Contributions to Nephrology

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Series Editor

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The 17th Annual International Vicenza Course on Hemodialysis has yet another exceptional group of speakers and we are excited that this volume of *Contributions to Nephrology* is ready to guide attendees through the event and serve as a valuable tool for the future. All contributions have been collected and published in this volume as a result of the effort of all authors and the team of the Department of Nephrology at San Bortolo Hospital in Vicenza.

Hemodialysis today moves towards innovative techniques, biomaterials and devices with an absolute need for solid evidence around every new treatment or technology. Based on this concept, the course and this book are focused on innovative technology and new therapies from bench to bedside. The continuous effort to improve patient care follows the complex pathway from basic research to clinical trials. We have devoted a good deal of time to the topic of uremic toxins with contributions dealing with this puzzling problem from different points of view. Other emphasized areas include cardiovascular disease examined in its many facets and vascular access. As always, significant attention is placed on the physiological undertakings of treatments. Part of the program deals with practical questions in the dialysis unit. We are privileged to have such a superior group of speakers who can elaborate on these issues and discuss controversies that arise in the world of hemodialysis. Special attention has been placed on the problems of calcium and phosphate disorders, on the management of anemia, and finally on different biological disorders affecting the patients on dialysis. Once more, all these aspects are debated in light of international surveys, objective expert evaluation and recent clinical trials.
We consider this publication to be a useful supplement to the lectures presented at the three-day Vicenza course, but also a useful tool for future consultation by the clinician and all who are involved in the care of hemodialysis patients. We truly appreciate the help of the members of the faculty who have made this possible by submitting their manuscripts in advance.

Our sincere thanks go to Anna Saccardo and Ilaria Balbo who worked in Vicenza on the final arrangement of the course. A special thanks to Karger for the usual outstanding quality of the publication.

We hope that the readers will enjoy the book and will consider it a companion for daily clinical practice as well as for research.

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