Editorial

Welcome to the European Stroke Conference 2010 in Barcelona and this special issue of *Cerebrovascular Diseases* 2010. Both celebrate 20 years of support in stroke research since 1990 when the first European Stroke Conference convened in Düsseldorf accompanied by the journal, since then addressing all aspects of basic and clinical stroke research in increasing numbers of abstracts submitted to the conference and manuscripts published in regular issues and supplements of the journal. Despite strong roots in Europe including almost all leaders and so many members in stroke-related institutions involved as authors of abstracts and papers, reviewers or editors, members of the scientific committees and the editorial boards, both the conference and the journal have been international since their foundation and will be even more so in the future due to the continuously growing global challenges of stroke and number of submissions, subscribers, readers and participants of the conferences from all over the world, and Australasia with China and Japan in particular. This is why the European Stroke Conference and *Cerebrovascular Diseases* have decided to organise a special educational anniversary symposium in Barcelona on different aspects of stroke prevention, still one of the most challenging task for the next decade.

While stroke mortality has decreased, stroke morbidity will increase in an increasingly elderly population – especially in highly industrialised countries with advanced medical care – with new aspects in aetiology, different comorbidities and overlaps with non-stroke

diseases, and tremendous costs and expectations for care, rehabilitation and nursing. Identification of those at highest risk to suffer but also to benefit from improvements in stroke management will be of utmost importance, requiring more attention and interest of themselves, their family members and professional health care providers as well as scientifically guided refined intensity and availability of resources.

Many of these aspects are addressed in a series of editorials, reviews and original articles in this issue of *Cerebrovascular Diseases*, reflecting progress from the past and perspectives for the future such as in this special issue for the European Stroke Conference 2010. This is similarly true for the largest scientific and educational programme ever presented in the European Stroke Conferences, with major sessions on global and economic aspects of stroke, problems of joint cardio- and cerebrovascular aetiology, new concepts for prevention and most recent acute treatment strategies, exciting new aspects for basic stroke research to promote drug development and strategies for brain protection and brain reorganisation, and many individual research presentations selected from >1,500 abstracts submitted, including most exciting results from long-awaited large clinical trials as highlights to start and close the meeting in two plenary sessions. They are all included in a special supplement of *Cerebrovascular Diseases* 2010, as usual since 1991, and the accompanying abstract CD [Cerebrovasc Dis 2010; 29(suppl 2)].

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