

FOREWORD

A great Society like the European Dialysis and Transplant Association (EDTA), which is well known and appreciated all over the world, after almost 20 years of life should be updated and requires innovations. In the past year very important innovations were decided by the EDTA Council for the 19th annual Congress which was held in Madrid from September 6th to 9th 1982. The permanent record of which is given in this volume. It is now widely accepted that the Congress has been a great success and that all the innovations have been successful.

The first aim of the Council was to improve the quality of the nephrological component of the Congress. It was my opinion, which was shared by the whole Council, that by limiting the wide field of nephrology to only two nephrological topics for each Congress, the nephrology day could reach the desired uniform and outstanding quality. Furthermore, only well known experts in the selected fields should function as referees by marking the nephrological abstracts for the EDTA Selection Committee. Thus for the Madrid Congress the following topics were selected: 'Glomerulonephritis' and 'Coagulation in renal disease'. The short time at our disposal for informing EDTA members required us to accept, for the first year, abstracts on other nephrological topics. This first year's experience has been undoubtedly successful. All referees, even those who are not members of EDTA accepted our invitation and marked the abstracts in a very short time. I am really pleased to express the appreciation of the Association and myself to all referees: Dr J Botella (Spain), Professor JS Cameron (United Kingdom), Dr G D'Amico (Italy), Dr R Kluthe (Federal Republic of Germany), Dr G Richet (France) for 'Glomerulonephritis' and Dr A Kanfer (France), Dr IM Nilsson (Sweden), Dr G Remuzzi (Italy), Dr MJ Weston (United Kingdom) for 'Coagulation in renal disease'.

A second important aim of the EDTA Council was to improve the poster presentations. Many EDTA members have complained that, in previous years, posters were considered as second-rate presentations with few attendants and only very little discussion. The EDTA Council therefore decided that from 1982, poster sessions will play a major role in EDTA Congresses. This year, in Madrid, in addition to being on display throughout the Congress, video-poster sessions were planned with each poster being allotted eight to 10 minutes of chaired discussion time. It is now a general opinion that the video-poster sessions represented a great innovation, appreciated by all attendants; the sessions were crowded and the discussion always intense and exciting. Undoubtedly a success; in my opinion the video-poster sessions of the Madrid Congress will remain as a mile-

stone for scientific Congresses and will be imitated by others.

A third innovation was the workshop held in the afternoon to discuss the subject which was the topic introduced by the morning guest lecturer; the workshops had many attendants and represented a crowded place for interesting informal discussion.

These innovations represented, in Madrid, a very important experience and we will continue to try to improve on them in future Congresses.

In the last year co-operation between EDTA and the National Nephrological Societies has been very important. Presidents of the latter greatly contributed to our work by suggesting referees, indicating chairmen of scientific sessions and informing members of their Societies about our innovations. The deep appreciation of EDTA and myself goes to all Presidents of National Societies of Nephrology in Europe, with the hope of even further increase in co-operation in the future. Actually this co-operation has been already planned during a meeting of all Presidents held during the Congress in Madrid.

The EDTA General Assembly in Madrid has approved finally the change in the EDTA Constitution which formally increases the proportion of Nephrology in our Congresses; the name of the Association will remain 'European Dialysis and Transplant Association' with the addition of the subtitle 'European Renal Association'. The Assembly has also ratified Council decision to increase the duration of the scientific sessions of EDTA Congresses from three to four days, effective from 1985, in order to have more time devoted to clinical nephrology. Undoubtedly dialysis and renal transplantation represent excellent therapeutic procedures for uraemia, but clinical nephrology is the basis for the prevention of the uraemic condition.

With all the innovations we are sure that the quality of the EDTA Congress has increased and will increase further in future years. The next Congress will be held in London (June 19th to 22nd 1983) under the presidency of Professor DNS Kerr. The nephrological topics chosen for the London Congress are 'Hypertension' and 'Renal stone disease'.

Three Council members are leaving the Council: Dr C Mion, Dr V Parsons and Dr A Struyvenberg. They have given a great contribution to Council activities in the past three years. I am grateful to all of them, in particular to Dr C Mion since he has been Chairman of the Selection Committee for the last three years. I am pleased to acknowledge the excellent results obtained by the campaign of Dr Wing and his team for raising funds for our Registry computer. The EDTA Registry remains the main achievement of our Association appreciated all over the world. I am very grateful to Dr ST Boen, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association for his continuous help and support.

Last but not least, I am very happy to express the gratitude of myself and of the whole Association to Dr J Botella, President of the 19th Congress, to his secretary Dr F Valderrábano, and their associates for organising this most successful Congress in Madrid. Without their efficiency we could not have

fulfilled our innovations. From them we have asked so much, that it is almost unbelievable that they accomplished so excellently all our requests.

I acknowledge the excellent and rapid publication of these Proceedings due to the hard and enthusiastic work of Dr AM Davison, our new Editor, and Pitman Books Limited, our Publisher.

Vittorio E Andreucci
President of EDTA – European Renal Association