Dear colleagues and friends,

It is a great pleasure to present the Proceedings of the Symposium on Acne held at the 20th World Congress of Dermatology, July 1–5, 2002 in Paris. The topics discussed have been selected to address current and future aspects of research, clinical entities and treatment of the most common human disease.

The manuscripts represent a cooperative effort of 20 experts on acne from literally all around the globe. They are state-of-the-art reports including data on the increasing evidence of acne occurrence in a considerable amount of adults, especially females, the cycling of normal follicles and of comedones that may explain the natural resolution of comedones and, in the longer term, of the disease itself, evidence that cutaneous neurogenic factors contribute to the onset and/or exacerbation of acne inflammation, first data that chromosomal abnormalities, HLA phenotypes, polymorphism of human cytochrome P-450 1A1 and the MUC1 gene may be involved in the pathogenesis of acne, new topical therapeutic regimens, systemic drugs, and concepts for their use, in association to the need of developing strategies to minimize use of antibiotics in acne therapy, the endocrine aspects of acne and their selective treatment, and effective acne medication alternatives for countries which cannot afford modern treatments. In addition, Prof. John S. Strauss, Iowa City, wrote a comprehensive summary of the most important data and highlighted concepts for pathogenesis-tailored acne treatment.

This publication addresses equally clinicians and scientists interested in acne and determines the revolution which occurred recently in acne research and will probably continue in the future.

We express our sincere thanks to Prof. Jean-Hilaire Saurat, Geneva, Switzerland, Editor-in-Chief of Dermatology and Mr. Thomas Karger, Ms. Susanna Ludwig, and Ms. Elisabeth Anyawike from S. Karger AG for their help in the realization of this project as a peer-reviewed publication under most favorable conditions.

Hoping that you will find this Dermatology thematic issue interesting, informative, and stimulating, we wish you a pleasant reading.

Prof. Dr. Christos C. Zouboulis, Berlin
Prof. Dr. Maria Isabel Herane, Santiago de Chile
Prof. Dr. Diane Thiboutot, Hershey, Pa., USA