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**E**oin O'Brien is Adjunct Professor of Molecular Pharmacology at the Conway Institute of Bimolecular and Biomedical Research, University College Dublin. He is a Past-President of the Irish Heart Foundation. He has published many scientific papers on hypertension research, especially in the areas of blood pressure measurement, ambulatory monitoring and the management of hypertension in the elderly. He has been a principal investigator in a number of international studies in different populations and nationalities, which have helped to define the characteristics of high blood pressure, to study the efficacy of treatment, and to examine the genetic influences that lead to stroke and heart attack. He serves in an administrative capacity with a number of national and international bodies concerned with the global man-

agement of cardiovascular disease. He is co-chairman of the WHO Committee on Blood Pressure Measurement in Low Resource Settings and he is a Board Member of the International Centre for Health and Cooperation at Fordham University, New York. He sits on the editorial boards of a number of scientific journals devoted to hypertension and he is a past editor of the *Irish Medical Journal*.

He has written a number of books on medical historical subjects, which include *Conscience and Conflict: A Biography of Sir Dominic Corrigan*, and *A Portrait of Irish Medicine*. He has written an acclaimed biographical study – *The Beckett Country: Samuel Beckett's Ireland* and his latest book *The Weight of Compassion & Other Essays* has been published recently by Lilliput Press.