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Volume 1



Editor
EMMANUEL LEVY

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Immunology Hematology
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Editor

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FOREWORD

Although in many countries the national meetings of societies of pathology and clinical pathology embrace many aspects of the medical laboratory, this is not the case usually with international meetings which, because of ever increasing super-specialisation, concentrate on more and more limited aspects. The WASP congresses therefore fulfil a very important and indispensable function in maintaining an overall view of laboratory endeavour. In the XIth Triennial World congress in Jerusalem the objective set for the congress was two-fold: to encompass as fully as possible all aspects of anatomic and clinical pathology in the widest sense, and to give emphasis to the implications of these endeavours for patient care. The motto adopted therefore for the congress was "Laboratory Medicine". The guiding principle was to try and provide everyone working in the medical laboratory a full scientific programme of the widest possible choice.

Due to the combined efforts of the ten Israeli societies in the field of pathology and clinical pathology with the assistance of the American Society of Clinical Pathology, the College of American Pathologists, the German Society for Laboratory Medicine and the European Federation of Societies of Cytology together with individual members of WASP affiliated societies, it was possible to put together a programme which included the following nine major topic fields: microbiology, biochemistry, immunology, haematology, anatomic pathology, cytopathology, forensic pathology and toxicology, laboratory organisation and control, and workshops and slide seminars. There were eight parallel sessions twice a day every day.

The presentations included pure research, clinical research, latest developments in diagnostic methods, practical problems in establishing diagnoses, systems of efficiency and organisation, and implications for patient management. Apart from pathologists and clinical pathologists, clinicians also contributed.

Participants at the congress received a book of abstracts containing the 342 papers presented. Inevitably the proceedings of a congress such as this cannot be expected to contain the full text of every paper presented, and this book of proceedings represents a selection of more than 200.

It has been my pleasure to read all these papers and thus find compensation for having been excluded by my obligations during the congress from sitting in at sessions. It has been very satisfying to note that the free papers are of the same high standard as those of the invited papers. This collection represents a concentration of the latest knowledge in all fields and the numerous references given constitute a most valuable source of up-to-date information.

Because of the obvious need to publish within a reasonable period following the congress the task of editing was a very concentrated one, particularly in view of the large number of manuscripts. The official language of the congress was English, but it was not stated to be the Queen's English. I happen to be a cockney. I decided therefore that my task in editing was to help ensure that the text conveyed clearly the intention of the authors, and no attempt was made to change the style of the English to conform with the stereotyped concise syntax usually demanded by scientific journals. This has the attraction, in my view, that in many of the articles of whose authors the mother tongue is not English, there is the unmistakable and often delightful syntax and nuance of their own language translated.

This gives an unmistakable international flavour to the proceedings which is appropriate, since participants at the congress represented 32 countries outside Israel.

I hope that this book of proceedings will give pleasure and enlightenment to its readers and will serve as a valuable source book for some time to come.

Emmanuel Levy

Editor and Chairman of the
Organising Committee of the
Congress

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