Concluding Remarks for Symposium

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On behalf of all of my colleagues in ICI Pharmaceuticals, I thank you for your attendance at what we perceive to have been a most successful meeting, and we look forward to some feedback from you. In particular, I would like to thank those participants in the programme, our chairmen, numerous rapporteurs and the speakers, those who presented posters, and all of you who have contributed to many stimulating discussions. Also it is worth recalling that Professor Tubiana is acting as our patron and we offer him particular thanks for his patronage.

It is obvious from the high standards of all of the presentations, both oral and poster, that we have been privileged in having so many eminent physicians and scientists prepared to attend our meeting. Indeed with three concurrent sessions on Breast Cancer, Prostate Cancer and Benign Gynaecology, it has really been quite difficult for any individual to appropriately cover all talks of interest.

Obviously, ICI continue to be heavily involved in clinical trials of breast cancer, not only through Nolvadex but also through the development of Zoladex, which has now entered trials in both advanced disease and as adjuvant therapy. This involvement will doubtless continue with our efforts to develop an aromatase inhibitor, and as we have heard from Dr Wakeling, pure anti-oestrogens also. In addition, for the LHRH analogues, we see clear potential in areas such as benign breast disease and benign gynaecological conditions such as endometriosis and fibroids. This is taking ICI into therapeutic areas where we have not previously had compounds and where we are building up our expertise. Meetings such as this are of enormous importance to us and I cannot overstress the gratitude that we feel for much of the discussion.

In prostate cancer we have a very large clinical trial programme for Zoladex in advanced disease. The early data on our anti-androgen, Casodex, looks very encouraging and will, I am sure, ensure our continued involvement with prostate cancer in the years to come.

If there is one unifying element in all these efforts, it is our commitment to quality: quality in our basic research to discover new compounds that are efficacious and well tolerated by our patients, and quality in supporting them with clinical trials of the highest standard that we can devise. To achieve this quality of research and development, ICI needs and values enormously a very open interchange of ideas and problems with scientists and clinicians of international repute. This I believe, is an important part of our culture and the reason why we greatly treasure events such as this particular Symposium on Endocrine Therapy.

We look forward to continuing this tradition and we hope we shall be able to welcome you all to our next meeting – perhaps it will be in less than four years' time. It will be interesting, around 1992, to see how much progress is being made as a result of some of the scientific developments discussed this afternoon, as well as tracking the clinical progress of the LHRH analogues, new anti-androgens and hopefully, pure anti-oestrogens.

Before I formally close this meeting, I should like to express the sincere wish that the cooperation between you, the clinicians and the scientists, and we at ICI will continue, thereby providing improvements in therapy both for cancer and some of the benign conditions that we have been discussing.