



Arterial Baroreceptors and Hypertension

EDITED BY

Peter Sleight

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OXFORD
OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
NEW YORK TORONTO
1980

Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

OXFORD LONDON GLASGOW

NEW YORK TORONTO MELBOURNE WELLINGTON

KUALA LUMPUR SINGAPORE JAKARTA HONG KONG TOKYO

DELHI BOMBAY CALCUTTA MADRAS KARACHI

NAIROBI DAR ES SALAAM CAPE TOWN

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

Arterial baroreceptors and hypertension.

—(Oxford medical publications).

1. Arteries—Congresses

2. Baroreceptors—Congresses

I. Sleight, Peter II. Series

612'.133 QP106.2 80-40808

ISBN 0-19-261259-X

This book is based on the proceedings of a workshop which was supported by generous grants from Astra Pharmaceuticals Ltd UK and the US National Heart and Lung Institute (Grant No. IR13 HL 2419-01)

Filmset in 'Monophoto' Times New Roman
by Eta Services (Typesetters) Ltd., Beccles, Suffolk

Printed in Great Britain
by Butler & Tanner Ltd, Frome, Somerset

OXFORD MEDICAL PUBLICATIONS

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Preface

It is now 13 years since Paul Kezdi's classic volume *Baroreceptors and hypertension*[†] appeared as the result of a conference held in Dayton, Ohio. Since then an enormous literature has appeared and substantial controversies have arisen and by 1979 it seemed to me that the time was ripe to bring together as many of the disputing parties as possible. I then heard that a similar venture was being considered in the United States. A joint steering committee was formed consisting of Frank Abboud, John Coleridge, Kiichi Sagawa, Allen Scher, John Shepherd, and myself and it was decided to hold a Workshop in Oxford in September 1979.

Key scientists were invited to contribute and general abstracts were solicited by advertisement in the journals. The committee chose the final programme and posters. From the outset we realized that we would need a lot of time for discussion so we allocated 50 per cent of the time for this—and we needed it!

This volume contains 78 short papers presented at the Workshop; only one or two people failed to produce a typescript and so this volume is representative of the views and discussion of those present. The discussion sections are included after the relevant papers in the text. They have been severely, but I hope accurately, edited by me. I am only sorry that much of the discussion around the posters could not be included, although this has been done where posters were discussed in the main sessions.

In order to save time I proof-read all the chapters, so the authors should not be blamed for any errors which remain. It is a tribute to all concerned, and particularly to Mrs Alison Langton of the Oxford University Press, that this largeish volume has been produced so well and within little over a year of the conference itself (and within six months of the final manuscript). My thanks are due particularly to Allen Scher, who shouldered so much of the US end of the job, and to Dr Orr Reynolds of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB) who administered the National Heart and Lung Institute grant. Much of the inescapable cost of holding the Workshop was borne by this grant and an equally generous grant from Astra Pharmaceuticals UK. I would like to thank Professor Lars Werko and Mr Nils Wahrolen for this support.

My wife Gillian, my secretary Deborah Jackson, and Richard Drewitt and Ann Cafferky of Astra gave both the long-term support and last-minute hard work which ensured that the conference was both scientifically and socially rewarding. I was particularly pleased that the discussion was rigorous and critical without rancour or bigotry—a tribute to our chairmen.

[†] Pergamon Press 1967.

The conference was held under the auspices of the International Union of Physiological Sciences and we were privileged to have its President Professor Eric Neil open our proceedings with a typically pithy and personal historical account of the subject. Professor David Whitteridge and Gwynneth Whitteridge continued this high level with scholarly accounts of the development of physiology and medicine in Oxford. I am sorry not to include these three gems with this volume, even if some of the remarks might have been faintly actionable! However none were scripted and I was so interested that I forgot to switch on the tape recorder—*mea culpa*.

Finally I would like to thank our hosts, Professor Colin Blakemore, together with his immediate predecessor Professor Whitteridge of the Physiology Laboratory, and the Rector, Fellows, Steward, and Chef of Exeter College, not only for the conference, but from me personally for their help over many past (and I hope future) years.

PS

Oxford, July 1980

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