

Preface

The International Society for Adaptive Medicine (ISAM) is an interdisciplinary group interested in adaptive changes occurring in response to different environmental factors, sustained exercise, various pathological conditions or drug administration. Its principal aim is to further the understanding of the basic mechanisms of *physiological adaptations* at molecular and cellular levels as well as at the level of complex interactions responsible for the integrated control of body functions. Another objective consists in the better understanding of *dismissed adaptations* responsible for disease development. Finally, studies of different cross-adaptations continue to receive unceasing attention as it was demonstrated that repeated exposures to specific stress stimuli may have applications in the treatment and prophylaxis of different diseases. These observations lead to the emergence of a new discipline of *adaptive medicine* which offers promise for therapeutic strategies in both experimental and clinical pathology.

The ISAM was created by scientists from a dozen different countries in 1990, in Freiburg, in order to provide a platform for regular confrontation of original data in the field of physiological adaptations and to promote the search for new trails in the field of adaptive medicine. At present, the Society comprises of members worldwide and its meetings bring together clinicians, scientists and engineers who constitute a unique international forum with a vibrant atmosphere. The Society also sponsors regional symposia around the world. The communications presented at some of these meetings are published in the *Adaptation Biology and Medicine* series which is now on the way to being recognized by a Science Citation Listing.

The previous biannual congresses of the International Society for Adaptive Medicine were organized in Freiburg, Moscow, Tokyo, Chandigarh and Framingham. The Sixth ISAM Congress, now on a three-year cycle basis, was held in Lyon, France between August 30 and September 2, 2000. The present volume is based on papers from different sessions presented as oral or poster communications at that occasion. Although the entire book is one continuous discussion of issues dealing with molecular and cellular aspects of various system adaptations, mechanisms of cardiovascular and microcirculatory adaptations constitute the main topics of the present book. It is hoped that readers will find an inspiration for their reflection concerning adaptations and maladaptations in different pathologies as well as prospective developments of novel therapeutic strategies.

J. MORAVEC
N. TAKEDA
P.K. SINGAL