Foreword

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Although in its literal form a 'Festschrift' is a collection of writings contributed by different authors in honor of a senior scholar, the term, focusing on only one part of its German derivation (*Fest*, or festivity/feast), is often applied to the celebration of a scholar's achievements. On September 13, 2008, we celebrated Dr. Warren Kline Bolton's many accomplishments as a scientist, clinician and administrator. Dr. Bolton has made seminal contributions to the field of nephrology. For example, he was the first to introduce and study pulse steroid therapy to manage crescentic glomerulonephritis, a therapy that is now routinely used worldwide. He was also one of the first to prove that cell-mediated immune mechanisms can induce severe glomerular injury independent of antibody-antigen-mediated mechanisms. He has emerged as a leader in establishing clinical practice guidelines that seek to provide improved care for patients with kidney disease.

Under the direction of Dr. Bolton, what began as a fledgling operation of only four faculty members with modest national recognition, training and research programs has now developed into a program that balances the three missions of academic activity. As a result, the Division of Nephrology at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., has grown considerably and excels in research, clinical care and education. As colleagues, we join enthusiastically to honor Dr. Bolton's many accomplishments in a manner that is due for an astute visionary leader who has devoted 20 years to leading the Division of Nephrology.

In planning this Festschrift, we invited eight prominent academic leaders in nephrology who have contributed to research, teaching and clinical care of patients with kidney disease. Several of these individuals played critical roles through their interactions with Dr. Bolton during various segments of his career. Despite the heavy commitments of these invitees, all eight accepted the invitation. The eight leaders in academic nephrology who participated in the Bolton Festschrift are:

- Thomas M. Coffman, MD, James R. Clapp Professor of Medicine; Chief, Division of Nephrology; Duke University, Durham, N.C.
- William G. Couser, MD, Affiliated Professor of Medicine, University of Washington School of Medicine; ASN and ISN Past President and Chair ISN-COMGAN; Seattle, Wash.
- Ronald J. Falk, MD, D.J. Thurston Distinguished Professor of Medicine; Director, UNC Kidney Center; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C.
- Bruce C. Kone, MD, Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Division of Nephrology; University of Florida, Gainesville, Fla.
- Edmund J. Lewis, MD, Muehrcke Family Professor of Nephrology; Director of the Section of Nephrology; Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Ill.
- David J. Salant, MD, Professor of Medicine; Chief of the Renal Section, Boston University; Boston, Mass.
- John R. Sedor, MD, Research Endowment Professor; Vice President for Research, MetroHealth System Campus; Director, Case Center for the Study of Kid-

Key Participants: W. Kline Bolton Festschrift, Jordan Conference Center, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va., Sept 13, 2008. First row (left to right): Mark D. Okusa, William G. Couser, W. Kline Bolton, Edmund J. Lewis, David J. Salant. Back row: John R. Sedor, Bruce C. Kone, Ronald J. Falk, Thomas M. Coffman, Roger C. Wiggins.

ney Biology and Disease, MetroHealth System Campus; Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

- Roger C. Wiggins, MB, B. Chir., Professor, Internal Medicine; Director, George O'Brien Renal Center, Division of Nephrology; University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Each of the speakers highlighted important scientific and clinical advances in nephrology, and some underscored Dr. Bolton's contribution to these discoveries. In this volume of *Nephron* we have included presentations by those whose research intertwined most closely with Dr. Bolton's. Dr. Edmund Lewis provides a rich historical trek through the years of discovery that has led to our current understanding of the pathogenesis of glomerulonephritis. His description of his early years as a clinical researcher gives us a window into the mind of a young scientist who had the imagination to note pathologic similarities between two processes: the formation of tuberculous granulomas and the development of glomerulonephritis in which no immune complexes could be identified. His observations inspired his junior colleagues, including Dr. Bolton, to elucidate the role of cell-mediated immunity in the pathogenesis of glomerulonephritis. Dr. Salant, former trainee of Dr. Couser, describes the long road to the identification of the potential membranous nephropathy antigen that has been so elusive over

the years. At the Festschrift he provided some tantalizing preliminary data on his work in elucidating this antigen, and we hope to see details published soon. Dr. Ronald Falk describes key findings from Dr. Bolton's research that have shaped Dr. Falk's research in unraveling some of the mysteries of glomerulonephritis. His talk nicely summarizes how, beginning with the first inklings of the involvement of cell-mediated immunity in glomerulonephritis, the field has developed over the past 30 years – and gives us a glimpse of what is at the cutting edge of this field today. Dr. Couser reveals the untold story on the 'upstream' path that Dr. Bolton's research career took in unraveling the pathogenesis of T-cell-mediated glomerulonephritis. Listening to his fascinating description of how the knowledge of pathogenesis of glomerulonephritis evolved, we gain an appreciation of the courage that it took to 'think outside the box' in the early 1970s and to endure the harsh criticism of others as Dr. Bolton and his colleagues entered new and uncharted territory. Finally, Dr. Bolton places his research into perspective with other important aspects of his life. In his humorous and endearing talk 'Seasons', he traces his development from childhood to the present and describes his life's seasons, and how his various adventures and experiences have 'seasoned' him into the person he is today.

The Bolton Festschrift was repeatedly described as being similar to a 'Gordon Conference' and provided a

unique and untold story of how Dr. Bolton's research path intertwined with many of the speakers as well as others. These presentations will provide a unique opportunity to have a glimpse in 'real time' of the pathway of scientific inquiry that unlocked some of the mysteries of glomerular diseases.

From a personal standpoint, the Bolton Festschrift was richly informative, and we now more completely understand the academician with whom we have worked over the past years. The respect that we have for Dr. Bolton was clearly evidenced by the number and variety of people who traveled to the Festschrift. Those of us who have been privileged to know and work with him have of course appreciated his knowledge, his integrity, his mentoring and leadership skills, and his ability to selflessly support us and encourage each of us to develop our own strengths. At the Festschrift we also learned of Dr. Bolton's more personal side: his imaginative, inventive spirit as a child; his patience and dedication as a father and husband; his compassionate, empathic manner of dealing with patients and others (including many of us) in times of need, and his courage and strength in times of hardship, both personal and professional. We congratulate Dr.

Bolton for his unwavering stewardship of the Division of Nephrology and for his many contributions to the scientific community and to the care of patients locally and worldwide. It has indeed been a privilege to be involved in this Festschrift, and we wish Dr. Bolton all the best as he heads into this next exciting and challenging season of his life.

Acknowledgements

We wish to thank Nancy Bolton for the assistance in providing personal information about Dr. Bolton during his early years and for her tireless background support of the Division of Nephrology over the past years; Emily Searcy and Anita Jacobson for organizing and making necessary arrangements for the Festschrift and preparation of the manuscript; Lena Garrison for her effort in the preparation of the manuscript; and Genzyme for an educational grant. Lastly, we wish to thank past and present members of the Division of Nephrology and the University of Virginia community for creating a vibrant academic environment over the past two decades, and we express our heartfelt gratitude to fellows, family and friends who traveled considerable distances to participate in the W. Kline Bolton Festschrift.