Preface

H.G.G.		Beger
M.		Büchler
K.		Gyr

This supplement contains the contributions of international speakers from a symposium entitled 'The Role of Enzyme Treatment in Pancreatic Disease', organized as a satellite to the 24th European Pancreatic Club Meeting in Ulm, FRG, in October 1992.

Substantial progress has been achieved concerning diagnosis and assessment, procedures for monitoring enzyme treatment and surgical techniques.

However, a number of topics in pancreatology are still under discussion, e.g., the treatment of pancreatic pain or the state after acute pancreatitis, due to a lack of adequate clinical data. But these areas of particular interest have been included to stimulate further discussion and research.

Treatment with pancreatic enzyme supplements is obligatory in pancreatic exocrine insufficiency caused by chronic pancreatitis and after total pancreatectomy or total gastrectomy. Various non-pancreatic diseases like celiac disease and inflammatory bowel disease require enzyme therapy to control symptoms and improve the patient's quality of life. To achieve this goal, modern high-dose pancreatic enzyme preparations should be used in reasonable dosages.

We are grateful to all the speakers and contributors for their valuable works and scientific input.

It is hoped that this publication will contribute to the education of those who are developing an engagement in the treatment of pancreas-associated disease and that it will stimulate established specialists to perform further research.

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