Preface

RRI's 11th International Conference on Dialysis, Advances in CKD 2009, emphasizes new developments in both technology and process while examining the interrelations between uremia and other important sectors of internal medicine such as cardiology and infectious disease. The current issue of *Blood Purification* incorporates many of the papers delivered at the conference. Richard Ward and Nicholas Hoenich respectively update basic information about the dialysis machine and about how dialysate content and quality affect outcomes. Peter de Oreo discusses recent changes in the CMS document of 'Conditions of Coverage' for dialysis, the branch of the US government relevant to the responsibilities of the Medical Director of a dialysis facility.

The 'Fistula First' initiative in the USA is succeeding but has not been associated with a reduction in the use of venous catheters. Jeffrey Sands portrays the future evolution of vascular access, Alfred Cheung discusses new work on the inhibition of neointimal hyperplasia in arteriovenous grafts. Papers related to the interrelationship of cardiac function and volume control are emphasized in this year's conference. They include Robert Schrier on vasopressin receptor antagonists in heart failure and Philip Klemmer on new insights into the interaction between aldosterone and the extracellular fluid volume in CKD. Hannelore Hampl describes her hands-on clinical practice in the management of cardiac disease in the di-

alysis patient, while Claudio Ronco elaborates on the cardiorenal syndrome.

James Tattersall and Peter Wabel review the current sophisticated approach on the use of bioimpedance for volume control in CKD that has emerged in recent years. Papers on new technology include reports on internal filtration hemodialysis as a new hemodiafiltration theory by Michio Mineshima, reduction of hepatitis C viral load by extracorporeal therapy by Richard Tullis and measurement and significance of bacterial DNA in water and dialysate by Garry Handelman.

Peter Kotanko presents new information on the temporal evolution of events before death in dialysis patients. Eberhard Ritz develops new knowledge on prenatal causes of kidney disease.

Zaccaria Ricci reviews current approaches to the critically ill and George Kaysen provides new insights into lipid metabolism in CKD and outlines the practical implications. The case for reassessment of the marketing of kidneys for transplant is presented by Eli Friedman.

We hope that you will enjoy this issue of papers from the 11th Conference and that you will consider attending next year's International Conference on Dialysis, Advances in CKD 2010.

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