Editorial

The 7th Heinrich Warner Symposium on 'Latent' Prostatic Carcinoma – Epidemiology, Biology, Clinical Significance, Detection and Prevention was held in Hamburg in November 2000.

The board of the Heinrich Warner Foundation had the great pleasure, on this occasion, to bring together 80 experts (urologists, pathologists, oncologists, researchers in basic sciences). Abstracts of the outstanding presentations of this meeting are given in this supplement of *European Urology*.

'Latent' prostatic carcinoma means very early small, most likely biologically insignificant cancer. It will be a great problem, especially, if screening for prostatic carcinoma will be improved by modern and better markers. On the other hand, this early prostatic carcinoma gives us a unique opportunity to study carcinogenesis, epidemiology and most of all prevention of cancer. At this symposium, we heard fascinating reports about the epidemiology, early histologic changes, morphogenesis, and molecular pathogenesis of prostate cancer. We heard a broad discussion about hereditary prostate cancer. A lot of data were accumulated about the early detection of small prostatic carcinoma in screening or non-screening populations. New data were accumulated in respect to the natural history and about chemoprevention of such early cancer. There were fascinating early data on the immunotherapy of prostate cancer.

The Heinrich Warner Prize of DM 30,000 was given to a group from Oxford for their fascinating work on angiogenesis in renal cell carcinoma.

This supplement is meant to provide the reader with the state-of-the-art 'latent' prostatic carcinoma: I hope it has achieved its aim.

H. Huland, Hamburg