
Preface

This is the third volume in the series of books on translational medicine gleaned from the annual vascular biology and clinical medicine workshop held at the Royal College of Physicians. The chapters are invited papers presented by internationally recognized basic science and clinical experts. The aim of the workshop is to bring basic scientists and clinicians together to discuss their work and perspectives in areas of cardiovascular medicine and biology. We ask them to address the areas which are likely to be important in the future and the associated challenges.

Our previous books, *Vascular Complications in Human Disease* (2008) and *Advances in Vascular Medicine* (2010), both also published by Springer, have dealt with other key and developing areas of basic science and its clinical applications. This volume covers new and exciting advances in cardiovascular medicine. As before, we have tried to explore the bi-directional and integrated approaches of translational cardiovascular medicine, linking basic science to patient care.

The chapters in this book span a number of translational themes in cardiovascular medicine. There is a section on surgery and non-pharmacological treatments for atherosclerotic disease of the aorta. Pulmonary arterial hypertension is a rapidly evolving area following recent discoveries of some of the molecular pathways implicated in its pathogenesis which have led to some promising drug development and clinical optimism. Some of the trials underpinning clinical guidelines are described. Other chapters include “Cytoprotective Mechanisms in the Vasculature,” “Potassium Channels Regulating the Electrical Activity of the Heart,” and “Novel Molecular Mediators Regulating the Cardiovascular System.” We are particularly pleased to include a chapter on “The Broken Heart Syndrome” by our friend and colleague, Professor Larry Cohen, from Yale University School of Medicine, with which UCL has recently established a collegiate and collaborative relationship.

We hope that this book, a formal record and reference of our annual workshop, is a useful way to transmit the information from the excellent papers presented at the meeting to a wider readership. Our authors provide their expert insight into important areas of translational cardiovascular medicine and key bibliographies for the reader.

We hope that this book, like its predecessors, is a useful contribution to the literature in this fascinating field.

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Translational Vascular Medicine

Pathogenesis, Diagnosis, and Treatment

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