Preface

The 8th Annual International Conference on Dialysis has yet another exceptional group of speakers and we are excited that this special issue of *Blood Purification* is ready to guide attendees through the event and serve as a valuable tool for the future. All contributions have been collected and published in this special issue once again as a result of the joint efforts of Beth Israel/Renal Research Institute of New York and the Department of Nephrology of the San Bortolo Hospital of Vicenza, Italy.

The conference is focused on innovative technology, new therapies and continuous efforts to improve patient care, as always. We have devoted a good deal of time to the topic of uremic toxins with contributions dealing with this puzzling problem from different points of view. Other emphasized areas include cardiovascular disease examined in its many facets and the vascular access. These proceedings are enlivened by debates. We consider this published collection to be a useful supplement to the lectures presented at the 3-day event. We truly appreciate the help of the members of the faculty who have made this possible by submitting their manuscripts in advance.

As always, significant attention is placed on the physiological undertakings of treatments. Part of the program deals with practical questions in the dialysis unit. We are privileged to have such a superior group of speakers who can elaborate on these issues and discuss controversies that arise in the world of hemodialysis.

Our sincere thanks are given to the professionals involved with preparing this program. This remarkable task is completed only through the cooperation of the staff at the Renal Research Institute, the Medical Faculty at San Bortolo Hospital, and the sponsors and endorsements received from the nephrology community.

We owe further thanks to Mary Carter, the Research Program Director in New York who coordinates this impressive conference, as well as Anna Saccardo and Ilaria Balbo who worked in Vicenza on the final arrangement of the manuscripts. A special thanks to Karger for the usual outstanding quality of the publication.

We hope that the readers will enjoy this issue and consider it as a companion for daily clinical practice as well as for research.

Claudio Ronco, Vicenza

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