

NEUROTRANSMISSION AND CEREBROVASCULAR FUNCTION

VOL. I

NEUROTRANSMISSION AND CEREBROVASCULAR FUNCTION VOLUME I

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PREFACE

The XIVth International Symposium on Cerebral Blood Flow and Metabolism held in Bologna was followed by an official satellite entitled 'Neurotransmitters and Cerebrovascular Function' that took place at La Napoule in France between the 2nd and 5th June, 1989. A large number of original oral and poster contributions were presented at La Napoule and this work 'Neurotransmitter and Cerebrovascular Function, Volume I' embodies the essence of this originality as each contribution is summarized in a short (four-page) paper. Our companion work 'Neurotransmitter and Cerebrovascular Function, Volume II' was conceived with a differing rationale. Rather than the results of ongoing, largely unpublished research, Volume II concentrates on state-of-the-art reviews in which a limited number of contributors expound on the current and future directions of this everburgeoning field of research. The present volume also contains invited reviews, but only two in number by Lamour and his colleagues and by Lacombe and Sercombe. Although addressed to the same problem, namely neurotransmitters and the ageing brain, these reviews have been written from differing stand-points and their function is to paint a broad canvas into which the meaningfulness of the more specific contributions can be better evaluated.

The satellite symposium held at La Napoule was the fifth of its kind to analyze the interrelationships between neurotransmitters, cerebral blood vessels and integrated brain metabolism and function. Previously, meetings were held in Stockholm (1977), Iowa City (1981), Paris (1983) and Örenas (1985). The latest meeting is distinguished, not just by the ever-increasing number of contributions but also by the growing appreciation that some neurotransmitters may play a cardinal rôle in specific cerebrovascular and neurodegenerative diseases. The prime example of this are excitatory amino-acid neurotransmitters and their neurotoxic potential in ischaemic neuropathology.

The meeting at La Napoule and the two volumes that have issued from it were only made possible by the much appreciated efforts of a large number of individuals and organizations. We thank the members of our International Advisory Board who helped construct the scientific programme. Likewise, we are indebted to the Local Organizing Committee (and a number of doctoral students from our laboratory) who gave much of their time before, during and after the meeting in order to ensure its success. The generous financial contributions received from various sources which, amongst other things allowed us to give bursaries to a large number of young scientists, is a pleasure to acknowledge. Moreover, the considerable support afforded by Laboratoire Pierre Fabre Médicament, which allowed the publication of this volume, has earned our sincere gratitude.

JACQUES SEYLAZ
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PREFACE

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