relevant basic research and clinical developments of treatment, and great care has been taken to avoid producing a mere proceedings volume. The book comprises the contributions of invited experts in the format of rounded-up review chapters, thus expanding the volume to a source of references.

The successful use of phototherapeutic treatments requires an understanding of its principles. This volume attempts to aggregate details of molecular and immunological aspects relevant to the mechanisms of therapeutic effects and to possible side effects. The section on clinical application reflects the broad spectrum of clinical use which ranges from UV phototherapy of skin disease to porphyrin photochemotherapy of tumors and laser therapy. Clearly, therapeutic photomedicine is of significant importance for a variety of clinical specialities far beyond its application in dermatologie treatment.
The Symposium, in continuing with the 10-year tradition of ESDR Clinically Oriented Symposia was, for the first time, jointly organized with the German ‘Arbeitsgemeinschaft Dermatologische Forschung’ and this should be regarded as a fruitful crossfertilization between national and international European research bodies. Another important novelty was the decision to create a continuous publication series covering the most important topics presented at these ESDR Symposia. The ESDR is very grateful to S. Karger AG, Basel, for its readiness to incorporate this publication into their well-established series Current Problems in Dermatology, which from now on will accommodate these Symposia.

We wish to acknowledge the invaluable help of all those who participated in organizing the Symposium in Baden, above all, Professor Klaus Wolff for the intellectual stimulus, Mrs. Sylvia Altermann, Vienna Academy of Postgraduate Medical Education, and Ms. Hebe Jeffrey for excellent secretarial work. We also wish to acknowledge major financial support for the meeting by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Health and Environmental Protection, the Austrian National Bank, Schering AG and Hoffmann-La Roche, and of substantial grants obtained from Aesca; Bayer-Pharma; Gerot Pharmazeutica; Greiter AG; R. Heintel GmbH; HermalChemie; E. Merck; Pharmacia; Squibb-v. Heyden; Z. Szabo.

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