PREFACE

For the seventeenth Annual Congress of the European Dialysis and Transplant Association we visited the beautiful and historic city of Prague. The very large attendance at this well organised meeting attests to the importance of our Congress as a forum for medical scientists from Europe and the rest of the World to meet for the presentation and discussion of developments in dialysis, transplantation and in nephrology. Once again we have the privilege of editing the permanent record of these Proceedings.

We have made no major changes to the overall form of the book this year. In conformity with many other medical journals we suggested this year that manuscripts should be submitted according to the Vancouver style. The main advantage of this system is that it does provide a consistent style between journals for the submission of original manuscripts, thereby simplifying preparation for authors and their secretaries. Although we suggested this year that references should be given in the full Vancouver style, we decided to modify this for the actual publication by omitting the full titles of the original communications quoted and the number of the final page. There are two reasons for this economy: one is a considerable reduction in the space and increase in the speed of setting, and the other is the increase in time which the Editors would need to spend in checking references in the library, because although we hold authors responsible for the references in papers submitted to the Proceedings, there are frequently inaccuracies. Many authors have in fact omitted to put in the titles as requested. On balance we believe that speed of publication is more important than providing this small additional piece of information for those who wish to follow up the references.

Poster presentations are becoming an important means of communication at scientific meetings and in recognition of this, Council decided this year that posters should be allotted equal space with oral presentations in this Volume of the Proceedings. In view of this, we have been a little disappointed that some authors have not put as much care into the submission of their posters for publication as they would have done for oral presentations, but by and large we must acknowledge the high standard of material submitted to us and thank all those authors who have taken great trouble to follow our instructions. Unfortunately some of the submitted manuscripts exceeded the required length and we have had to edit this material in order to keep the Proceedings to a reasonable size. Time has not allowed us to refer back to the authors on these occasions, but I think we can say that authors were clearly warned beforehand that this was a risk. This year we have grouped the posters with the oral presentations under their respective subject headings, which we believe makes a more logical form for the final book, and once again we end with a brief resumé of the way in which papers are selected for the EDTA Congress by the Chairman of our Selection Committee, Professor C Mion.
We are very sorry to record that one of our authors, Professor Gelin, was prevented by illness from taking part in the symposium on Low Dose Corticosteroids following Renal Transplantation. We have subsequently heard with great sorrow of his death and would like to pay tribute to this very active member of our Association (only recently retired from the Council), and very distinguished pioneer in the field of renal transplantation. He was always very kind and helpful to the Editor and his staff and in his passing we have lost a very good friend and a great colleague.

On a more cheerful note it is a pleasure to record the great help we had from Professor Valek, and from his Congress Secretary, Professor Matys in meeting our requirements and giving up so much of their time to our needs. Mr F Lopot gave unstintingly of his time and effort to overcome technical problems for us in connection with the Editorial Office at the Congress and similarly Mrs Dana Kandertova was a great help in our various administrative problems. Miss Irene Darlaston ran the Editorial Office and organisation with her usual efficiency and enthusiasm helped by Mrs Julia Ellis. We are also grateful to Mrs Brenda Norris and Miss Elizabeth Yallop who helped to prepare the discussions. We were fortunate to have Mrs Betty Dickens from Pitman Medical at the Congress and she has subsequently continued the excellent collaboration which has ensured the speedy and high standard of production of this and previous volumes.

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