Preface

Experimental and clinical evidence supports the view that the activation of the renin angiotensin aldosterone system is involved in cardiovascular pathology including hypertension, heart failure, myocardial ischemia, and atherosclerosis. The present volume describes the intricacies involved in these processes, including the influence of prorenin/renin, angiotensin II, angiotensin (1-7), and aldosterone on cardiac and vascular functions as well as their involvement in the generation of cardiovascular diseases. Fundamental aspects like intracellular signaling, regulation of cell volume in the failing heart, and the presence of an intracrine renin angiotensin system are discussed. Moreover, the role of the mineralocorticoid receptor as an important component of the intracrine renin angiotensin system and as a regulator of extracellular action of angiotensin II is described, reinforcing the view that aldosterone inhibitors are helpful in the treatment of heart failure and hypertension. Let us hope the important topics included here motivate basic and clinical investigators and contribute to the development of new therapeutic approaches for cardiovascular diseases.

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