

FROM THE NECKER HOSPITAL

ADVANCES IN
NEPHROLOGY

VOLUME 6

ADVANCES IN NEPHROLOGY

From the Necker Hospital

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VOLUME 6 • 1976

YEAR BOOK MEDICAL PUBLISHERS • INC.

35 EAST WACKER DRIVE • CHICAGO

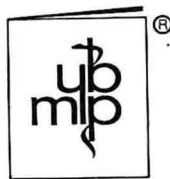
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Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 73-154325

International Standard Book Number: 0-8151-4115-7

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VOLUME 6

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VOLUME 1 (out of print)

VOLUME 2

- BIOCHEMICAL STUDIES OF THE GLOMERULAR BASEMENT MEMBRANE IN THE NORMAL KIDNEY, *by Nicholas A. Kefalides*
- BIOCHEMICAL STUDIES OF THE GLOMERULAR BASEMENT MEMBRANE IN THE DISEASED KIDNEY, *by Philippe Mahieu, Roger J. Winand, and B. Nusgens*
- THE STRUCTURAL BASIS OF GLOMERULAR FILTRATION, *by Morris J. Karnovsky and Sterling K. Ainsworth*
- GLOMERULAR FILTRATION OF MACROMOLECULES, *by John Hardwicke*
- ROLE OF ANTI-BASEMENT MEMBRANE IMMUNITY IN HUMAN GLOMERULONEPHRITIS, *by Jean-Francois Bach, Mireille Dardenne, Nicole Hinglais, and Philippe Mahieu*
- ARTIFICIAL MEMBRANES, *by Jean-Louis Funck-Brentano, Donald J. Lyman, Sung Wan Kim, Claude Gary Bobo, Georges Broun, D. Thomas, and C. Tran Minh*
- EXTRACAPILLARY PROLIFERATIVE GLOMERULONEPHRITIS—SO-CALLED MALIGNANT GLOMERULONEPHRITIS, *by E. Sorsino, B. Nabarra, M. Kazatchkine, Nicole Hinglais, and H. Kreis*
- UNILATERAL RENOVASCULAR HYPERTENSION IN THE DOG, *by Andrei N. Lupu and Morton H. Maxwell*
- ANGIOTENSIN RECEPTORS IN SMOOTH MUSCLE CELLS, *by Maryvonne Baudouin, Marie-Aude Devynck, and Philippe Meyer*
- PHARMACOLOGY OF DIURETICS: A PROGRESS REPORT, 1968–1971, *by Georges Peters, Francoise Roch-Ramel, and Lise Peters-Haefeli*
- DIURETICS—CLINICAL IMPLICATIONS, *by Jacques Guedon, Marcel Legrain, and Charles van Ypersele de Strihou*
- TRAPPING OF UREA AND AMMONIA IN THE GUT OF UREMIC PATIENTS, *by Carmelo Giordano, Renato Esposito, Giacomino Randazzo, and Maria Pluvio*
- PATHOGENESIS OF THE UREMIC STATE: A NEW PERSPECTIVE, *by Neal S. Bricker, Jacques Bourgoignie, Herbert Weber, R. William Schmidt, and Eduardo Slatopolsky*

VOLUME 3

- THE NORMAL METABOLISM OF URIC ACID, *by Pierre Cartier, and Michele Hamet*
- ETIOLOGIC VARIETIES OF HYPERURICEMIA AND GOUT, *by A. Ryckewaert, and D. Kuntz*
- DRUGS IN THE TREATMENT OF HYPERURICEMIA, *by Gertrude B. Elion*
- THE LESCH-NYHAN SYNDROME, *by William L. Nyhan*
- HYPERURICEMIA IN CHILDREN, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE LESCH-NYHAN SYNDROME, *by Pierre Royer*
- THE USE OF CERTAIN IMMUNOSUPPRESSIVE DRUGS IN THE CLINICAL STUDY OF GOUT, *by Jean-Francois Bach, Marie-Anne Bach, and Mirelle Dardenne*
- RECENT DATA ON URIC ACID LITHIASIS, *by A. de Vries, and O. Sperling*
- CRYOGLOBULINEMIA IN GLOMERULONEPHRITIS EXCLUSIVE OF GENERAL DISEASES, *by Gabriel Richet, Christiane Adam, and Liliane Morel-Maroger*
- ULTRASTRUCTURAL LESIONS OF THE GLOMERULAR BASEMENT MEMBRANE IN HEREDITARY CHRONIC NEPHRITIS, *by N. Hinglais, J. P. Grünfeld, L. Troconis, and E. Bois*

ULTRASTRUCTURAL STUDY OF SOME FREQUENT AND POORLY KNOWN INTRAGLOMERULAR STRUCTURES, *by J. Bariety, P. Callard, M. D. Appay, J. Grossetete, and Ch. Mandet*

INTRAVASCULAR COAGULATION AND NEPHROPATHIES, *by F. Josso, A. Cosson, R. Girot, and C. Gazengel*

ACUTE RENAL FAILURE AND INTRAVASCULAR COAGULATION, *by J. Conte, J. Deisol, M. Mignon-Conte, H. Ton That, and J.-M. Suc*

RENAL DISEASE AND FIBRINOGEN DEGRADATION PRODUCTS, *by Ulla Hedner, and Inga Marie Nilsson*

TUBULAR FUNCTIONS STUDIED BY MICROPERFUSION OF ISOLATED RENAL TUBULES, *by M. Abramow*

THE KIDNEY AND THE SECRETION OF ALDOSTERONE, *by W. S. Peart*

HOME DIALYSIS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM: EXPERIENCE IN A REGIONAL CENTER, *by J. S. Cameron, J. A. Baldwin, I. Childs, C. S. Ogg, and M. Bewick*

MAINTENANCE HOME DIALYSIS: FOUR YEARS' EXPERIENCE IN LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON, *by C. Mion, R. Issautier, and C. Polito*

ONE HUNDRED PATIENTS ON HOME DIALYSIS, *by Bernard Lafforgue, Bertrand Utzinger, Jean-Pierre Juquel, and Nicole Simon*

VOLUME 4

THE COMPLEMENT SYSTEM AND NEPHRITIS, *by Hans J. Müller-Eberhard*

THE FUNCTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE OF COMPLEMENT, *by Douglas T. Fearon, Shaun Ruddy, James D. Knostman, C. B. Carpenter, and K. Frank Austen*

COMPLEMENT DEPOSITION IN THE KIDNEY, *by Jean Berger, Laure-Hélène Noel, and Halina Yaneva*

EVIDENCE FOR ACTIVATION OF THE ALTERNATE PATHWAY IN GLOMERULONEPHRITIS, *by Alfred F. Michael and Robert H. McLean*

COMPLEMENT AND MESANGIOCAPILLARY GLOMERULONEPHRITIS: THE ROLE OF COMPLEMENT DEFICIENCY IN GLOMERULONEPHRITIS, *by D. K. Peters and D. Gwyn Williams*

ACTIVATION OF COMPLEMENT IN HUMAN NEPHRITIS, *by P. H. Lambert, L. H. Perrin, P. Mahieu, U. E. Nydegger, and P. A. Miescher*

THE C3 NEPHRITIC FACTOR (C3NEF) AND THE HEAT LABILE COMPLEMENT INACTIVATOR (HLCI) IN CHRONIC HYPOCOMPLEMENTEMIC MESANGIOPROLIFERATIVE GLOMERULONEPHRITIS, *by F. C. Berthoux, Charles B. Carpenter, Jules Traeger, and John P. Merrill*

MORPHOLOGY AND SERUM COMPLEMENT LEVELS IN MEMBRANOPROLIFERATIVE GLOMERULONEPHRITIS, *by R. Habib, C. Loirat, Mc. Gubler, and M. Levy*

PROSTAGLANDINS IN NEPHROLOGY, *by Monique Astoin, Antoine Hornych, and Philippe Meyer*

PARATHYROID FUNCTION IN RENAL INSUFFICIENCY, *by J. Corvilain, M. Fuss, M. de Backer, A. Bergans, N. Nys-Dewolf, Th. Manderlier, and H. Brauman*

INFLUENCE OF THE PRESERVATION TECHNIQUE ON THE EARLY FUNCTION OF THE KIDNEY AFTER TRANSPLANTATION, *by Paul Michielsens, Som Lien Oei, Leo Roels, Antoon Amery, Antoon Lerut, Johan Boelaert, Baudewijn Van Damme, L. Cosyn, and Yves Vanrenterghem*

ARE THERE CONTRAINDICATIONS TO RENAL TRANSPLANTATION?, *by Marcel Legrain, Claude Jacobs, and René Küss*

DRUG MANAGEMENT ADVANCES IN RENAL INSUFFICIENCY, *by Jean Fabre, Luc Balant and Adrien Chavaz*

RENAL FAILURE IN LUPUS NEPHRITIS, *by Johan Boelaert, Liliane Morel-Maroger, and Jean-Philippe Méry*

THE NATURE AND PATHOGENESIS OF SYSTEMIC AMYLOIDOSIS, *by George G. Glenner*

VOLUME 5

GLOMERULAR AND VASCULAR LESIONS IN CHRONIC ATROPHIC PYELONEPHRITIS AND REFLUX NEPHROPATHY, *by Priscilla Kincaid-Smith*

THE ROLE OF PLATELETS IN GLOMERULONEPHRITIS, *by C. R. P. George, W. F. Clark and J. S. Cameron*

FOCAL AND SEGMENTAL HYALINOSIS, *by Y. Saint-Hillier, L. Morel-Maroger, D. Woodrow and G. Richet*

STUDIES ON THE AMYLOID A PROTEIN AND A RELATED SERUM COMPONENT IN DIFFERENT TYPES OF AMYLOIDOSIS, *by Edward C. Franklin, Constantin J. Rosenthal and Mordechai Pras*

RECENT ADVANCES IN THE UNDERSTANDING OF REJECTION, *by Jean Hamburger*

EFFECTS OF VIRUSES ON IMMUNE RESPONSES, *by A. C. Allison and J.-L. Virelizier*

ACTIVE ENHANCEMENT OF TISSUE ALLOGRAFTS WITH ANTILYMPHOCYTE SERUM AND BONE MARROW, *by Anthony P. Monaco, Alain Liegeois, Mary L. Wood and Andrew W. Clark*

RECENT ADVANCES IN STEROID THERAPY, *by Jean-Francois Bach*

RENAL TRANSPLANTATION IN CHILDREN, *by Richard N. Fine*

THE EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF RENAL ALLOGRAFT REJECTION IN MAN, *by Charles B. Carpenter*

CIRCULATING ANTIBODIES IN ALLOGRAFT RECIPIENTS, *by J. P. Revillard and H. Betuel*

TARGET SITES OF ANTIDIURETIC HORMONE AND PARATHYROID HORMONE ALONG THE SEGMENTS OF THE NEPHRON, *by Francois Morel, Danielle Chabardes and Martine Imbert*

THE RENIN-ANGIOTENSIN-ALDOSTERONE SYSTEM IN PARENCHYMAL KIDNEY DISEASE, *by Morton H. Maxwell and Peter Weidmann*

THE ARTERIAL LESIONS IN THE COURSE OF RENAL ALLOGRAFT REJECTION PHENOMENA, *by P. Callard, J. Bedrossian, J. M. Idatte, M. F. Belair, J. Grossetete, Ch. Mandet and J. Bariety*

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Table of Contents

Contributors	vii
Preface	1

PART I

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus

1. New Conceptions of Autoimmunity and of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus. <i>By</i> JEAN-FRANÇOIS BACH, M.D., MARIE ANNE BACH, M.D., <i>and</i> FRANÇOIS TRON, M.D.	5
2. Experimental Lupus: A Disorder of Immunologic Regulation. <i>By</i> NORMAN TALAL, M.D., RAO PILLARISETTY, M.D., RUBEN PAPOIAN, M.D., <i>and</i> JIRAYR ROUBINIAN, M.D. . . .	37
3. Genesis and Pathogenicity of Anti-DNA Antibodies. <i>By</i> GILBERT J. FOURNIE, M.D., SHOZO IZUI, M.D., PAUL H. LAMBERT, M.D., <i>and</i> JEAN J. CONTE, M.D. . . .	47
4. Lupus Erythematosus. <i>By</i> PETER H. SCHUR, M.D.	63
5. The Course of Lupus Nephritis: Contribution of Serial Renal Biopsies. <i>By</i> L. MOREL-MAROGER, M.D., J-PH. MÉRY, M.D., D. DROZ, M.D., M. GODIN, M.D., P. VERROUST, M.D., O. KOURILSKY, M.D., <i>and</i> G. RICHET, M.D.	79
6. The Immunopathogenesis of Lupus Nephritis. <i>By</i> VINCENT AGNELLO, M.D.	119
7. Treatment of Lupus Nephritis. <i>By</i> VICTOR E. POLLAK, M.D.	137

PART II

Glomerulonephritis

8. Glomerular Metabolism in the Normal Rat and under Various Experimental Conditions.
By F. GREGOIRE, M.D., R. ASKENASI, M.D. and P. POTVLIEGE, M.D. 165
9. Anaphylactoid Purpura Nephritis in Children: Natural History and Immunopathology.
By M. LEVY, M.D., M. BROYER, M.D., A. ARSAN, M.D., D. LEVY-BENTOLILA, M.D., and R. HABIB, M.D. 183
10. The Quartan Malarial Nephrotic Syndrome.
By R. G. HENDRICKSE, M.D. 229

PART III

Blood Pressure Control

11. Central Nervous Actions of Angiotensin II.
By J. L. ELGHOZI, M.D., M. J. OSBORNE-PELLEGRIN, M.D., and P. MEYER, M.D. 251
12. Nonexcretory Renal Influences on Body Fluid Volumes and Hemodynamics.
By J.-F. LIARD, M.D. 279
13. Renin and Age as Determinants of a Predominantly Betablocker-Based Antihypertensive Drug Program.
By FRITZ R. BÜHLER, M.D. and BENNO E. LÜTOLD, M.D. . . 303

PART IV

Miscellaneous

14. Nutritional Problems in Patients with Acute Renal Failure.
By A. CHAPMAN, M.D., PH. LOIRAT, M.D., R. BEAUFILS, M.D., J. ROHAN, M.D., and R. DAVID, M.D. . . 321
15. Bacteriuria and Kidney Damage.
By A. W. ASSCHER, M.D. 333
16. Prediction of Antibiotic Nephrotoxicity.
By J. P. FILLASTRE, M.D., J. M. KUHN, M.D., J. P. BENDIRDJIAN, M.D., B. FOUCHER, M.D.,

J. P. LESEUR, M.D., P. ROLLIN, M.D., <i>and</i> R. VAILLANT, M.D.	343
17. New Data on the Effect of Azathioprine at the Cellular Level. By PIERRE GALANAUD, M.D., MARIE-CLAUDE CREVON, M.D., HÉLÈNE DUCLOS, M.D., <i>and</i> JEAN DORMONT, M.D. . .	371
18. Virus B Hepatitis in Hemodialysis Centers. By JEAN-PIERRE SOULIER, M.D., PAUL JUNGERS, M.D., <i>and</i> JOHANNA ZINGRAFF, M.D.	383

PART V

New Developments in Dialysis and Transplantation

Introduction to Dialysis and Transplantation By JEAN CROSNIER, M.D.	414
19. Progress in Hemodialysis 1974-1975. By DAVID N. S. KERR, M.Sc., F.R.C.P, F.R.C.P.E., NICHOLAS A. HOENICH, M.Sc., <i>and</i> THOMAS H. FROST, PH.D.	415
20. Recipient Presensitization: A Critical Survey. By B. DESCAMPS, M.D. <i>and</i> H. KREIS, M.D.	443
Index	463

Preface

WRITING A PREFACE FOR *Advances in Nephrology* gets easier and easier with each succeeding volume. The widespread acceptance of this series and the gratifyingly large number of subscribers are eloquent testimony that we are succeeding in our original goals: to bridge the communications gap in nephrology between the French and English-speaking nephrologists and to provide authoritative and current information on important topics in nephrology by recognized international authorities.

The choice of topics and contributors is made jointly by Professors Hamburger, Crosnier and me, after solicitation of suggestions by other nephrologists. Inherent in this selection process are such factors as the theoretic or practical importance of specific recent investigations, the unavailability of similar material in textbooks and periodicals and the increasing need for nephrologists to be conversant in such diverse general areas as immunology, hemodynamics and nuclear medicine as they relate to nephrology. During the past 2 years, most of the hard work of initial editing and collation of material has been done in an exemplary manner by Dr. J. P. Grunfeld at the Necker Hospital, Paris, to whom we are all grateful. My own task has been to make certain that the English translations of the French manuscripts are comprehensible, with as little editing as possible in order to preserve their original style and content.

The topic of the major symposium in this volume, which includes the first seven chapters, is systemic lupus erythematosus. The applicability of findings in lupus nephropathy to other immunologic renal disorders is of obvious importance. The lead chapter, by Bach *et al.*, is a masterful synthesis of modern theories of immunity. The following chapters cover every facet of this disorder—immunologic, pathologic, experimental and clinical. Current methods of diagnosis and therapy are carefully evaluated.

These are followed by three original research articles, one experimental and two clinical. Gregoire *et al.* present fascinat-

ing data on the biochemistry and metabolism of the glomerulus. The renowned Paris team of pediatric nephrologists (Levy *et al.*) analyze their massive study of 100 patients with Schönlein-Henoch glomerulonephritis and Professor Hendrickse (Liverpool) describes the unique clinical features and immunologic characteristics of the quartan malarial nephrotic syndrome.

The next three chapters are concerned with blood pressure control, an area of considerable importance in nephrology. A scholarly and detailed summary of the central nervous actions of angiotensin II (Elghozi *et al.*), an equally profound chapter on nonexcretory renal influences on hemodynamics and body fluid volumes (Liard) and a correlation of peripheral renin level and age as determinants of blood pressure response to beta blocker therapy (Bühler and Lutold) comprise this section.

The remainder of this volume includes four splendid clinical chapters from France and England on acute renal failure, dialysis and transplantation, topics of such major importance that they are of necessity recurrent themes in *Advances in Nephrology*, as well as individual contributions on pyelonephritis, antibiotic nephrotoxicity, cellular effects of azathioprine and hemodialysis-related hepatitis.

The French Academy recently has reaffirmed its intention to eliminate foreign words and phrases from the French language. Nevertheless, this volume (Fr: *volume*) is a *mélange* (Fr: *mélange*) of articles (Fr: *articles*) of importance (Fr: *importance*) in nephrology (Fr: *nephrologie*). Maybe the Academy acted hastily.

MORTON H. MAXWELL, M.D.