Preface

In 2000 we conducted the first International Workshop on Ischemic Stroke with the wish and hope to review the knowledge of ischemic stroke. At that moment we did not know that we were initiating a tradition of periodic stroke expert meetings to update this important disease. This fourth supplement issue entitled 'Ischemic stroke: improving the knowledge for the best treatment and prevention' corresponds to the last edition of the International Workshop on Ischemic Stroke, and it reflects the consolidation of the workshop held every 2 years since 2000, which is to be continued in the future with the objective to review different aspects related to ischemic stroke.

On this occasion, a prestigious group of experts with proven experience in their particular areas compiled an overview of new knowledge on diagnostic procedures and the relevance of inflammation, the etiology and risk factors of ischemic stroke, new options in secondary prevention, challenges in acute stroke management and ways to improve brain plasticity and recovery after stroke.

I should like to give my thanks and congratulations to all the participating authors for their magnificent work now published and to the members of the Scientific Committee (J. Alvarez Sabín, J. Castillo, J. Gállego and E. Martínez Vila) for their great help and contributions. Finally, I also wish to thank BMS for their support, which has made possible the consolidation of this workshop and allowed this supplement issue to be produced for the transmission of all this knowledge to our colleagues.

The next International Workshop on Ischemic Stroke will be held in 2008, and I hope to have the opportunity to present all its contents in the journal *Cerebrovascular Diseases*.

E. Díez-Tejedor