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Diseases of the kidney and urinary tract, many of which progress to end-stage renal disease (ESRD), generate a staggering financial burden within the health care system. Although the overall 1-year dialysis patient survival probabilities have actually improved from 73% in 1983 to 79% in 1990, the mortality rate in the ESRD patient population remains high, despite improvements in dialysis technology. This continued issue with high mortality cannot be solely attributed to an increase in the prevalence of comorbid conditions which exist in patients as access to dialysis has become nearly

universal. Therefore, there remains a pressing need for adequate basic and clinical research in this area by the Division of Kidney, Urologic and Hematologic Diseases (DKUHD), NIDDK. In order to emphasize this commitment, DKUHD continues to foster an active and increasingly productive cooperation throughout the renal community through its many professional organizations in an interactive overall effort to reduce morbidity and mortality within the ESRD population.

The eleven manuscripts from the 'state-of-the-art' presentations at the February 1993 La Jolla meeting which appear in this issue of *Blood Purification* emphasize the importance of basic and clinical research in an area of overwhelming economic burden. The topics addressed during the February 1993 meeting, which included Cardiovascular Issues

in ESRD (vascular biology, access), Adequacy of Dialysis (erythropoietin, outcome analyses), Nutrition (assessment, glycosylation, lipid abnormalities), Infection (basic T-cell function, cytomegalovirus, hepatitis C and HIV), illustrate the breadth of research required to deal with the fundamental questions in the search for improved treatment and care of the dialysis population.

These manuscripts emphasize the continuous cooperative effort which is needed between the DKUHD and the Renal Physicians Association, American Society of Nephrology, National Kidney Foundation and other active organizations. These and future efforts should enhance the advance of knowledge in this field and ultimately lead to prevention of ESRD or at least to the improvement of morbidity and mortality within this population.