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PROCEEDINGS OF THE
IXth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEPHROLOGY

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Foreword

For many reasons, as President of the International Society of Nephrology, I am happy and honored to write a brief introduction to *Nephrology*, the Proceedings of the IXth International Congress of Nephrology. One of these reasons is specially treasured: I edited the two books published after our first Congress (Geneva-Evian 1960).

The 1984 vintage will certainly be as good as the preceding ones. And, for any nephrologist, whatever his or her field of interest, many observations will be found in the Proceedings that will enhance their personal work. It is characteristic for our Congresses to be the converging point upon which many different orientations join together and form the nephrology that is researched and practiced throughout the world.

What could replace a State-of-the-Art lecture delivered by a selected nephrologist whose work is of the highest quality? At times, even more revealing are those presentations made by non-nephrologists, the basic scientists who bring us fresh data and new concepts far removed from the reader's daily world. But attending such a lecture is never enough. Their texts should be read and reread. Symposia and workshops, as sources of precise and updated knowledge espoused by experts, are often heart-breaking as they shake established dogma. Therefore, they should be neither neglected nor forgotten but scrutinized carefully. The evidence which could eventually lead to new concepts or hypotheses has to be weighed accurately and then either rejected, discarded temporarily, or accepted, even if the latter implies dramatic change. These Proceedings provide the necessary means by which such decisions can be made wisely. *La règle du jeu, ce n'est pas la mode, mais l'imagination contrôlée par la raison*: The rule of the game is not the mode but imagination controlled by reason.

Dig into that heap of genuine facts that awaits you and you might find a nugget that could intellectually enlighten and boost your research program.

What a hope for a miraculous draught of fishes! I wish you good fortune and remember to prepare your best results for presentation at the Xth Congress of Nephrology to be held in London in 1987.

Gabriel Richet
President
International Society of Nephrology
(1981-1984)

Preface

Nephrology represents a unique venture. It is based on the Proceedings of the IXth International Congress of Nephrology held in Los Angeles, California, June 11-16, 1984. However, it differs from the proceedings of almost all previous congresses, international or national.

When policy was established for the Congress two years ago, a commitment was made to achieve a level of scientific excellence that had never before been achieved in an International Congress. The Program Committee worked diligently for 18 months in this pursuit. Simultaneously, steps were taken to assure the transmission of the information to a worldwide audience in written form using the most authoritative and comprehensive presentations.

To accomplish the latter, it was essential that Dr. Roscoe R. Robinson serve as the Editor-in-Chief; for he is the member of our society who has a proven track record of dealing with large numbers of papers, of transforming them (when necessary) into a form consistent with his own high values, of creating the required degree of flow and transition, and finally, of never sacrificing quality for other considerations. The book would be not only contemporary but meritorious, and the substantive points made by the essayists would not be modified.

Dr. Robinson accepted the challenge and immediately appointed a distinguished board of associate editors: Vincent W. Dennis, Thomas F. Ferris, Richard J. Glasscock, Juha P. Kokko, and C. Craig Tisher.

Working as a team, Dr. Robinson and his associate editors subjected submitted manuscripts not only to editorial scrutiny but to peer review by independent referees. Many were returned to the authors for substantive revisions; almost all of the manuscripts were subjected to editorial modification. The resultant synthesis has, I believe, set yet another record for editorial accomplishment by Dr. Robinson, father and editor of *Kidney International* for its first 13 years.

Renal disease is a new and rapidly growing area of medical science and practice. It has, in fact, undergone the transition from a "footnote in some textbooks of urology" to one of the most rapidly advancing and extensive

areas of biomedical science and practice; and all of this has happened within 25 years. This is due, in no small way, to Dr. Robinson's impact on the field in his capacity as Editor of *Kidney International*. He is now about to step aside from that position. It thus seems fitting that he should end that portion of an exciting and innovative career with an award-winning presentation of the state-of-the-nephrologic-art in *Nephrology*. Thank you, Ike.

Neal S. Bricker
President
IXth International Congress of Nephrology
Los Angeles, 1984

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