CARDIOVASCULAR THROMBOSIS: SECOND EDITION; THROMBOCARDIOLOGY AND THROMBONEUROLOGY

M. Verstraete, V. Fuster, E.J. Topol (eds), Lippincot-Raven, 1998, pp 896

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This is the second edition of *Cardiovascular Thrombosis*, the first having been published in 1992. The book has grown since the first edition, with Eric J. Topol (Chairman of the Department of Cardiology at the Cleveland Clinic) and Valentin Fuster (Professor of Medicine and a Cardiologist at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York) joining Marc Verstraete (Center for Molecular and Vascular Biology at the University of Leuven, Belgium) who produced the first edition of the book. Professor Topol will be well known to many cardiologists as the editor of one of the most widely-used and highly-regarded textbooks of interventional cardiology.

In the foreword to the first edition, Eugene Branwald suggests that the new field at the interface between haematology and cardiology deserves its own name: 'thrombocardiology'. The editors have followed his advice and incorporated in the title '*Thrombocardiology and Thromboneurology*'. This subtitle recognises how much important progress has been made at the interface between the disciplines of haematology, cardiology, and neurology. The recognition and importance of thrombosis in the pathogenesis of acute myocardial infarction and the acute coronary syndromes has led in recent times to not only a deeper understanding of the mechanisms of disease but also the potential for effective treatment. The use of thrombolytic drugs, antiplatelet agents, anticoagulants, and other antithrombotic drugs has been the subject of intensive investigation over the last 10-20 years in the field of cardiology. Indeed the investigation of the efficacy of such drugs by means of large randomised controlled trials has been one of the solid foundations upon which has been built the enthusiasm for evidence-based medicine.

The interface between haematology and neurology is of equal importance. Indeed, the recognition of the important association between atrial fibrillation and the risk of thromboembolic stroke is well recognised. The potential for antiplatelet and anticoagulant drugs to reduce the risk of stroke has also been the subject of several randomised clinical trials; indeed readers of *Proceedings* will know that this was the subject of a Consensus Conference sponsored by the College at the end of 1998.

This textbook is a remarkable compilation. The editors have produced a book in three parts. The first part addresses fundamental considerations of pathogenesis of thrombosis, laboratory assessment of patients with thrombotic phenomena and the mechanisms of fibrinolysis. The second part deals with antithrombotic and thrombolytic drugs, and the third, and largest, section explores the prevention and treatment of thromboembolic disorders. The editors have invited authors from the United States, Europe, and Australasia to contribute to the 51 chapters. Most chapters are written by two or three authors, usually representing both sides of the Atlantic or Pacific. Each chapter is extensively referenced and absolutely up-to-date. The chapters have clearly been tightly edited and follow a similar format with the minimum of historical introduction, and each with a highly focused, concise and readable conclusion. All three editors have worked on each chapter to produce a text that is easily comprehended by the non-specialist. To produce a book of such uniformly high quality, involving 106 contributors, is no mean editorial achievement. For example, the chapter on the CCU treatment of acute myocardial infarction is written by Harvey White, the well-known cardiologist from Auckland, New Zealand, in conjunction with Dr Zeymer and Dr Neuhaus, both from Kassel in Germany. It is a clear, comprehensive and succinct update on the medical management of myocardial infarction with therapy other than thrombolytic drugs.

In the preface, the editors thank the authors - 'the real producers of this book', displaying a perceptive insight in thanking the contributors 'who have endured pressing demands, adhered to a tight schedule, and enthusiastically collaborated in cost-ineffective undertaking'. The book is extraordinarily well referenced and a useful addition to any library used by cardiologists, haematologists, neurologists and the many general physicians whose daily practice involves the treatment of increasing numbers of patients where knowledge of thrombocardiology and thromboneurology is essential. The authors have succeeded in collating a substantial body of knowledge and have made it totally accessible to the reader. In their preface the editors express the hope that 'toward the end of the book the reader might agree that the greater the island of knowledge, the greater the shoreline of the unknown'; they should be congratulated on creating this archipelago of knowledge.

BOOKS FOR REVIEW

The Editor welcomes new books and new editions being submitted for reviewing. They should be addressed to Professor Ian Bouchier, Book Review Editor, Editorial Office, at the College address. As is customary the Editor's decision on publishing a review or listing a book is final.

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