

PREFACE

Madrid was a splendid setting for this year's Congress and those who attended were provided with an outstanding scientific and social programme. It is a strange contrast to observe intense discussion during the scientific sessions followed by equally intense activity in a fairground containing almost every type of mechanical amusement device.

The format of this volume follows that evolved by my predecessors. I am indebted to Dr Brian Robinson for so patiently teaching me the editorial nuances which are so important in the speedy publication of these proceedings. The EDTA appreciates and is grateful to Dr Brian Robinson for the work he undertook during his six years as Editor; he has set a standard which will be difficult to follow.

This year the Congress was held in September which resulted in a very tight schedule to achieve publication in the same year. In the instruction to authors I requested typescripts to be in my hands two weeks before the Congress. I am grateful to the many authors who complied with this request and although a number clearly ignored my plea the threat of excluding typescripts not received by the end of the Congress ensured that our Publishers were provided with edited papers at a relatively early date. The majority of authors have complied with the instructions regarding typescripts but several have been too long and have therefore been reduced. In addition, as in previous years, scant attention has been paid to the accuracy of the references – one paper had only one of the six references correct. I have not had time to check the accuracy of all references cited and authors must accept responsibility for any mistakes. If we are to maintain rapid publication then editing must be kept to a minimum. Unfortunately this year several papers have required extensive editing and I trust that there has been no change in meaning as a result. Where possible I have tried to achieve a uniformity of style while still preserving the individual approach of each author.

This volume includes the text of the discussions which took place after the free communications, the symposia and the Registry reports. The discussion of the Registry reports and the symposia was held at the end of each session and not, as previously, after each presentation. Therefore the printed discussion in the Proceedings appears at the end of each appropriate part. Although the video poster sessions generated very considerable discussion it has not been possible to include such discussion in the text of this volume. Indeed it is possible that the poster session discussion was less inhibited because participants did not

have to announce their name and origin!

This year there have been two changes with respect to the Index. The author index has been omitted and in its place the name and address for correspondence has been included at the end of the text of each communication. This has saved both space and time as the preparation of an author index is a laborious task. Secondly the index in the main part gives the first page number of the communication concerned rather than the page on which the word or subject appears. In review articles and certain other longer communications this does not apply. Most people will want to read the whole article and not just a page and this was a further way in which speedy publication could be achieved.

It is a pleasure to record my thanks to Dr Julio Botella and his Organising Committee for providing excellent Editorial facilities. Mr F Peirat was untiring in his efforts to ensure that all our requirements were provided promptly and efficiently. The Editorial Office was organised by Mrs Gillian Howard who has provided unstinted support in the preparation of this volume. I am grateful to her and to Miss Irene Darlaston and Mrs Julie Ellis who provided excellent secretarial support in typing the discussion tapes. To Andrew Davison I am indebted for the prompt way he undertook the proof reading of the typescripts. This year we have been fortunate in having Mr Pierre Guillou as Assistant Editor and with his fluency in French, position as a transplant surgeon and interest in immunology is well suited to the post. Lastly, but by no means least, it is a pleasure to record thanks to Mrs Betty Dickens of Pitman Books for her help during the Congress and subsequently. She has been involved with the Proceedings for fourteen years and has been a tower of strength to a succession of Editors and it is to her that we are all grateful for the speedy publication of these Proceedings.

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