

Preface

This volume, the second in our series edited by the International Working Group on Coronary Sinus Interventions, presents the results of the 2nd International Symposium on Myocardial Protection via the Coronary Sinus held in Vienna, Austria, February 2-5, 1986.

Two years have passed since our first Symposium. The data and theories presented then demonstrated that the route via the coronary sinus is of great promise in the protection of ischemic myocardium. Nevertheless, when the meeting drew to a close, a significant number of questions remained unanswered. There was a general understanding that more thought and effort would be required to comprehend the basic mechanism and the underlying pathophysiologic and molecular processes, to clarify the intrinsic limitations and hazards of the techniques currently being investigated, and to realize in clinical settings the beneficial effects of more extensive applications of CSI already established in animal trials.

As a result of the first Symposium the interchange of ideas on both multidisciplinary and international levels has been enhanced. Many joint endeavours and independent research projects have been initiated. However, in order to provide safe and rational applications in humans, newly acquired data must be continuously reassessed; this was our purpose in this second Symposium, a reassessment of the accomplishments of the previous two years, together with the identification of further areas for investigation, and the laying down of directives for future research. Furthermore, the meeting was intended to establish coronary sinus interventions as an accepted conventional therapy.

With the first volume serving as a basis for the series, Clinics of CSI discusses the clinical significance of a more complex understanding of the coronary sinus approach, with the aim of bringing together all the various aspects of the technique. To be as comprehensive as possible, the experience of anatomists, physiologists, bioengineers and technologists has been included.

This book could not have been produced without the aid of our many colleagues around the world whom we thank for their continuous support and untiring efforts.

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W. Mohl