Serotonin and Microcirculation

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Mikrozirkulation in Forschung und Klinik

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R. S. Reneman, Maastricht; A. Bollinger, Zrich

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Preface
Since Dr. Irvine Page for the first time described the vascular action of serotonin (5-hydroxytryptamine) more than three decades ago, it has been rather quiet around this amine during several years. Probably because further investigations on its action were hampered by the complexity of the effects induced by the amine. Recently, however, there has been a revival of the interest in serotonin, because part of this complexity can be unraveled by means of the newly synthetized specific S2-serotonergic receptor antagonist ketanserin. Besides, this compound was reported to be active in cardiovascular diseases, like hypertension and peripheral vascular diseases, indicating that serotonin plays a role in these disorders.

This issue of Progress in Applied Microcirculation addresses the topic of vascular effects of serotonin with special emphasis on the microcirculatory level. Besides, rheological and bronchoconstrictor effects of this amine are discussed. Experts from various disciplines have contributed to this issue and the editors are grateful to them for participating in the discussion on this topic.

The guest editors are greatly indebted to Dr. Paul Janssen for his stimulating interest in the topics as discussed in this issue.

Maastricht/Zrich, Robert S. Reneman
September 1985 Alfred Bollinger

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