Publisher's Note

Forty years ago, the field of surgical research in Europe was dispersed amongst nations and fields of specialization, and a common platform to communicate important discoveries did not exist. In 1966, to remedy this situation, the European Society for Experimental Surgery was founded.

The proceedings of the first two conferences of this society were published separately, but in 1969 the Board of the society, together with Karger Publishers, founded a new journal: *European Surgical Research*, which has remained the society's official organ to this day.

The journal focused mainly on experimental surgery and animal models, accepting papers in English, German and French, until the mid 1970ies, when the society began to feel that the problems and progress of surgical research in its entirety were underrepresented. The society therefore changed its name to 'European Society for Surgical Research'. At the same time the journal's scope was expanded to include clinical investigations, the Editorial Board was enlarged to reflect this change and English became the sole language of publication.

Prof. K. Messmer, Munich, has been on the Board of the journal since its founding in 1969, and has taken on more and more responsibilities over the years. After the death of Prof. W. Brendel, Munich, in 1989 – who was also one of the founders and for many years shared the responsibility of Editor-in-Chief with Prof. Messmer – he became the sole Editor-in-Chief. He has held this post for over 15 years, expending many efforts on behalf of the

journal and leading it with untiring dedication towards the new horizons opened up by the progress in his field of specialty and the possibilities of electronic publishing. The journal regularly publishes supplement issues, many of which have been acquired mainly through Prof. Messmer's contacts and efforts. His expertise and reputation have been a mainstay for the journal, enabling it to establish itself in its field.

In 1982 Prof. Messmer organized the first of the Bodensee Symposia. This became the basis for us to extend our collaboration to include a new book series: *Progress in Applied Microcirculation*. So far, seventeen symposia and a number of other volumes have been published.

Prof. Messmer has now decided to step down from his post as Editor-in-Chief, and we would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to him for so many years of service to the journal, and for the pleasant collaboration we have always enjoyed with him, extending beyond business matters into a personal friendship.

We welcome Prof. O. Kempfski, Mainz, as newly appointed Editor-in-Chief of *European Surgical Research* and look forward to many years of fruitful collaboration with him, as we work together to ensure the continued success of our journal.

Thomas Karger
Steven Karger