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Autore	Steinberg Daniel <1922-2015.>
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wrap-up of the case against cholesterol as of 1970; Note; References; Chapter 4. Building the Basic Science Foundation; The biosynthesis of cholesterol and its metabolic regulation; The rate-limiting step, HMGCo A reductase; The birth of the lipoproteins and the John W. Gofman story; Unraveling the complex metabolism and interactions of the plasma lipoproteins; Which lipoproteins are proatherogenic?; The National Heart Institute story; Bringing the lipoprotein package concept into clinical practice

Moving from phenotype to genotypeReferences; Chapter 5. In Search of a Pathogenesis; The importance of understanding mechanism in gaining acceptance of a hypothesis; Early attempts to define the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis; The response-to-injury hypothesis and the monoclonal hypothesis; Understanding the role of HDL as an atheroprotective factor; An update on HDL as a target for intervention; Discovery of the LDL receptor: the remarkable partnership of Brown and Goldstein; Goldstein and Brown start their search for the faulty gene in familial hypercholesterolemia

Discovery of the scavenger receptor on macrophages Oxidatively modified LDL and atherogenesis; Inflammation in the pathogenesis of atherosclerosis; Weighing the relative importance of inflammation and hyperlipidemia; Regression of atherosclerosis; Status of the lipid hypothesis in the 1980's; Note; References; Chapter 6. The Search for Cholesterol-lowering Drugs; Hypocholesterolemic drugs as a target: cons and pros Nicotinic acid; Bile acid-binding resins; Clofibrate; Probucol; Another blow: the somewhat messy Coronary Drug Project; The cholesterol controversy at its height; References Chapter 7. The 1984 Coronary Primary Prevention Trial

Sommario/riassunto

Today, in the era of the statins (cholesterol lowering drugs), there is no longer any doubt about the value of lowering blood cholesterol levels. This book chronicles the controversy that swirled around the 'lipid hypothesis' of atherosclerosis for so many years. In fact, 'the lower the better' is the position of many clinicians. However, getting to this point has been a long uphill battle marked by heated debate and sometimes violent disagreement. The history of this controversy is told here for its own sake and because remembering it may help us avoid similar mistakes in the future.
