

**Book review:**

**Goldie R E, Hay W P: Pulmonary actions of the endothelins.**

Birkhäuser, Basel, Boston, Berlin, 1999, ISBN 3-7643-5859-9, CHF 328.00

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The family of endogenous autocrine peptides, called endothelins are of major interest to cardiovascular scientists as these substances probably play a major role in cardiovascular diseases including systemic hypertension and congestive heart failure. An important mediator function has been assigned to ET-1, an endothelium derived contractile factor. The broad spectrum of endothelin function can easily be seen in the headlines of the corresponding chapters which include endothelin receptors and ligands, features of the endothelin-converting enzyme, ET receptor-linked transduction processes, actions on the smooth muscle tone, neuromodulation, putative mediator in asthma and proinflammation. Chapters on endothelin purification and known antagonists and cloning of ET receptors can be found as well as chapters on transgenic knockout mice or findings in human lung tissue. Each chapter illustrated by instructive figures presenting the topics of the discussed issue, and contains a detailed list of references. Experimental results worked out by the teams of the individual authors can be found as well as basic published information. By nature, the textbook is closely related to laboratory and pharmacological findings, clinical data are included less frequently. The textbook represents a detailed evaluation and description of endothelin related lung biology. It is specialized on the pathophysiology of endothelin in the lung and potentially therapeutic applications. It can be recommended to researchers, teachers and specialists working in pulmonology, and can serve as a useful reference source in this scientifically very interesting field.

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