Professor Dr. Hans-J. Reulen
Department of Neurosurgery, Bern, Switzerland

Professor Dr. Alexander Baethmann
Institut für chirurgische Forschung, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Klinikum Grosshadern, München, Federal
Republic of Germany

Professor Dr. Joseph Fenstermacher
Department of Neurological Surgery, State University of New York at Stony Brook, New York, U.S.A.

Professor Dr. Anthony Marmarou
Division of Neurosurgery, Medical College of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, U.S.A.

Professor Dr. Maria Spatz
Laboratory of Neuropathology and Neuroanatomical Sciences, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland,
U.S.A.

Proceedings of the Eighth International Symposium on Brain Edema

Honorary Member: I. Klatzo

Organizers: H.-J. Reulen, A. Baethmann, A. Marmarou

Advisory Board: J. Fenstermacher, G. Go, J. T. Hoff, K. A. Hossmann, U. Ito,
D. Long, A. R. Shaknovitch, M. Spatz

With 203 Figures

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Preface

25 years have passed since a small group met for the First International Symposia on Brain Edema in Vienna. Subsequent Symposia were held in Mainz, Montreal, Berlin, Groningen, Tokyo and Baltimore. During this time we have witnessed a virtual explosion of the number of publications in this field and our basic and clinical understanding of this disease process has increased tremendously. Our meetings have always been a landmark to take stock of our experience so far and to provide perspectives toward future developments. In addition, it always was a good opportunity to renew old friendship and to make new friends.

This volume is a compilation of papers presented at the Eighth International Symposium on Brain Edema held on June 17-20, 1990 in Bern, Switzerland. During this Symposium 158 papers were presented as oral or poster presentations. This considerable number of papers was chosen from more than 230 abstracts that were received. The organizers wish to thank the Advisory Committee for the work done in paper selection and focus on the Symposium. Appreciation is also given to all persons, who have contributed to the success of this meeting, the Chairmen, the participants and last but not least all the staff who worked behind the scene.

If it is to be of value, the written record of the meeting, “the Proceedings” should be quickly available and relatively inexpensive. In order to come close to such an ideal, the authors, the editors and the publishers have to follow clear and strict rules. The manuscripts must be delivered before deadline and must be strictly prepared according to the “Guidelines”. This means that any delay as for instance by missing summaries, inappropriate English etc., must be avoided. With the present proceedings, the eighth volume in the series, the authors and editors have made such an effort. Regarding this, the editors extend their compliments to the authors who enabled us to meet the deadline. We also wish to acknowledge our gratitude to Springer-Verlag, Vienna, for their technical aid and for their prompt publication of this volume.

As in the past, brain edema resulting from acute insults, such as disturbances of the cerebral perfusion, or head injury remains a central issue of research. Under these circumstances, the supportive role of biochemically active mediators substances in opening of the blood brain barrier, spread of edema, or in cell swelling continues to elicit great scientific as well as clinical interest. Respective experimental and clinical efforts may eventually produce methods of their specific inhibition as a particularly effective form of therapeutic intervention as compared to what is currently available. It can be hoped thereby to interfere not only with the development of brain edema, but also with the secondary destruction of viable brain parenchyma.

This volume provides a comprehensive survey of the state-of-art of this topic as of June 1990. For the reader’s convenience the papers are structured according to the various disease processes which are associated with edema: tumor, trauma, ischemia, hypertension, infection, hydrocephalus etc. We do hope that you enjoy the articles and that they provide impetus and insight for further work.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h. c. K.-J. Zülch, our Honorary Member, one of the pioneers in the study of brain edema, has deceased on 2nd December 1988. It was decided to dedicate this volume to him.

The Ninth International Symposium on Brain Edema will be held in Japan in 1993.

Hans-J. Reulen
Axel Baethmann
Joseph Fenstermacher
Antony Marmarou
Maria Spatz

October 1990
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