Introduction to Conference Workshop Sessions and International Status Reports

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In the late 1970s the World Federation of Hemophilia Council decided to reorientate the meeting activities of the Federation to accommodate the increasing spectrum of individuals involved in haemophilia care. There was also a perceived need to accelerate the utilization of the research potential and expand contemporary comprehensive care for the haemophiliac. Finally, the Council wished to encourage parity of participation, enabling haemophiliacs, their families, and members of the health care team, including physicians, to be more involved and responsible in WFH conference activities and decisions. It is hoped that the three workshop sessions and the international reports from over 50 participating countries will be the first occasion at a WFH International Congress where these principles have been put into practice. The design of these sessions not only involves members of the haemophilia care and research teams, but also requires the presence and contribution from the international community of haemophiliacs and their families. The sessions involve care, support and propagation of haemophilia throughout the world, so providing the essential foundations and vital fabric which can be added to or changed as time requires.

The organizers of the workshop and international poster sessions were particularly keen that the information which would be derived from these deliberations would be distributed as widely as possible. To this end, we have arranged to publish the proceedings of the workshops, along with the abstracts of the poster presentations. The proceedings will then form the basis for a series of task forces which will be featured in subsequent WFH International Conferences. It is the intent of the Council, at this time, to take the three major subjects of the workshops and use them as a vehicle for the addition of new information for continuing debate, and hopefully, improvement of haemophilia care throughout the world. Indeed, the goal of the workshops and poster sessions is to provide a definitive statement describing the critical factors required for the organization, management and delivery of care to haemophiliacs in the 80s.

Workshop I, under the chairmanship of Drs. P. Levine and H.H. Brackmann, will examine, assess the benefits, and identify

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future roles for existing comprehensive haemophilia programs.

Workshop II, under the chairmanship of Drs. A. Britten and F. Etzel, will examine, assess the benefits, and identify future roles for organizations supporting haemophilia care throughout the world.

Workshop III, under the chairmanship of Drs. R. George and K. Schimpf, will examine and assess the benefits, and identify future roles for National Haemophilia Societies and the World Federation of Hemophilia.

The National Poster Presentations are to present National Status Reports describing haemophilia care, their national haemophilia society, and other support organizations in that country. In this audience, we have haemophiliacs, their families, officers of haemophilia societies, medical care team members representing individual services or haemophilia programs, and members of government and support organizations from across the world. It is my hope, as you review the information in the poster sessions, that you will have the opportunity of speaking with the presenters of this information, who have travelled from across the world to give us this information.

In turn, I would hope that you would use this information as a basis for the discussions which will ensue in the workshop sessions. The workshop sessions have been carefully structured in order to include the most pertinent aspects of their subject matter. It is hoped that these formal discussions will, in turn, be used as catalysts for energetic and productive debate and decisions amongst members of this audience during the balance of the conference.

An important segment of the program will be when the three sets of workshop chairmen present the conclusions gained from the formal and informal deliberations of each workshop group. These conclusions will, hopefully, form the foundations for the formal task forces, to be set up by the WFH for succeeding International Haemophilia Conferences and Congresses.

May I take this opportunity of thanking the workshop chairmen and all the participants in the workshop and poster sessions for their efforts to date. I know that your carefully prepared programs and presentations will prove an outstanding success, and will be a major contribution to the care of haemophiliacs throughout the world during the 80s.