Preface

The Renal Research Institute's 14th International Conference on Dialysis, Advances in CKD 2012, in Palm Harbor, Florida, emphasizes recent developments in operational areas, technology, biology of uremia, and epidemiology.

The year 2011 saw the introduction of a new reimbursement system ('the bundle') for chronic hemodialysis (HD) in the USA. As expected, 'the bundle' resulted in fundamental changes in areas such as anemia management. Franklin W. Maddux reviews the impact of 'the bundle' on patient care. Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are the leading cause of death in chronic dialysis patients. Peter A. McCulloch reviews the diagnosis and management of a broad spectrum of CVD. Mineralocorticoid receptor blockade has proven to be highly successful in treatment of congestive heart failure, but its use in chronic kidney disease (CKD) is limited. Andrew S. Bomback discusses the low-dose use of this substance class in CKD. In the management of anemia, the role of suicidal red blood cell death (eryptosis) has received little attention in the renal community. In his keynote address, Florian Lang discusses the biological basis of this important process. Little is known about the impact of renal disease occurring during childhood on renal outcomes in adulthood. This and modified pediatric RIFLE criteria are addressed by Stuart L. Goldstein. The question of how childhood onset end-stage renal disease (ESRD) is related to future cardiovascular health and hypertension is addressed by Joseph T. Flynn. Patients with decompensated liver cirrhosis and renal failure

pose a host of diagnostic and therapeutic problems. Thomas A. Gonwa covers the whole spectrum of clinical challenges in this patient group. Renal replacement therapy is lacking in many areas of the developing world. Mary Carter lays out a proven successful strategy developed by the Sustainable Kidney Care Foundation to introduce acute peritoneal dialysis (PD) in East Africa. Novel PD solutions continue to be introduced to the market; Achim Jörres reviews their clinical implications. In his thought-provoking debate John Stokes compares PD and HD and concludes that PD is not superior. Novel models to predict outcomes in incident chronic HD patients are presented by Stephan Thijssen, together with a discussion of the 'surprise question'. Given the rising prevalence of geriatric patients, the clinical approach to ESRD is of increasing relevance. Jeroen P. Kooman addresses an area ranging from prognosis to dialysis initiation to ethical questions. Blood volume monitoring is increasingly used as a means to prevent intradialytic hypotension and fine-tuning of target weight. Judith J. Dasselaa provides a critical evaluation of these technologies. Sudden death is the single most frequent cause of death, resulting from multiple causes. Patrick H. Pun presents a comprehensive care approach to reduce the risk of this catastrophic event. Plasmapheresis has been used for treatment of many immune-mediated maladies. Charles D. Pusey reviews the mechanisms of action and discusses the evidence supporting the use of this technology. Anticoagulation is a necessity in hemodialysis therapy. Jeffrey J. Sands reports the re-

sults of a prospective trial investigating the heparin-sparing properties of Citrasate, a novel citrate-containing dialysate. Earlier studies have shown that both very high and low predialysis blood pressure are associated with poor outcomes. Renal transplantation is one of the great success stories in medicine. Heidi M. Schaefer reviews modern long-term management in this patient group.

The Renal Research Institute (RRI) is dedicated to advancing therapy options for dialysis patients to provide the highest caliber of care based on advanced clinical technology. RRI is committed to research and innovation that will lead to improved patient outcomes and quality of life. It has active national and international research programs with strong academic alliances with the University of Michigan, University of North Carolina at Cha-

pel Hill, University of Rochester and Beth Israel Medical Center, St. Raphael Hospital/Yale, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, and the University of Maastricht, among others. RRI has a long history of generating over 20 peer-reviewed publications annually with over 40 abstracts accepted and presented at scientific conferences, e.g. ASN, ISN, ERA-EDTA, ASAIIO, and NKF.

We hope that you will enjoy the wide range of papers published in this issue of *Blood Purification* and that you will consider attending next year's 15th International Conference on Dialysis, Advances in CKD 2013, January 2013 in Puerto Rico.

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