FOREWORD

The 16th Congress of the European Dialysis and Transplant Association took place in Amsterdam between June 17 and 20, 1979, under the Presidency of Professor Albert Struyvenberg. We express our warmest thanks to the President, to the Secretary, Dr Stevens, to the organising Committee and to all our Dutch hosts for their hospitality and the excellent organisation of a very large meeting attended by more than two thousand participants.

It is my pleasure to recall that the first EDTA Congress was held sixteen years ago in Amsterdam under the Presidency of Dr Drukker. EDTA was happy then to welcome in its Mother Country the 'hero' of the fight against renal insufficiency. Nobody can forget the battle of Kampen in 1943 with a weapon called the 'rotating drum'. Originality, courage, efficiency and, perhaps the most important, challenge of the future expressed by Kolff, are qualities well represented throughout the history of the Dutch Nation. They, now as ever, remain mandatory to agree with point two of our By-Laws: 'The purpose of the Association will be to encourage and to report advances in the field of haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, transplantation and related subjects'.

In 1979 our Society counts more than twelve hundred active members, all interested in various aspects of chronic renal failure. If a majority of members are clinicians involved in the daily care of patients with chronic renal failure, the Association is wide open to scientists whose competence is needed to cover all aspects of the scientific field related to renal insufficiency. For example the bone diseases of dialysed and transplanted patients, residual renal function and excretion of middle molecules, physiology of the anephric patient, T cell depression, are routine bedside problems. Their study and adequate treatment require specific and careful analysis of data but also basic physiological knowledge and sophisticated research programmes. Our annual Congress must, for the information of all participants and for the best of the patients, offer outstanding data on the most recent improvements in the treatment of renal failure but also on those new trends of nephrology with clinical implications.

The present volume, which is the record of the Symposia, guest lectures and scientific sessions held in Amsterdam, reflects such a policy which is actively supported by the Council.

The excellent and very rapid publication of the Proceedings, including the lively discussions, is the work of Dr Brian Robinson and J Hawkins and their associates, in collaboration with our publishers Pitman Medical. Their excellent work deserves our gratitude.

Every year original statistical data coming from the Registry are presented at our Congress. They are routinely quoted in many medical journals or congresses. Such valuable and unique epidemiological data on dialysis and transplantation
require the active collaboration of all dialysis and transplantation centres and huge work from the Registration Committee members and coworkers, working under the direction of the active and efficient Chairman Dr A Wing. We are very grateful to all of them.

Good clinical care has always required close collaboration between physicians, nurses and technicians. Nevertheless, nephrology gives the best example of such close collaboration between various teams. Nephrologists are happy and proud that the responsibility of highly sophisticated care can be transferred to nurses with great success. The active cooperation, routinely established, between the EDTA and EDTNA Councils and the joint annual meetings are obvious proof that, besides clinical care, useful collaboration has been successfully established to discuss current problems and to develop clinical research programmes.

At the end of my first year in office I wish to express my gratitude to the former President, Professor Jørn Hess Thayssen for his friendship and most valuable help, to the EDTA Council and to the former and present Secretary Treasurers, Professor V Andreucci and Professor F Boen for their invaluable and outstanding assistance.

M Legrain