PREFACE

The return of the EDTA Annual Congress to Amsterdam after an interval of 15 years provides a suitable occasion to reflect upon the advances in nephrology and in the treatment of renal insufficiency which have taken place in this time. Our Association and the EDTA Registry have played an important part in encouraging these developments and providing an Annual forum for presentation of new information and for discussion between fellow scientists and clinicians. These meetings are recorded in past volumes of the Proceedings and reflect the steady growth of interest in renal replacement and nephrology. This year is no exception. Indeed, because of the increasing number of excellent abstracts submitted for presentation, Council made the decision to increase the number of simultaneous sessions at this year's Congress.

This decision is reflected in the increased size of this volume of the EDTA Proceedings, but we hope that readers will still find the book to be of manageable size. We have had to be rather arbitrary in deleting overlength or apparently redundant material from several communications. We hope to publish this considerably larger volume of the Proceedings in, as near as possible, the same time as last year and it has not therefore been possible to refer more than a fraction of queries back to authors. We would like to thank the majority of authors for the timely production of manuscripts conforming with our instructions. We wish the small but troublesome minority who ignore our requests would follow this majority, for they would save the Editors much time and enable us to produce the Proceedings a few weeks earlier.

The work of the Selection Committee has been a subject of discussion and sometimes of criticism at the Congress and the General Assembly, so we are glad to be able to print at the end of this volume an admirable review by Professor Kerr of the method by which our free communications are selected.

Several years ago the interest of the Association was broadened to include more general aspects of Nephrology. To advertise this change of emphasis the sub-title 'Dialysis, Transplantation, Nephrology' was adopted. Our attention has been drawn to the confusion this has caused in many references to the Proceedings (even in papers submitted to the EDTA) and we have therefore decided to use only the title decreed in our Constitution, i.e. 'Proceedings of the European Dialysis and Transplant Association'. A small reference to the volume name and number is included on the first page of each contribution.

The question of copyright has arisen once again. The Association may be held liable if copyright is infringed by including material published in identical form elsewhere, without permission. This is why we require authors to sign a copyright form and to include any necessary acknowledgments for material produced (with permission, of course) from other sources.
We were greatly helped by the President of the Congress, Professor Struyvenberg and his Secretary, Dr Stevens and their organising staff and team of secretaries. It is a pleasure to record once again our gratitude to Miss Irene Darlaston for running the Editorial Office. Mrs Betty Dickens and her team at Pitman Medical have risen to the challenge of the larger Proceedings with all the enthusiasm we anticipated and we are once again very grateful for their cooperation and advice and for the speed with which they have coped with this larger book. We would also like to acknowledge the secretarial help of Mrs Julia Ellis and the help of Dr Rai Mehta in checking manuscripts.

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