Welcome Address

W.	Werner	Stauffacher
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I am very pleased to have the honor and privilege of welcoming you to this second Karger Symposium to be held at the University of Basel.

We are indeed proud and grateful to host this event at our Center for Teaching and Research: proud to be able to welcome so many prominent scientists and clinicians as our speakers, discussants and guests, and grateful to Dr. Karger and Karger Publishers for giving us the opportunity – for the second time – to organize a scientific venue of such quality within the framework of our University.

The first Karger Symposium was held in 1990 on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the publishing house and was devoted to ‘Cell to Cell Interaction’. Its immense success befitted the occasion, and it would have been quite normal and appropriate to consider it a one-time ‘anniversary splash’. We were all the more pleased when Dr. Karger suggested holding a second symposium, thereby opening the way to something which may become a series of ‘Karger Symposia’ and, maybe, a tradition.

The topic chosen this time – ‘Viruses and Virus-Like Agents in Disease’ – is no less promising and timely than that of three years ago. It concerns little-understood Organisms’, diseases and ‘degenerative’ states, and it is hoped that your discussions during the coming two days will shed some new light on them and bring us closer to finding ‘new diseases for old agents’ or ‘new agents for old diseases’.

Thus, the Symposium is placed at the crossroads of the interests and research activities of basic and clinical scientists, of immunologists, infectious-disease specialists, and of physi-

7

cians interested in oncology, but also of practicing physicians confronted with still unexplained forms and courses of diseases. It concerns both the horizon of current clinical medicine and the pioneering frontier of biomedical and clinical research and, therefore, promises to offer ample opportunity for discussions and – even heated – exchanges of experiences and opinions between scientists and physicians from all fields and horizons.

The Symposium has already partly fulfilled this promise by attracting all of you to Basel. We shall now do all we can in order to see to it that it fulfills it completely by offering you new insights, new knowledge and, hopefully, new partners in research, and new friends.

On behalf of Rolf Zinkernagel and the other members of the scientific organizing committee I thank you all for having come here to participate, and Dr. Karger, his publishing house and his many helpers under the direction of Mr. Peter Schäfer for giving us the opportunity for hosting the Symposium at our University.

I wish you a very successful meeting and a pleasant stay in our city.

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