Hemotherapy

Rüdiger E. Scharf

Institut für Hämostaseologie und Transfusionsmedizin, Universitätsklinikum Heinrich-Heine-Universität, Düsseldorf

Professor Marc Verstraete, doyen of the European hemostasis and thrombosis research, once wrote 'A preface is that part of a book that is placed first, written last, and read least'. As this is all too true, the present introduction's length must be inversely related that of this issue of TRANSFUSION MEDICINE AND HEMOTHERAPY.

In June 2005, a two-day conference entitled 'Bonner Hämotherapie-Symposium' gathered numerous colleagues in the International Congress Center Bonn, better known as the Bundestag. The meeting, organized by senior staff members of the Bonn Institute, was under the auspices of the German Society of Transfusion Medicine and Immunohematology, the Society on Thrombosis and Hemostasis Research, and the Foundation for Hemotherapy Research.

Two items deserving of special attention are time and title. First, the meeting took place shortly after Professor Hanfland had completed his 65th year; second, the meeting's title, hemotherapy, is nearly synonymous with Professor Hanfland, who has been a marathon protagonist of the discipline. What

does the term 'hemotherapy' stands for? It covers patient treatment with all classes of cellular and humoral blood components, including recombinant proteins and otherwise engineered molecules. Thus, hemotherapy completely spans the treatment path from bench to bedside. This reflects the nature of Professor Hanfland's professional career, during which he dedicated many hours to numerous national and international committees including the AK Blut.

The speakers of the Bonn meeting covered a broad spectrum of areas related to hemotherapy, with special emphasis on cellular and humoral immunotherapies, as well as disorders of hemostasis. Highlighting the molecular biology of hemotherapy and, even more relevant, outlining emerging treatment paradigms for hemotherapists, those presentations of greatest significance are summarized in this issue of the TRANSFUSION MEDICINE AND HEMOTHERAPY. All these contributions are dedicated to Professor Hanfland, honoring his pioneering work in hemotherapy. Ad multos annos!