CHRONIC WORK-RELATED MYALGIA

Neuromuscular Mechanisms behind Work-Related Chronic Muscle Pain Syndromes

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PREFACE

This book will be, as we hope, a timely contribution to the augmenting discussion about Chronic Work-Related Myalgia (CWRM). It sprang from a symposium held at the Office of the Swedish Trade Unions in Brussels on 7-9 February 2000. This symposium, initiated and organized by Håkan Johansson (Umeå), was designed in preparation for the Work Life 2000 Conference, held in Malmö on 22-25 January 2001, under the auspices of the Swedish Presidency of the European Union and supported by the Swedish National Institute for Working Life, the Swedish National Board of Occupational Safety and Health, the Swedish National Labour Market Board, and the Swedish Joint Industrial Safety Council.

The primary goal of the symposium was to bring together researchers from different fields, of different background, experience and perspective, in order to integrate findings and promote communication. This is also the intention of this book. It is not, however, a simple compendium of conference contributions. While all speakers at the symposium have delivered chapters, additional contributions have come from authors who have subsequently been invited to write contributions to round off the book. The original idea was to write a book highlighting the pathophysiological mechanisms behind CWRMs. The intention was, and still is, to send a message to applied researchers, practitioners and the general public that current hypotheses about such mechanisms are more often complementary than contradictory. If this realization could promote interdisciplinary communication, it would serve a tremendous service to applied research.

Bringing together this book would not have been possible without the assistance of many people and institutions.

In the first place, we are most grateful to all the authors contributing chapters to the book, for their expertise, efforts, persistence, patience, and willingness to update their chapters.

We would like to thank several other people who have been instrumental in publishing the book: Dr. Leif Svensson, President of the University of Gävle, and Dr. Håkan Attius, Executive Officer, R&D Department, University of Gävle.

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