REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT,
FRANCESCO LOCATELLI

This my last report as President, and so it is time to say “Thank-you” to many people, who have given to ERA-EDTA so much of their time, ideas and hard work.

First of all, I wish to thank those whose term in the Council is ending now. To Luis Piera, a real gentleman, who has been Chief-Controller for six years. Year after year the Council heard only good news from him: the number of members always growing, the annual congresses always profitable for the finances of the Association.

Other thanks go to Tilman Drueke, for six years the Editor-in-Chief of NDT. This is a very demanding role, requiring intelligence, hard work and much time. He has done an excellent job of it, and it must be stressed that it was, as for all the other members of the Council, an unpaid job.

I wish to particularly thank Jorge Cannata for all he has done as a very dedicated Secretary-Treasurer. It really was a tremendous job. He is now leaving that position to become President, and I really wish him all the best.

Moreover, I would like to thank all the staff of the Administrative Offices in Italy for their continuous efforts and help which have certainly made my job easier.

In my first report as President I announced that a Research Fund and an Educational Fund were being created and I also mentioned the new initiative of an online educational journal. Now I am happy to report that NDT-Educational, a creation of Carmine Zoccali, is very successful and increasingly popular.

The money we have devoted to educational initiatives has been employed to arrange a considerable number of courses all over Europe, furthermore the range of subjects has become more diverse. In 2004 eleven courses were organised, and fifteen are planned for 2005. The organisers of each single course must be thanked, but special thanks are due to those who have coordinated the whole project: Rosanna Coppo and all the other members of the Steering Committee as well as Andrzej Wiecek and Eberhard Ritz for the courses organized together with the ISN.

With regard to the Research Fund, many ideas have been put on the table, and I am glad to announce that some of these ideas are now being turned into actual projects. A major project, which is still at an embryonic stage, is the Arrest Renal Disease Progression Aim (ARPA). I personally proposed this project and Gérard London is now closely cooperating with me for its realization. Another project, named QUEST, is connected with the activities of the Registry, and has the aim of increasing the quality of epidemiological research, of providing benchmarks and monitoring adherence to guidelines. This project is developing under the leadership of Carmine Zoccali with the cooperation of Kitty Jager and the other members of the Registry.

I am glad and proud to say that during the last year we have not only carried on projects that had recently been devised, but we also have further new initiatives to announce. Thanks to the combined efforts of Rosanna Coppo from the ERA-EDTA, and of Bob
Narins from the American Society of Nephrology, in 2005, for the first time, there will be a cooperation between the two Associations, consisting in sessions to be held in Istanbul and Philadelphia just before the beginning of the respective annual congresses: “ASN Highlights”, consisting of four sessions to be held on June 4th, 2005 in Istanbul, and “ERA-EDTA Highlights” to be held in Philadelphia in November.

Another new project is the newsletter of the Association. The first issue will be distributed to the congress participants in Istanbul, and a second issue will follow in autumn. The idea was suggested by Jorge Cannata, and has been implemented by Adrian Covic and Dimitrios Tsakiris.

With so many projects in their agenda, the newly nominated Officers have much work to do: Adrian Covic as Secretary-Treasurer, Norbert Lameire as Editor-in-Chief and Rosanna Coppo as Chief-Controller.

To them, to the other Council members and to all those who support the ERA-EDTA I wish to give my encouragement and my sincere wishes of more and more fruitful work.

Prof. Francesco Locatelli