Preface

This issue of *Acta Haematologica* is dedicated to many international scientists/clinicians for their contribution to the field of hematology/oncology presented at the 11th International Symposium on Molecular Biology of Hematopoiesis which was held in Bormio, Italy, June 25–29, 1998. Due to the page limitation the contributions of few speakers who met the deadline for printing this issue of *Acta Haematologica* were accepted.

New information on bone marrow transplantation for autoimmune disease and organ transplantation was presented at the meeting and is published in this issue, as are recent developments in the field of human gene therapy and identification of new methods for stable gene transfer with increased transduction rate into pluripotent human hematopoietic stem cells. F. Candotti and M. Onoderea from R.M. Blaese’s group reported on a new improved retrovirus for clinical trial. Dr. Abraham’s group presented the efficiency of adenoviral- and retroviral-mediated interferon gene transfer for a possible treatment of patients with chronic myelogenous leukemia and colon cancer. Retrovirus-mediated interferon was shown to potentiate chemotherapeutic agents; this new information was presented at the meeting and a selected paper is included in this issue of *Acta Haematologica*.

Many thanks go to the Scientific Committee and the abstract reviewers for their support and organization of this International Symposium on Molecular Biology of Hematopoiesis and the state-of-the-art lectures which were presented.

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