Epilogue: UAB Symposium November 2015

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I am deeply honored and touched by your participation in the Festschrift Symposium that was organized at the University of Alabama in Birmingham (UAB) on November 9, 2015. Many thanks to all who participated and for the generous support from various sponsors, notably Genzyme/Sanofi, which made this special day possible. Anupam Agarwal, MD, organized the activities and was ably assisted by Katrina Moore, Jennifer Clendenin and Lyn Hambright.

This event culminated and put the capstone on over 27 years at UAB. I must admit that my initial plan was for a much shorter tenure in Alabama, but the resources, facilities and opportunities at UAB have been superb, sustaining and fulfilling. I want to express my deepest gratitude to those who encouraged and supported me during the move to UAB from the University of California at San Francisco and also during my tenure at UAB, especially J. Claude Bennett, James Pittman, William Deal and Charles A. 'Scotty' McCallum and more recently Ray L. Watts. Two women deserve special thanks for their commitment to excellence at UAB, made palpable by generous endowments: Marie Ingalls and Hilda B. Anderson. Perhaps my most enduring personal gift to UAB will be remembered as the recruitment of my successor (Dr. Anupam Agarwal) who is a dear friend, colleague and confidant, and has built on the strong foundation created by his predecessors to bring the Nephrology program at UAB to its current zenith. Finally, the most special women of all, my wife Betty and daughters Erin and Amy, who deserve and enjoy my continuing love and appreciation for all they have put up with, and contributed to this journey that has taken us from San Francisco to Birmingham, with de-

tours in Lahore, Pakistan (1969); Lausanne, Switzerland (1987); and Paris, France (2008).

A Festschrift is traditionally 'a volume of articles, essays, etc., contributed by many authors in honor of a colleague, usually published on the occasion of retirement, an important anniversary, or the like' (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/festschrift>). Rather than highlight my own personal, and sometimes peripheral involvement in an area, the speakers were asked to present their views of the current state-of-the-art for their topic areas. The unifying theme is that each of the speakers are notable for their personal involvement and contributions to the field, and in addition are wonderful individuals with whom I have spent many wonderful hours in scholarly scientific discourse, often in exciting venues with a variety of pleasing gustatory and olfactory inputs. Drs. Rossier and Jaisser deserve special thanks for their long-time friendship and hosting us during sabbatical stays in Lausanne and Paris. Drs. Benigni and Remuzzi are special friends in Bergamo, and dear Dr. Glasscock is a continuing inspiration to all of his younger colleagues. Drs. Shayman and Wanner share a special interest in the wonders of Fabry disease, and in addition, the Wanners and Warnocks have shared many family adventures and travel experiences together. To younger readers and colleagues, who have always been an inspiration with their sense of adventure and inquiry, I want to emphasize the richness and joy that accumulates during one's career as a consequence of interacting and sharing experiences with superb colleagues such as those who came to Birmingham to participate in the festivities on November 9 and 10, 2015. Again, my deepest appreciation and gratitude are extended to all.