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# Anesthesiology

## Symposium on Oxygen

FOR BIOMEDICAL SCIENTISTS, interest in oxygen is timeless. For those occupied with support of vital functions, transport and delivery of oxygen to body tissues are of the utmost importance. Yet oxygen has been taken for granted. It is always there. On most occasions oxygen therapy can be instituted with ease and without too much thought. Advances in respiratory care during the past decade, however, clearly indicate that it is time to review some of our concepts of oxygen therapy. Possibly administration of oxygen deserves much more thought than we now give it.

Basic to the rational use of oxygen is the understanding of its kinetics in the body, biomedical changes induced by hyperoxia and hypoxia, and means of determining oxygen partial pressures in air, blood, and tissues during oxygen therapy. Indeed, during recent years we have witnessed a striking resurgence of interest in these subjects. We believe it is now desirable to summarize progress and new information in this area. We have focused on basic information which is the requisite precursor of clinical application.

We are deeply grateful to all the distinguished contributors who have taken the time from their busy professional lives to give of their knowledge and apply their talent to this symposium issue.

S. H. NGAI, M.D.  
*Editor for the Issue*

*(The cover illustration is reproduced and described on page 211.)*