

## Preface

Once more, the proceedings of the International Conference on Dialysis are published in *Blood Purification* and reprinted in a hardcover book entitled 'Advances in ESRD 2004'. This publication has become a 'classic' and allows the readers to be constantly updated on the progress of chronic kidney disease and dialysis-related science.

As in the case of previous editions, the volume includes studies prepared by the invited speakers at the International Conference, as well as contributions of outstanding scientists involved in a continuous and effective research exchange with the Renal Research Institute. Furthermore, some contributions are the result of the very active scientific sistership activity between the Beth Israel Medical Center/Renal Research Institute of New York and the San Bortolo Hospital of Vicenza, Italy.

The speakers of the International Conference on Dialysis VI have actively contributed to the book preparing the manuscript within a very tight deadline and allowing the publication of the book on time for the meeting. Thanks to this remarkable effort, the participants in the conference have the proceedings in their congress kit, and they can follow the lectures following the structure of a written text prepared by the speaker.

The volume is designed to serve both as a syllabus of the conference for better comprehension of the talks and as a reference publication for future consultation.

The program and the list of contents of the volume represent a comprehensive review of recent advances in epidemiology of kidney disease, dialysis technology and management of kidney patients.

A distinguished international faculty including outstanding experts in the field grants the quality of the publication and the level of its content. Novel approaches to prevention of renal disease and the description of international care models are debated in the first part of the vol-

ume. Basic science and clinical issues merge in the discussion of mechanisms of apoptosis and pathways of atherosclerotic complications in dialysis patients. New therapeutic approaches are described using both sorbent technology and bioartificial techniques. Diagnostic procedures are presented, with specific attention to vascular access flow. In the second part of the volume, again basic science including gene polymorphism for cytokines and microbiological aspects of dialysis water are paralleled by contributions to new hemoadsorption techniques, strategies to manage the patient with hypervolemia and finally extracorporeal therapies in non-renal diseases such as sepsis and multiple organ dysfunction. Finally, the importance of practice patterns on patient survival evaluated by the Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study Group closes the issue with extremely interesting and important remarks.

All contributions represent state-of-the-art papers that will provide dispassionate distillation of the recent literature in respective fields together with stimuli for new investigations.

We are indebted to all who made the conference possible starting with the staff of the Renal Research Institute. We acknowledge with gratitude the important contributions made by the sponsors and the important scientific endorsement provided to the conference.

We would like to give our sincere appreciation to all the members of the program 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 first rate papers for this book. Our final thanks go to Karger Publishers for the timely publication of this volume and its usual outstanding quality.

Claudio Ronco  
Nathan W. Levin