

# PREFACE

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Angiogenesis is the development of new blood vessels from an existing vascular bed. Normal vascular proliferation occurs only during embryonic development, the female reproductive cycle, and wound repair. Many pathological conditions are characterized by persistent, unregulated angiogenesis, such as cancer, atherosclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and diabetic neuropathy. Conversely, inadequate angiogenesis can often lead to chronic pressure ulcers, duodenal ulcers, and myocardial infarction. Control of vascular development will permit new therapeutic approaches to these disorders, whereas enhancement of angiogenesis by exogenous growth factors can prevent or limit the damage in chronic wounds and duodenal ulcers.

*The New Angiotherapy* covers the recent progress in basic and applied research in angiogenesis. Critical reviews contributed by an international team of experts discuss the fundamental concepts in the physiology and pathophysiology of angiogenesis and evaluate the potential of angiotherapy in the management of angiogenic disease, highlighting some of the angiogenics and antiangiogenics both in development and in clinical trials. The future prospects of receptor antagonists, enzyme inhibitors, and vascular targeted approaches, especially that of gene therapy in the development of angiotherapy, are also covered.

Over the past five years, angiogenesis research has been expanding rapidly. To keep abreast of the most recent developments in the principles and practice of angiotherapy, we recommend *Angiogenesis*—the only specialist journal in the field. Please visit the website at <http://www.wkap.nl/journalhome.htm/0969-6970>.

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