the thrust of the book is to provide an overview of the subject from fundamental concepts through major discoveries leading to the current state of the art. By providing this foundation, readers will be prepared to supplement their knowledge on the subject with review of more recent articles.

Overall, the book's style will make it somewhat dry and difficult to follow for those who are not interested in this topic. Once moving beyond the more basic aspects of the first chapter, reviews of the topics such as phosphoinositide metabolism get somewhat bogged down in the alphabet soup that is often used to simplify and shorten the text in this field. This should not be a major shortcoming for those who have some familiarity with the topics. Although some sections may be fairly daunting to the nonscientist, the book provides excellent diagrammatic overviews for each signaling and control mechanism. This is probably the single greatest strength of the book. The original diagrams neatly summarize several pages of text and illustrate the concepts in a fashion that makes the material much easier to grasp. In addition, several theories or mechanisms are illustrated together in a "unifying" concept. Although similar unifying concepts might be available on topics such as ion channels and the role of protein kinase C, topics such as the role of cytosolic calcium and the role of cyclic nucleotides in endothelial cells rarely receive such thorough treatment.

In summary, *Regulation of the Vascular Endothelium: Signals and Transduction Mechanisms* is a comprehensive overview of this topic. Although the "review article" style is somewhat dry, it condenses an exhaustive review of the literature into a very compact synopsis. The subject matter is obviously available elsewhere, but I know of no other source that covers signaling and control mechanisms for the endothelial cell so thoroughly. This book would probably appeal to those with a casual interest in basic research. However, it should be very useful for vascular surgeons or specialists currently working in the field, as a comprehensive overview of the diverse signaling, transduction and control mechanisms of the vascular endothelium. The book is also surprisingly approachable by those who are relatively new to these topics, because of the superb conceptual diagrams and other illustrations provided in each chapter. I highly recommend this book as a reference book for the library of vascular surgery programs and laboratories active in the field.

*Mark Filling, MD*  
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center  
Lebanon, N.H.

**Hypertension: Pathophysiology, diagnosis and management**


Once again, Laragh and Brenner have achieved the daunting task of compiling the world knowledge on hypertension in their second edition of *Hypertension: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis and Management*. This two-volume reference text, organized as 189 chapters provides an in-depth analysis of the field through 3149 pages of text, complemented by well-balanced illustrations. The multi-authored nature of the textbook is unobtrusive because the editors have done a great job of providing a uniform presentation of the material and a consistent format for graphics and tables. Each of the 10 sections of the book has been organized for comprehensive coverage of the subject from basic research to clinical medicine. This welcome format allows the reader a stepwise understanding of the subject from fundamental mechanisms to pathologic expression. The extensive coverage of all the aspects of hypertension as a clinical entity makes the book a treatise and a source for rewarding reading. Of significant value to the specialist and researcher, the mechanistic aspects of the genetic, epidemiologic, and pathophysiologic basis of hypertension and vascular disease are written by world-renowned authorities. Moreover, the extensive bibliography is timely, a potential concern in such a large undertaking.

The successes enjoyed by the editors and the authors of the first edition, published 5 years before, should be repeated with the publication of this vastly revised second edition. The new edition should continue to have a large and diverse readership base because the thorough and detailed coverage of hypertension provides information for basic scientists, epidemiologists, and practitioners. As the consummate text on the subject, our only quarrels are with the publisher, Raven Press. The binding of more than 3200 pages of material into two volumes makes the books cumbersome. In addition, the subject index appears in only the second volume. Perhaps a third edition will remedy these problems in the future.

Strictly speaking, the current second edition of *Hypertension* is a must-have book for all scientists and health professionals with a special interest in the mechanisms and pathologic expression of hypertension as a multiorgan disease. Despite its strengths, practicing vascular surgeons seeking a clinical guide to hypertension management may find an abbreviated text as a lesser price more suitable.

*Carlos M. Ferrario, MD*  
Kimberley J. Hansen, MD  
Wake Forest University  
Winston-Salem, N.C.

**A miracle and a privilege**


The year was 1948. The Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, a teaching hospital of the Harvard Medical School, was just 35 years old. On July 1, a new chief of surgery walked in the door. He was also 35 years old, and his name was Francis D. Moore. This book, *A Miracle and a Privilege*, is his story.

In 366 autobiographical pages we learn a great deal about this remarkable figure in American surgery. But