Preface

This issue contains many of the presentations delivered at the 10th International Conference on Dialysis, Advances in CKD 2008. This novel meeting attempts to identify relevant areas about which there are controversies or which represent advances in understanding of disease processes or treatment.

This year's meeting, held in Cancun, Mexico (our first meeting outside the United States), has the usual substantial international representation of leaders in their fields of study with 20 non-US speakers (from 10 countries) of the total of 33 speakers.

The major topics relate to current interests. In this issue, particularly in the USA, adherence to strict standards for water treatment is poor; Hoenich examines the impact of water quality and other issues. Interest in the relationship of the metabolic syndrome and diabetes to kidney disease is strong; Ritz discusses this issue in a keynote address. Implications of the long awaited MPO trial examining the value of high-flux dialysis in affecting outcomes is presented by Locatelli. In another aspect of dialytic therapy, consideration of conservative versus active treatment for elderly patients is argued by Brunori and Misra.

The very nature of uremic toxicity is still in question; Vanholder ponders the relation of uremic toxins we know about to the clinical state of uremia. Examination of how body composition in kidney disease and hypertension affect outcomes is looked at in different ways by Kuhlmann, on malnutrition, Axelsson in regard to obesity, Kotanko on responsiveness to ESAs, and Titze on water-free sodium retention. Franco looks specifically at salt-sensitive hypertension outlining a new scope. Controversy about the utility of guidelines persists. This is debated by Amerling and Levin in regard to the disputed effects of their uses on outcomes. Goldsmith argues that management and treatment does not materially change outcomes in

patients with ESRD. New strategies in extracorporeal blood purification in sepsis and sepsis-related acute renal failure are reviewed by House and Ronco. Stevens examines the current controversy surrounding the effect of ESA on hemoglobin concentration and outcomes.

Heart failure is not well understood in relation to kidney disease; Virani examines the kidney implications of management of decompensated heart failure. This is among the topics we intend to devote more time to in the future. In a new addition to the program, Diaz-Buxo presents a detailed case report on encapsulating peritoneal sclerosis with functional and structural analyses. Correa-Rotter will address the important topic of chronic kidney disease in Latin America.

This is the first year we have solicited posters. They can be found in this volume of Blood Purification. The abstract review committee selected three abstracts for oral presentation. Fleischmann will present new findings on sleep apnea in CKD stages 1-3, Schneditz describes a new technique to characterize individual glucose uptake in dialysis patients, and Mora reports on vascular access monitoring.

We are most grateful to Mary Carter, RRI's Research Program Director, and Ingrid Adelsberger, RRI's Corporate Meeting Planner, who coordinated this meeting, and Dr. Anna Saccardo and Ilaria Balbo from Vicenza for the kind editorial and organizational assistance.

We express our appreciation to Karger for the usual high quality of their production.

We encourage readers to attend our next meeting to be held in Las Vegas, Nevada, and hope that other professionals dealing with CKD including cardiologists and diabetologists will also attend.

Claudio Ronco, Vicenza

Nathan W. Levin, New York, N.Y.