

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIORHEOLOGY
SYMPOSIUM ON PERMEABILITY AND THE BLOOD VESSEL WALL

Opening Remarks
Alex Silberberg

One of the major tasks of the circulation is the supply of metabolites and chemical messengers to the cells of the body and to remove their waste products. Exchanges of materials between the blood and the surrounding tissue will take place and molecules of all kinds and sizes will have to cross the endothelial barrier. Knowledge of the permeability of the vessel wall and of the mechanisms and structures which control it is, thus, of fundamental importance for the understanding of this exchange. Despite many years of work, few of the controversies which surround this field of biorheology have been resolved. Indeed, along with the new we seem to come back, time and time again, to our oldest concepts and instill them with renewed life and meaning. Our symposium today will, I think, prove to be no exception.

It gives me great pleasure to call upon my co-convenor, Professor Harold Wayland, to open the Proceedings by providing us, in his usual masterly fashion, with a detailed and deeply reasoned overview.