Preface

For the third consecutive year, the proceedings of the International Conference on Dialysis are being published in *Blood Purification* and reprinted in hardcover edition entitled 'Advances in ESRD 2002'. The structure of the book is based on the same concept as previous editions, including the papers prepared by the invited speakers. The speakers of the International Conference on Dialysis IV have actively contributed by preparing their manuscripts within a very tight deadline, thereby allowing publication on time for the meeting. Thanks to this incredible effort, the attendees and participants at the conference will have the proceedings in their congress kit which will enable them to follow the lectures with more attention, also facilitated by a written text prepared by each speaker. The volume is intended to serve both as a syllabus of the conference and as a long-lasting reference publication for future consultation. The table of contents, reproducing the sequence of the talks at the conference, is designed to offer an educational opportunity for young physicians, but at the same time it has been conceived to provide an update on the most recent advances in dialysis technology and epidemiology of renal diseases. As on previous occasions, the conference is enhanced by a truly international faculty including outstanding experts in the field.

We are indebted to all those who made the conference possible, including the staff of the Renal Research Institute and the University of Minnesota. We must also acknowledge the important contribution given by the exhibitors and sponsors, as well as the equally important scientific endorsement given by the ANNA, ASN, NKF and RPA.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all members of the scientific committee for designing an up-to-date and interesting program. Our thanks go to the speakers who did a wonderful job both in preparing outstanding lectures and brilliant papers, and, finally, to Karger Publishers for the timely publication and outstanding quality.

*Claudio Ronco
Nathan W. Levin*