The articles that follow in this issue of *Hypertension* represent, in part, the proceedings of a special symposium, the “Fourth Workshop on Structure and Function on Large Arteries,” a program organized by Prof Michel Safar on April 27 and 28, 2001, with a special educational grant-in-aid from Servier Laboratories. The proceedings for this meeting will be published in 3 parts, the first in this issue of *Hypertension* and the remaining 2 parts in the 2 subsequent issues of this journal.

Each of the papers submitted for publication was subjected to the same peer review process that applies to all manuscripts submitted to *Hypertension*. The peer review process involved a prior selection of journal-approved reviewers with the intent that the accepted manuscripts would be included in regular issues of the journal rather than in a special journal supplement. Prof Safar agreed to serve as Guest Editor and to work closely with the Editor-in-Chief at each step to ensure that no breach occurred with our agreed procedure. Moreover, Prof Safar and the grantor agreed to discuss with the American Heart Association, in advance and independent of the journal editors, all financial arrangements with each of the foregoing administrative and editorial stipulations.

Prof Safar organized an associate editorial team, which included Gérard London, MD, Paris, France; and Harry Stuijker Boudier, Maastricht, The Netherlands. As in the previous workshops published in *Hypertension*, the Associate Guest Editors then selected, well in advance of the meeting and with prior agreement by the editors, all potential reviewers. The workshop participants brought their manuscripts to the meeting, and they were immediately sent to the reviewers. Those papers that completed the proscribed review process were forwarded to the editorial office for final decision and publication in the issues of *Hypertension*.

The workshop was organized according to the following topics: hemodynamic stress, mechanotransduction, and the arterial wall; arterial remodeling and stiffness; advances in methodology and technology (mainly central blood pressure measurement) with subsequent therapeutic applications, particularly as they relate to congestive heart failure; endothelial, functional, and mechanical factors; pulsatile arterial hemodynamics; and the relationship and relevance of each of these areas on cardiovascular genetics and epidemiology. Particular attempt was made to relate arterial changes in hypertension to molecular biology. We hope our readers will be as impressed and challenged as the journal editors and guest editors were by the increasing diversity of the techniques, the increasing sophistication and expertise of this maturing investigative field of large artery involvement, and function in hypertensive research. We take great satisfaction that publication of the proceeding workshops has stimulated great interest in this subject matter and in the submission of related papers from our journal.

Michel E. Safar  
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Harry Stuijker Boudier  
Gérard London  
*Associate Guest Editors*

Edward D. Frohlich  
*Editor-in-Chief*
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Michel E. Safar, Harry Stuijker Boudier, Gérard London and Edward D. Frohlich

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