FOREWORD

The present volume is the permanent record of the scientific aspects of the 17th Congress of the European Dialysis and Transplant Association. The Congress took place in Prague, between June 10 and 13, 1980 under the Presidency of Professor Albert Valek. We are very indebted to our Congress President, to the Secretary, Professor Mathys and their associates and to our Czech hosts for organising so well arranged and so well attended a meeting.

It was an honour to quote in my opening talk the sentence on knowledge, of the Czech writer Karel Capek: “Knowledge is as important as action ...... Knowledge is a moral obligation like love and service to fellow men, like any of the other moral commandments. We hold scientists in high regard not for their gifts and talents but for that painstaking search for truth, that is a moral act.”

We are convinced that the presence in Prague of more than two thousand physicians, nurses, scientists, all concerned with research, diagnosis and treatment in relation to renal diseases, has allowed, both in the old style crystal Congress Hall and in the streets of the golden City, warm, free and efficient discussions between members of different scientific communities.

The present volume is the record not only of the presented papers, the Symposia and the guest lectures, but also of posters allotted for publication the same length as an oral presentation. They bring up to date information on dialysis and transplantation, but also on various aspects of acute and chronic renal insufficiency.

The joint annual meeting of EDTA and EDTNA is a unique opportunity for friendly discussions between nurses, technicians and physicians. A close collaboration between the EDTA Council and the EDTNA Committee is of great importance for us and should be the symbol of the close collaboration required between all participants of a dialysis team to the benefit of the patient.

To conclude, it is a real pleasure to be in the official position to thank on behalf of all members and of all participants to our Congresses, everyone involved in the expansion of our Society. I acknowledge the invaluable help and full support of our Secretary Treasurer, Fred Boen, and the friendly collaboration of all members of the Council. We are very grateful to Dr A Wing and his team for the unique information coming out from the EDTA Registry, giving to the world scientific community valuable epidemiological data on dialysis and transplantation. We express our gratitude to Dr Brian Robinson, Editor and J B Hawkins, Associate Editor, and Miss Irene Darlaston for collecting the information including the discussions and revising the manuscripts. Our thanks go to Pitman Medical, our publisher, for excellent and rapid publication of the Proceedings.

M Legrain