WENNER-GREN CENTER
INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM SERIES

VOLUME 50

RESPIRATORY PSYCHOPHYSIOLOGY

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Proceedings of an International Symposium held at
The Wenner-Gren Center, Stockholm, September 14–15, 1987

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Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1988 978-0-333-47491-4

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First published 1988

Published by
THE MACMILLAN PRESS LTD
Houndmills, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 2XS
and London
Companies and representatives
throughout the world

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data
Respiratory psychophysiology:
proceedings of an international symposium held at the
Wenner-Gren Center, Stockholm, September 14 – 15,
1987.—(Wenner-Gren Center international symposium
series, ISSN 0083 – 7989; 50).
I. Man—Respiratory system—Psychophysiological aspects
I. Euler, Curt von II. Katz-Salamon, Miriam
III. Series
612'.2
ISBN 978-1-349-10463-5 ISBN 978-1-349-10461-1 (eBook)
DOI 10.1007/978-1-349-10461-1

Published in the United States and Canada by
Stockton Press, 15 East 26th Street, New York, NY 10010
Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data available
LCCN 88-24769
ISBN 978-0-935859-53-9

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

“If, therefore, someone seriously wishes to investigate the truth of things, he ought not to select one science in particular; for they are all interconnected and interdependent; he should rather consider simply how to increase the natural light of his reason, not with a view to solving this or that scholastic problem, but in order that his intellect should show his will what decision it ought to make in each of life's contingencies. He will soon be surprised to find that he has made far greater progress than those who devote themselves to particular studies and that he has achieved not only everything that the specialists aim at but also goals far beyond any they can hope to reach.”

René Descartes (1628)
Regulae ad Directionem Ingenii
(translated in *The Philosophical Writings of Descartes*, 1985,
CUP, Cambridge.

Eds J. Cottingham, R. Stoothoff and
D. Murdoch, page 10)

The research area of respiratory functions in health and disease is a multidimensional scientific and clinical field which reaches across the borders of many different scientific disciplines and which is approached from many different angles. During the last decade, growing interest has been focused on sensations related to respiratory functions and dysfunctions and on the roles of the cerebral cortex and other forebrain regions on breathing behaviour, i.e. a research interest which may be referred to as ‘respiratory psychophysiology’.

This volume contains material presented at the Seventh International Symposium on Respiratory Psychophysiology held at the Wenner-Gren Center in Stockholm, on September 14–15, 1987. The aim of this symposium was to create a platform for transdisciplinary discussions on current theoretical and clinical problems of physiological, pathophysiological and psychological aspects of respiratory functions. For this reason we brought together researchers from many countries representing the different research areas of respiratory physiology, pulmonary medicine and cardiology, psychology, psychophysics and psychiatry.

A volume based on contributions by many researchers from different scientific fields and backgrounds will inevitably display some semantic ambiguities despite efforts from most authors to use a language also intelligible to colleagues outside their own specific fields.

This symposium was made possible by generous support from the Wenner-Gren Center Foundation for Scientific Research and the Swedish Medical Research Council, both of which are gratefully acknowledged.

Stockholm, 1988

C. von E.
M.K.-S.