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Preface

The European Society of Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition (ESPEN) was founded in its first meeting, which took place in Stockholm in 1979. The following congresses - Newcastle upon Tyne (1980) and Maastricht (1981) - revealed a strong interest in this new society and a marked readiness for European cooperation. Subsequently, ESPEN has developed into a group of outstanding scientists interested in experimental and clinical research in human nutrition, covering metabolic, hormonal, and practical aspects.

The main topic of the first (Stockholm, 1979) meeting was the nutritional aspects of carbohydrates; that of the second (Newcastle upon Tyne, 1980) the nutritional aspects of fat; and that of the third (Maastricht, 1981), the nutritional aspects of proteins. The selection of topics for the Vienna ESPEN Congress (1982) was considered by the Scientific Program Committee of the congress. The preliminary program was based upon a careful analysis of the “free papers” that had been presented as “free communications” or “posters” at the first three ESPEN meetings. The result of this study demonstrated that
many specialists in different fields are involved in aspects of experimental and clinical nutrition, and that a great variety of relevant scientific problems are under current investigation. Based upon this knowledge, a proposal of the scientific program was made and - after a great deal of discussion - the final scientific program of the Vienna ESPEN Congress was selected. There are different topics of the congress that have been presented as lectures or symposia. In addition to the Sir David Cuthbertson- and the Arvid Wretlind lectures, a third lecture in honor of Clemens of Pirquet has been presented to the society. This new lecture is oriented toward the enormous contributions of pediatrics in the field of nutritional research.

C. von Pirquet, who is better known for his scientific work in allergic diseases, was chosen to lend his name to the first pediatric lecture in order to honor his milestone work in pediatric nutrition. Pirquet used his skin test (tuberculin test) on malnourished children with tuberculosis: the malnutrition of his patients brought him to anthropometries and the science of nutrition. Pirquet investigated the nutritional status of healthy and sick newborns and children, and correlated the sitting height of infants to their energy requirements. On the basis of precise metabolic balances, he calculated the nutritional requirements of newborns and infants and introduced a nutritional system that is well known as the “Pirquet System of Nutrition”.

The program of the symposia contained seven symposia on nutritional aspects of adults and two symposia on pediatric patients. The program on nutrition in adults included, besides the main topic of the congress, a symposium on “Energy Requirement and its Supply”, and symposia on “Nutrition and Patient Outcome”, and “Endocrine Aspects of Nutrition in Critically 111 Patients”. Furthermore, a cycle of four symposia dealt with nitrogen metabolism, amino acid therapy, and liver function under the titles: “Nitrogen Sparing Mechanisms”, “Current Concepts in Amino Acid Therapy”, “Amino Acids and Control of Brain Function”, and “Nutrition and Liver Function”.

In the pediatric symposia, the “Nutritional Problems of the Low Birth Weight Infants” and “Topics in Childhood Nutrition” were discussed. It is the pleasure of the editors of these proceedings to thank the chairmen of the symposia, who not only offered their experience and support to the local organizing committee of the Vienna ESPEN Congress, but organized and chaired their symposia excellently. Furthermore, the editors would like to extend their thanks to Mrs. Reingard Kleinberger, who ably corrected the proofs of the manuscripts. Finally, the editors wish to acknowledge the excellent work of the staff of Karger, München - particularly Walter Kunz and Siegfried H. Bezold - for its cooperation in achieving rapid publication.
of this document of scientific work.

Vienna, December 16, 1982 Gunter Kleinberger
Erwin Deutsch