Preface

The proceedings of the 'International Conference on Dialysis II' (held in Tarpon Springs in January of 2000) have been published as a special issue of *Blood Purification* and reprinted in a hardcover book entitled 'Advances in ESRD 2000'. Based on the positive acceptance of the scientific community and the encouraging feedback received on that volume, the publication of the 'International Conference on Dialysis III' (held in Miami Beach in January of 2001) has been realized in the same format. This year however, a major innovation has been added: thanks to the cooperation of the authors, the volume has been prepared to be ready at the time of the conference and handed out to all participants. The volume is intended to serve both as a syllabus for a better comprehension of the talks during the conference and as a long-lasting reference publication for future consultation. The present publication contains the manuscripts from the speakers of the conference based on the topic assigned in the program. The program has been designed to offer an educational opportunity for young physicians but at the same time it has been conceived to provide an update on recent technology available in the field of hemodialysis. A series of lectures and debates were presented in which clinical aspects as well as epidemiology and technology were discussed. The conference was enhanced by the presence of an outstanding panel of American and international speakers. Professor London from France presented the first keynote address on vascular disease and atherosclerosis in uremia. The program continued with a debate concerning the opportunity of using peritoneal dialysis as a first treatment modality of ESRD. Drs. Burkart and Shulman sustained their opposite views in a debate in

which Dr. Levin and Dr. Passlick-Deetjen acted as facilitators for a broader discussion. Another controversy of the conference included the possible benefits achievable with daily dialysis (Drs. Gotch and Pierratos) while Dr. Locatelli from Italy discussed in an interesting lecture the most advanced techniques for electrolyte monitoring and profiling in hemodialysis. A complete session was dedicated to the treatment of acute renal failure. The book not only contains the presentations made by Dr. Star from NIH-NDDK, Drs. Metha, Chertow, Paganini and Ronco, but it also contains in a specific chapter the description and definition of ADQI, the new acute dialysis quality initiative whose first conference was held in New York in August 2000 under the auspices of the Renal Research Institute.

Dr. Owen presented the second keynote address concerning the factors affecting possible differences observed in the outcomes of hemodialysis patients in different regions or countries. The lecture was followed by another controversy on the opportunity to normalize or not hemoglobin levels in pre-ESRD and hemodialysis patients. Dr. Besarab and Dr. Macdougall were the debaters. Dr. Stevinkel from Sweden presented a lecture on malnutrition and chronic inflammation as risk factors for cardiovascular disease in chronic renal failure while Dr. Himmelfarb discussed the clinical aspects of oxidative stress.

Dr. Winchester described the potential benefits in the long term of a new technology coupling hemoperfusion with hemodialysis utilizing a new sorbent device. Drs. Moran and Sodemann presented an update on the most recent technologies for alternative vascular access in hemodialysis. One of the most interesting debates concerned the clinical use of the most sophisticated technolo-

gy for hemodialysis including on-line monitors and computerized data acquisition systems. The principal issue discussed by Dr. Tattersall and Dr. Kleophas has been the definition of real utility of these technologies in daily clinical practice and whether they are economically affordable with present reimbursement policies.

The conference was preceded by a special session entitled 'How to manage a dialysis center' which was specifically designed for nephrology fellows. We appreciate the endorsement of the conference by the American Nephrology Nursing Association, The American Society of Nephrology, The National Kidney Foundation and The Renal Physicians Association.

We are indebted to the large number of companies in the field of dialysis that exhibited at the conference and represented important sponsors for the scientific program. We also would like to express our gratitude to the University of Minnesota that was the accredited sponsor for the conference and took the responsibility for content,

quality and scientific integrity of this CME activity. A special sponsorship program was created to offer a registration and attendance to one fellow from each nephrology training program as selected by the program director. A total of over 100 fellows were sponsored in this program.

We would like to give our sincere thanks to all the members of the scientific committee for designing an up-to-date and interesting program. Our appreciation goes to all the speakers who really contributed to the success of the conference by their knowledge and communication skills. Our gratitude is extended to all the staff of the Renal Research Institute who contributed to the organization of the conference. Last but not least, we acknowledge the unrestricted educational grant offered by Fresenius Medical Care.

Our final thanks go to Karger Publishers, for the timely publication of this volume and its outstanding quality.

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