

PREFACE

The *11th International Conference on ADVANCES IN PROSTAGLANDIN AND LEUKOTRIENE RESEARCH: BASIC SCIENCE AND NEW CLINICAL APPLICATIONS* was held, as in the past, in Florence, Italy, on June 4-8, 2000. A selection of lectures presented at the meeting is included in this volume, which continues the tradition of covering both basic and clinical aspects of prostaglandin and leukotriene research.

At this meeting particular emphasis was given to the lipid mediator circuits of lipoxin and leukotrienes and to the expression of the COX2 gene. The plenary lectures by C.N. Serhan (Boston, MA, USA) and H.R. Herschman (Los Angeles, CA, USA) were devoted to these areas, while S. Narumiya (Kyoto, Japan) and J.M. Drazen (Boston, MA, USA) presented the latest advances in the fields of prostanoid receptors and the genetics of asthma.

Specific sessions focused on vascular physiopathology, cell differentiation and cancer, and the cardiovascular system. Lipoxygenases were discussed in detail at the molecular and cellular levels and attention was given to signal transduction pathways for leukotrienes and prostanoids. K.F. Austen (Boston, MA, USA) and T. Izumi (Tokyo, Japan) clarified the role and regulation of LTC₄ synthase of leukotriene biosynthesis. Other important sessions described regulation and control of nitric oxide, cannabimimetic eicosanoids, and the roles of eicosanoids in neuroscience. Applied clinical sessions devoted to the respiratory system and inflammation, including cyclooxygenase pathways, concluded the meeting.

As traditionally has been done in the past meetings of this series, a considerable amount of new material was presented and discussed this year, with particular attention given to the newest clinical data. Due to the unanimous decision of the attendees, this series of meetings will continue to be held.

We would like to express our gratitude to the staff of the Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini for their important work in connection with the organization of the Conference and to Ann S. Jackson of the Houston office of the Giovanni Lorenzini Medical Foundation for her editorial assistance in the preparation of this volume.

We are also grateful to Dr. Gian Enrico Rovati and Dr. Angelo Sala, the Organizing and Advisory Committees, and the International Program Committee for their valuable contributions.

It is also a pleasure to acknowledge the generous financial support from a number of pharmaceutical companies.

We hope that the rapid publication of this volume, which was made possible by the timely submission of the papers by the authors, will further this exciting area of research.

The Editors