FOREWORD

The 21st annual Congress of the European Dialysis and Transplant Association (EDTA)—European Renal Association (ERA) was held in Florence from 23rd to 26th September 1984. The permanent record of the Congress is given in this volume.

With the Congress in Florence I have reached the end of my Presidency of the Association. It has been for me a great pleasure to be back in Florence, the city where the 9th Congress of the Society was held in 1972; I was Congress Secretary at that time, and in Florence I was elected a Council member. Since then I have also been Secretary-Treasurer and finally President of the Society, having devoted 13 years of my life to the success of EDTA, now European Renal Association. In the last year of my Presidency a successful cooperation between our Association and the National Societies of Nephrology in Europe has been clearly established to really make our Society the European Society of Nephrology. On 28th October 1983, in Milan I chaired the first meeting of the Presidents of National Societies of Nephrology in Europe which was sponsored by our Society. On that occasion the following important decisions were taken:

1. Every year a meeting will be organised between the Council of our Association and the Presidents of National Societies.

2. The President of the National Society of the host country will be invited to Council meetings one year before the Congress to attend for matters related to the Congress.

3. Two years before a Congress the President of the Congress will write to the Presidents of the National Societies asking for topics, lectures, workshops, speakers, chairmen and (very important indeed) referees for the different nephrological topics.

Our Association has now an outstanding advisory panel composed of the Presidents of National Societies of Nephrology. I must express my deep appreciation to all Presidents, and in particular to Professors Suc, Crosnier and Richet, for their great contribution in such a difficult achievement.

Another important decision has been taken this year; it concerns the relationship between our Association and the EDTNA. All of us agree that no other field in medicine exhibits such a close cooperation between physicians, nurses and technicians as in nephrology. This is why EDTNA was created in a very tight relation with our Society.

I am always looking with great sympathy at the EDTNA, which was born in Florence, at the 9th Congress of our Society in 1972. Since then the EDTA Congress and the EDTNA Conference have always been held simultaneously.
Both Societies, however, have grown considerably in the past few years. The attendance at our annual Congress has greatly increased. In 1972, in Florence, the 9th Congress of the Association had 1,200 registered members including nurses. For the 21st Congress this year about 3,000 were registered, an overall attendance greater than that in Los Angeles for the Congress of the International Society of Nephrology. This development of both Societies is making it more and more difficult to find adequate space for future Congresses, particularly if we consider that more and more nephrologists are now participating in our scientific activity.

The Council of our Society and the EDTNA Council have faced this problem together, and have planned, for the future, that the EDTNA Conference will follow immediately the Congress of EDTA-ERA. This will maintain a link between our Society and EDTNA, while allowing more possibilities for simultaneous sessions during our Congress.

My experience as an official and particularly as President of the Society has been unique. I am greatly honoured and deeply pleased to have devoted my best efforts for the success of our Society. I am grateful to all Council members and to the Secretary-Treasurer, Dr S T Boen, for their continuous help and support during my term of office. I am also pleased to acknowledge the excellent activity of the Registration Committee and of its Chairman, Dr A J Wing. The Registry of our Society remains unique in the world.

I am finally happy to express the gratitude of the whole Association and myself, in particular, to my friend Professor Vincenzo Cambi, President of the 21st Congress, for organising this most successful Congress in Florence. In Florence Professor Luigi Migone and Professor D N S Kerr were elected honorary members of the Society for their outstanding activity in the field of nephrology.

I acknowledge the excellent and unbelievably rapid publication of these Proceedings, due to continuous great enthusiasm of Dr A M Davison, our Editor, and Pitman Publishing Ltd, our Publisher.

Vittorio E Andreucci

President of EDTA–European Renal Association