Preface

This is the 6th year in a row in which we make a publication ready for the International Meeting organized annually by the Renal Research Institute of New York. The publication is intended to represent a companion for the attendees of the 2005 edition of the conference 'Advances in End-Stage Renal Diseases'. All contributions presented at the conference are collected in a special number of *Blood Purification*. These issues have also been published as hardcover books and they now represent a valuable series on the bookshelf of physicians and fellows that have attended the conferences over the years.

Once more, a collection of outstanding contributions is presented in this book as a result of a remarkable joined effort of the Beth Israel Medical Centre/Renal Research Institute of New York, and the Department of Nephrology of the San Bortolo Hospital of Vicenza, Italy. The two centers have established a long time ago a kind of a scientific sistership that today is witnessed by the important scientific production including more than 40 published papers and more than 8 published books.

The present volume has been made possible by the kind cooperation of the speakers of the 7th International Conference on Dialysis that agreed to submit their manuscripts before the conference in time for the publication of the book.

The themes as usual are different and of great interest for clinicians as well as basic investigators. In particular, epidemiological data and risk factors for morbid conditions in hemodialysis are discussed with new emphasis and renewed consciousness of the importance of comorbidities in the final outcome of dialysis patients.

Special attention has been dedicated to the new technologies emerging in the field of hemodialysis, maintaining however a constant focus on the fact that technology cannot be a surrogate for good clinical practice and meticulous care of our patients.

We would like to give our sincere appreciation to all members of the scientific committee for putting together such an interesting program.

We acknowledge with gratitude the important contributions made by the sponsors and the important scientific endorsement provided to the conference.

We are sincerely grateful to the faculty of the conference for their willingness to prepare high quality manuscripts in time for the publication of this volume. We would also like to thank the publisher that made this volume available at the time of the conference with the classic elegance and style. We are grateful to all who made the conference possible, starting with the staff of the Renal Research Institute and the medical team of the San Bortolo Hospital.

Special thanks go to Mary Carter who acted in New York as conference coordinator and to Anna Saccardo and Ilaria Balbo who helped in Vicenza with the collection and handling of the manuscripts.

We hope that once again this book will serve as a state-of-the-art distillation of the most recent literature, providing an adequate source of information for all scientists involved in the field of hemodialysis.

Claudio Ronco, Vicenza

Nathan W. Levin, New York, N.Y.