FOREWORD

The present volume is the permanent record of the scientific aspects of the 15th Congress of The European Dialysis and Transplant Association. The Congress took place in Istanbul between June 4 and 7, 1978 under the presidency of Professor Kemal Onen. We are indebted very much to our Congress President and all his Associates for a well arranged meeting.

The attendance was large and discussion at the actual meeting, at the poster exhibits and in the registry forum was lively.

The presentation of the statistical report of the EDTA Registration Committee remains an important part of the meeting and of the printed proceedings. The EDTA Registration Committee pioneered the complete registration of treatment facilities for and results of therapy with the complementary methods of dialysis and of renal transplantation and continues to provide the medical profession, as well as those who are responsible for organisation of health care, with a volume of highly informative and complete data, still seemingly unparalleled in any other field of medicine. We are indebted to the members of the Registration Committee and to its present chairman, Dr. A. J. Wing, for all their efforts.

As usual, the presented papers focused around dialysis, renal transplantation and nephrology. The EDTA considers emphasis on the problems of replacement of renal function as its main and unique activity, and does not cherish the opinion that it is, or should become, a new society of general nephrology. It does, however, consider a section on nephrology to be important at its meetings, because good nephrology forms the basis of satisfactory patient care, because a considerable amount of new information about i.a. the pathophysiology of uraemia and of the anephric state is a direct result of our work and last, but not least, because good nephrology is the only road to the ultimate aim of prophylaxis against the development of renal failure.

The editing of the congress proceedings is a very laborious task. The editor has an overwhelming workload in order to combine careful editing with speedy publication. The EDTA has been blessed with a series of excellent chief editors, and our present chief editor, Dr. Brian Robinson, is certainly no exception to this general rule. Once more, it is my privilege to express our gratitude and admiration to Dr. Robinson and his Associate Editor. We are also indebted to our publishers, Pitman Medical, for their co-operation.

At the close of the Istanbul congress I came to the end of my 3 year term of office as president of the European Dialysis and Transplant Association and it was with great pleasure that I handed over my office into the capable hands of Professor Marcel Legrain.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the EDTA Council for excellent collaboration, firm support and good friendship. Also I want to express my gratitude to the Council of The European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association with which the EDTA has always had an impeccable collaboration, securing that the meetings of both associations could be held simultaneously in an atmosphere of friendliness and mutual respect.

Jørn Hess Thaysen