

# **Connective Tissues in Arterial and Pulmonary Disease**



Participants: Seated, left to right: Drs. Rosenquist, Glagov, Puchtler, Foster, Oegema; standing, left to right: Drs. Rhodes, Kramsch, Turino, Caulfield, Snider, Schiebler

# **Connective Tissues in Arterial and Pulmonary Disease**

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With 66 Figures



Springer-Verlag  
New York Heidelberg Berlin

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Sponsoring Editor: Larry W. Carter  
Production: William J. Gabello

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data  
Connective tissues in arterial and pulmonary disease.

"Proceedings of a symposium held in honor of  
Holde Puchtler, M.D., on October 15, 1980 in Augusta,  
Georgia"—Copyright page.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

1. Connective tissues—Congresses. 2. Connective  
tissues—Diseases—Congresses. 3. Atherosclerosis—  
Congresses. 4. Lungs—Diseases—Congresses. 5. Pucht-  
ler, Holde. I. McDonald, Thomas F. (Thomas Francis),  
1927- . II. Chandler, A. Bleakley (Arthur  
Bleakley), 1926- . III. Puchtler, Holde.

[DNLM: 1. Connective tissue—Physiopathology—Con-  
gresses. 2. Vascular diseases—Physiopathology—  
Congresses. 3. Arteries—Physiopathology—Congresses.  
4. Lung diseases—Physiopathology—Congresses.

QS 532.5.C7 C751 1980]

QP88.23.C68

616.1'307

81-13595

AACR2

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Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1981

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York 10010, U.S.A.

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9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

ISBN-13: 978-1-4612-5969-5

e-ISBN-13: 978-1-4612-5967-1

DOI: 10.1007/978-1-4612-5967-1

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# Preface

The processes of distention and recoil have an essential role in the functions of arteries and lungs. In both organ systems, these processes involve to a great extent the connective tissues, in particular the manner in which the extracellular materials are arranged to afford such movements. This book concerns the microenvironment of the connective tissues in the walls of arteries and the stroma of lungs.

Proteoglycans, collagen, and elastic fibers and their interrelationships are discussed by eight scientists who are established researchers in this area. Their reports include important findings on how this microenvironment is altered in diseases such as atherosclerosis, emphysema, and pulmonary fibrosis. The concepts developed result from studies at the biochemical, macromolecular, ultrastructural, and light microscopic levels. Taken collectively, the reports focus attention upon the role of the connective tissues in arterial and lung distensibility and how alterations in the connective tissues result in the loss of this function.

Medical researchers and physicians interested in arterial or lung functions or diseases will find the scientific approaches and findings of the authors innovative and provocative. Students of stereologic morphometry will be particularly interested in the quantitative studies of cells and fibers in arterial walls; histologists and pathologists will find the chapter on histochemical staining interesting from both a scientific and historic viewpoint.

The papers were presented at the Symposium on Connective Tissues in Arterial and Pulmonary Disease conducted in honor of Dr. Holde Puchtler, October 15, 1980, in Augusta, Georgia. Since the discussions following presentation of the papers were informative and often illuminating, they have been edited and included here.

*Thomas F. McDonald  
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# Acknowledgments

This Symposium was held in Augusta, Georgia, in conjunction with the 20th annual meeting of the Southern Society of Anatomists and was sponsored by the Department of Pathology, Medical College of Georgia.

The Organizing Committee consisted of Thomas F. McDonald, Chairman; Dale E. Bockman, President, Southern Society of Anatomists; A. Bleakley Chandler, Faye Sweat Waldrop, Linda L. Vacca, David A. Welter, J. Robert Teabeaut II, and Benjamin O. Spurlock. The endorsement and support of the officers and members of the Southern Society of Anatomists are especially appreciated. Many others contributed to the success of this Symposium, including Eric Weiss, D. Greer Falls, Mark B. Barrett, Louise M. Markwalter, Marie F. Hiller, W. Thomas Broome, J. Michael Barrett, Fannie M. Mitchell, Heidi L. Valenzuela, Frank H. Gearhart, W. Clay Adamson, Susan N. Meloan, Octavia Garlington, Julie G. Guillebeau, Stanley R. Leida, Deborah I. Pomeroy, Delmar R. Staecker, Alex H. Vaughn, Dale W. Sickles, Gurkirpal S. Sohal, and Patricia O'Meara, all on the staff and faculty of the Medical College of Georgia.

The generous contributions of all those participants who made this Symposium so successful through their formal presentations and lively, productive discussions are gratefully acknowledged.

It is a special pleasure to acknowledge the excellent and thoughtful editorial direction in the preparation of this volume from the medical editor and staff of Springer-Verlag New York, Inc.

The Symposium was made possible by the generous financial support of the following contributors: Brenda W. Branch, A. Bleakley Chandler, Harold M. Conner, Nancy O. Doss, John G. Etheridge, A Friend, Geneva S. Gray, Sophie Gropp, Alexander S. Haraszti, Rosalie B. Haraszti, John T. Harper, Sr., Albert S. Hollingsworth, James B. Hurst, James G. Jackson, James G. Kuhns, Susan N. Meloan, James W. Mitchener, Lynn L. Ogden, James L. O'Quinn, Walter G. Rice, Ashburn P. Searcy, Walter R. Stern, J. Robert Teabeaut II, The Upjohn Company, Faye Sweat Waldrop, Pauline Woo Saito, American Hoechst Corporation.



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