



## Πρόλογος

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### FOREWORD

*A scientific book of two volumes on one subject like Vascular Surgery, concentrating one author's and the world's experience and knowledge - a so-called "one-man-book" - is a rarity nowadays. Comprehensive works usually consist of articles of different, mostly innumerable authors, summed-up by one or more editors who try to align a series of papers to a prescribed conception - or combining a symposium or a congress which was organized for a certain topic. The One-man-book guarantees superb information in one style, of one conception and diction about everything regarding the contents - a lucky strike of one piece. The subject of these volumes is one of the most fascinating fields in medicine: Vascular Surgery, an expanding surgical subspecialty, originating from Alexis Carrel's, Guthrie's and Ernst Jeger's basic research programmes during the change of the 19th to 20th century and afterwards (1, 2, 3), including Dos Santos' development of angiographic techniques (4), his son's discovery of the techniques in thromboendarterectomy (5), Kunlin's successful first bypass procedure 1948 (6) and the introduction of synthetic vascular graft material by Voorhees, Jaretzki and Blakemore 1952 (7). There followed a rapid improvement in diagnostic and therapeutic managements by so many experts like Danis (8) and countless others, that we, living at the ending years of the 20th century, just humbly can realize that we are "standing on the shoulders of giants" (Sigerist), finding that our professional knowledge is the result of a tremendous research and experiences work our surgical teachers had done for decades and centuries.*

*Just to outline a few modern events, which the reader will find in going through this book, that made vascular science so fascinating:*

**Diagnosis:** *Ultrasound techniques, CT, NMR, CBF PET and other international abbreviations and imaging techniques.*

**Treatment:** *Bypasses now reaching pedal arteries or the C1-vertebral segment, PTA, intraoperative ITA for inflow or outflow improvement, regional thrombolysis by catheterization, stent implantation, stentgraft transfemoral implantation in abdominal aortic aneurysms and so forth ....*

*And the **Research Programme** did not stand still in studies of endothelialization of synthetic grafts, their healing processes and long term results, but went further to how recurrent stenoses could arise and be avoided (flow turbulences, platelet functions, genesis of neointimal hyperplasia), what a role oxygen radicals play, and the reperfusion syndrome will act in the pathophysiology of the organism (crush syndrome, shock, hyperpotassemia - cardiac and metabolic effects etc.), and how ischemic organs can be protected by low temperature infusion, prostaglandins, temporary shunting and so on. And how interesting the endothelium is: Having a surface of two tennis places and producing more than a thousand substances and hormones: a basic research programme of many decades.*

*These head words are never complete, but shall characterize the turbulent developments of vascular surgery in all facets of its huge volumes: Πάντα ρει.*

*Professor Panos Dimakakos underwent an oversized, incredible task, almost hard to*

manage, to impart the whole international knowledge of surgical angiology into the Greek language, commented and seen by his own critical experience.

He, the author, started his surgical career in Germany, under the patronage of his teachers **F.Linder** (Berlin/ Heidelberg), **R.Dohrmann** (Berlin), **E.Senning** and **H.Buff** (Zürich/Switzerland) and **A.Fehr** (Winterthur/Suisse), all of them outstanding professors of surgery and most interested in the forthcoming vascular science. They all played their part in pioneering vascular surgery in the German speaking countries of Europe, so being an incentive (o Panos Dimakakos (o especially concentrate on vascular surgery in his homeland Greece, and finally make his and the world 's experience accessible (o his nation's physicians, surgeons and medical administrations by creating this Greek language-work on Vascular Surgery.

Vascular-Surgery is supposed to be the expensive and of high costs. But studies revealed that reconstructive arterial surgery will be less expensive than, maybe, amputations and rehabilitation medicine, which is also necessary So this kind o! specialized surgery should be recognized by national authorities as fit for support in any grant (o responsibly take care of increasing people and increasing all with demographic need for treatment of vascular diseases (more than 10% of the whole p'opulation).

This work will reflect Panos Dimakakos lifework, following his four-volume textbook on "Clinical Angiology" published time ago. An achievement of highest grade they should go on their way now to influence and stimulate vascular ambitions in Greek surgeons, internists, interventional radiologists, hospital administrations, persons responsible for Public Health Services, and all persons interested in modern vascular medicine.

Inspite of the fact that I myself passed at high school and college (Gymnasium) seven years of training in ancient Greek (literature: Thukydides, Herodot, Homer, Platon and many especially poets), I still cannot read and understand all passages of Panos Dimakakos modern Greek in this volume I of the textbook for Vascular Surgery, which in some parts is as well a manual in describing vascular access and reconstructive techniques. So I cannot but congratulate Panos and all interested Greek-speaking colleagues and medicallaymen (o have created this all-embracing work and (o be able (o use it as reference book concerning the complete vascular subspecialty in medicine, especially as progressive surgical priority.

So I wish that this work will make its way, be of success and of acceptance with all Greek vascular surgical friends, forming a new Greek vascular medical identity - and be another link (o internationalize vascular doctors in Europe and elsewhere.

Prof Dr. med. Hans-Martin Becker

## ΠΕΡΙΕΧΟΜΕΝΑ

1. ΕΚΑΤΟ ΧΡΟΝΙΑ ΑΓΓΕΙΟΧΕΙΡΟΥΡΓΙΚΗΣ .....	1
2. ΑΡΧΕΣ ΑΓΓΕΙΟΧΕΙΡΟΥΡΓΙΚΗΣ .....	9
3. ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΗ ΤΩΝ ΑΓΓΕΙΩΝ .....	23
4. ΑΓΓΕΙΑΚΕΣ ΑΝΑΣΤΟΜΩΣΕΙΣ .....	53
5. ΧΕΙΡΟΥΡΓΙΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΞΩΚΡΑΝΙΑΚΗΣ ΕΓΚΕΦΑΛΙΚΗΣ ΙΣΧΑΙΜΙΑΣ .....	63
6. ΧΕΙΡΟΥΡΓΙΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΑΝΕΥΡΥΣΜΑΤΩΝ .....	121
7. ΧΕΙΡΟΥΡΓΙΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΙΣΧΑΙΜΙΑΣ ΤΩΝ ΑΝΩ ΑΚΡΩΝ .....	205
8. ΙΣΤΟΡΙΚΗ ΑΝΑΔΡΟΜΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΞΕΛΙΞΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΝΔΑΓΓΕΙΑΚΗΣ ΧΕΙΡΟΥΡΓΙΚΗΣ .	241
9. ΕΙΣΑΓΩΓΗ ΣΤΗΝ ΕΝΔΑΓΓΕΙΑΚΗ ΧΕΙΡΟΥΡΓΙΚΗ .....	245