Editorial

M.W.		Büchler
E.H.		Farthmann

Bern Freiburg i.Br.

The success of the United European Gastroenterology Week (UEGW) held in Berlin earlier this year and attended by almost 7,000 participants was a scientific highlight and has marked an important development in European gastroenterology. Merit goes to the United European Gastroenterology Federation (UEGF) which has brought the partners together and has managed to organize this outstanding congress. Obviously, there was a need for this kind of meeting in Europe in view of the worldwide success of the Organisation Mondiale de Gastroentérologie (OMGE) and its World Congresses of Gastroenterology.

The editors of this journal feel that there should be a strong surgical input both into the European Gastroenterology Federation and subsequently into its meetings. We welcome, therefore, the association of Digestive Surgery with a new society that was founded in Bern, Switzerland, on September 9, 1995 and has been named European Digestive Surgery (EDS). EDS is a European association for all gastrointestinal and hepatic, pancreatic and biliary surgeons. The principal aims are to foster the practice of digestive surgery through clinical and basic scientific research and postgraduate training. Details and the founding members are outlined in the accompanying leaflet.

By working closely with other associations, the mission of EDS is to promote digestive surgery in world gastroenterology. EDS elected Digestive Surgery to be its official organ for its first 12 months. We welcome this association which should mutually benefit the journal and the new society. In doing so, we hope and expect other societies focussed on gastrointestinal surgery in all its aspects to become more closely associated with our journal in order to foster the common aim of strengthening surgery as an integral and indispensable part of gastroenterology with all its ramifications.