The authors and the publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that drug selection and dosage set forth in this text are in accord with current recommendations and practice at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, changes in government regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package insert 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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Copyright 1993 by S. Karger AG, P.O. Box, CH-4009 Basel (Switzerland)
Printed in Switzerland on acid-free paper by Thr AG Offsetdruck, Pratteln
ISBN 3-8055-5701-9

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Preface

For the first time a Bodensee Symposium on Microcirculation was dedicated to the microcirculation of the liver. Hence, the 11th Bodensee Symposium on Microcirculation, held in Bad Schachen, June 25-28, 1992, was entitled the 'Liver Microcirculation and Hepatobiliary Function'. This topic was chosen because in recent years, significant advances have been made in the implementation of new techniques for the assessment of the microvascular perfusion of the liver. Due to its location and the unique characteristics of arterial and portal venous blood supply, the liver has presented with problems to quantitative analysis of its blood flow and regulation at the microcirculatory level. Based on the pioneer work of Rappaport and McCuskey, advanced tools for assessment of both local blood supply and liver function have been introduced by various groups around the world. Today, it is a common notion that microcirculatory phenomena have to be related to function on the cellular level with particular emphasis on phenomena occurring at the microvascular wall. In this respect the liver is unique, because the capillary segment of the terminal vascular bed is specific, and the interface between blood and tissue is not the normal microvascular endothelium but the sinusoidal lining surface. Hence, interaction between blood cells and the vascular wall occurs at the surface of the sinusoidal lining cells and, in case their integrity is impaired, blood cells can interact directly with hepatocytes and/or Kupffer cells. At the 11th Bodensee Symposium many new findings were described particularly as related to ischemia and reperfusion of the liver, an issue of great clinical importance due to advances in liver surgery and liver transplantation in particular.

In commemoration of Prof. Frithjof Hammersen, one of the founders of the Bodensee Symposia, the International Institute for Microcirculation, Inc., Tucson, Ariz., USA, had instituted the Frithjof Hammersen Award for Excellence in Microcirculation Research. The Institute's director, Prof. Marcos Intaglietta, La Jolla, Calif., USA, had selected the 11th Bodensee Symposium as the event to confer
the Frithjof Hammersen Award for the first time. The awardee, Dr. Masaya Oda, Professor of Internal Medicine at Keio University, Tokyo, Japan, received this distinction from Mrs. Elke Hammersen in acknowledgement of his eminent contributions to the understanding of mechanisms regulating hepatic microcirculation. Prof. Oda was a personal friend of Prof. Hammersen and had honored the Bodensee Symposia by his active participation in the meeting on Gastrointestinal Microcirculation in 1989 [Prog. Appl. Microcirc., vol. 17].

The 11th Bodensee Symposium was made possible through a generous grant from L. Lafon, Paris, France; it is our great pleasure to express sincere thanks to Mr. F. Lafon and to his medical director, Dr. Andre Maurel (President Directeur General), Paris, France.

The organizers would also like to thank Mrs. Patricia DiNoi and Annette Hsgen, Munich, for secretarial help and the staff of S. Karger AG, Basel, for the preparation of this volume.

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Michael D. Menger