

tion concerning the metabolism of lipoproteins and the regulation of lipoprotein and apoprotein biosynthesis. The authors discuss the genetic factors, dietary factors, and hormones that are known to affect the concentrations of lipoproteins in the blood. The third chapter describes the extracellular processing of apolipoproteins, while the fourth chapter contains the biochemistry and pathobiology of lipoprotein(a). Chapter five deals with the genetics of human apolipoproteins; the authors review the current knowledge of apolipoprotein gene structure, function, and genetic variation and extensively cover the structure, function, and genetic variation of apo A-I, apo A-II, apo A-IV, apo B, apo C-I, apo C-II, apo C-III, and apo E. Chapter six describes lipid, protein, and carbohydrate composition of biological membranes and chapter seven pertains to membrane cholesterol (the distribution and movement of cholesterol molecules between membranes and across membranes within animal cells). Glycolipid dynamics in serum lipoproteins is covered in chapter eight, while chapter nine is a comprehensive review of lecithin cholesterol acyltransferase and cholesteryl ester transfer/exchange proteins. A section about plasma albumin as a lipoprotein describes a new approach from a physiology and pathobiology standpoint. Apo B-dependent and independent cellular cholesterol homeostasis is an update of the regulation of cholesterol synthesis through the modulation of HMG coenzyme A reductase activity. The chapter entitled "The Role of Apo E in Cholesterol Metabolism" is an excellent overview for one interested in the biology, chemistry, physiology, and pathobiology of apolipoprotein and apolipoprotein metabolism. The biological and clinical implications of LDL receptors are described excellently in chapter 13. An interesting section dealing with immunoregulation by plasma lipoproteins extensively covers a hypothetical model that accounts for the suppression by plasma lipoproteins of mitogen-induced proliferation of lymphocytes in vitro. Additionally, the authors employ the model to evaluate the potential for regulation of the cell cycle by plasma lipoproteins in vivo. The last chapter of the text deals with lipoprotein disorders.

The text also contains two appendixes. The first is entitled "Nucleotide and Corresponding Amino Acid Sequences of Human Apo A-I, Apo A-II, Apo C-I, Apo C-II, Apo C-III, and Apo E cDNA Clones." The second includes drafts dealing with general properties of plasma lipoproteins and apolipoproteins and contains tables that summarize the physical and chemical properties of plasma lipoproteins and apolipoproteins of human subjects.

This book is current, concise, and clear, with information that should be of extreme importance and usefulness not only to the basic and clinical scientist, but also for individuals who are interested in providing the latest information to graduate students and physicians. Like many other research areas, progress in the field of plasma lipoproteins and apolipoproteins has been dependent on the development of new techniques, especially in cell and molecular biology, which is extensively covered in this text.

HERB K. NAITO, PhD

Department of Biochemistry
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation

Biologically Active Atrial Peptides, edited by Barry M. Brenner and John H. Laragh (Raven).

This book presents the proceedings from the First World Congress of Biologically Active Atrial Peptides, held in New York City from May 31 to June 1, 1986. Intense interest has been focused on atrial peptides since their discovery in 1981. This text will be of particular interest to not only clinicians studying cardiovascular and renal disease, but to those working in related basic areas of molecular biology, biochemistry, pharmacology, and renal physiology. Lines of evidence supporting the expression and secretion of atrial natriuretic factor (ANF) from locuses other than the cardiac atria are reviewed. The distribution and molecular forms of ANF in various tissues are discussed, as well as factors involved in the release of atrial natriuretic peptides. Early chapters focus on the functional morphology of the endocrine component of the heart and on the molecular forms of ANF in various tissues. Release of ANF in experimental models and in humans is considered in some detail.

The pharmacokinetics and clinical effects of ANF on the human cardiovascular system are addressed. In particular, the role of ANF in congestive heart failure is given critical consideration and the effects of ANF on the nephron function are considered. An excellent addition to this volume are the many extended abstracts that highlight ongoing research dealing with ANF on multiple-organ systems. This volume provides an extraordinary state-of-the-art review of current knowledge and ongoing research.

DONALD G. VIDT, MD

Department of Hypertension and Nephrology
The Cleveland Clinic Foundation