Rational Pharmacotherapy of the Inner Ear
Advances in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology
Vol. 59

Series Editor

W. Arnold  Munich
Rational Pharmacotherapy of the Inner Ear

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44 figures, 3 in color, and 9 tables, 2002
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Preface

This 59th volume of the series *Advances in Oto-Rhino-Laryngology* is dedicated to the evolving area of inner ear pharmacology. Sudden hearing loss, progressive hearing loss, presbycusis, noise trauma, Ménière’s disease, ototoxicity and tinnitus are examples of inner ear disorders that often cannot be treated sufficiently. Although a wide range of interesting new concepts in basic research on inner ear physiology, pathophysiology and therapy have been published over the last years, only few have been adapted to the medical management of inner ear diseases. This might be due to a still deficient exchange between experts in basic research and clinicians in the field of otology and inner ear diseases. The present volume is a compilation of reviews and reports dealing with all aspects of inner ear research (physiology, anatomy, neurotransmission, vascular system, differentiation, regeneration and immunology) as well as reports on experimental inner ear therapy and clinical trials on new inner ear treatment strategies. It provides an overview on recent knowledge on inner ear pharmacology by some of the experts in this field.

Most of the included reports and reviews were presented at the Second International Symposium on Inner Ear Pharmacology on ‘Rational Pharmacotherapy of the Inner Ear – from Basic Research to Clinics’, held in Wildbad Kreuth, Germany, from October 5 to 8, 2000. Inspired by the First Symposium on the Pharmacology of the Inner Ear, held in Montpellier in 1994, the objective of the second meeting was to bring together a representative faculty of experts in basic research and clinicians interested in otology and inner ear diseases. The fruitful discussions of these two groups should stimulate the design of future treatment strategies of inner ear diseases based on recent scientific knowledge on the pharmacology of the inner ear.
It is the hope of the editors that this volume will be further step towards the development of new treatments of inner ear diseases as a result of the collaboration between basic scientists and clinicians. In this regard the volume should be interesting to both scientists and clinicians and inspire future research on the inner ear.

Munich, Berne, October 2001

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