Opening remarks

EDWARD D. FROHLICH

On behalf of my American colleagues as well as my co-workers in New Orleans at the Ochsner Clinic and the Alton Ochsner Medical Foundation, I would like to welcome the members and guests of the International Society of Hypertension to our Seventh Scientific Meeting. It is propitious that our meeting is held at this time since the month of May is our National Hypertension Month in the United States.

We have been most heartened by the interest and response to this meeting. Over 600 abstracts were submitted for consideration for presentation at this meeting. Would that it had been possible to have all of these abstracts presented. Obviously, this was not possible, and the circumstances of the scientific sessions include the presentation either in lecture or poster format of only 125 of these scientific papers. Papers presented at this meeting will be published as a Supplement to Clinical Science, together with the State of the Art lectures, through the journal editorship of Professor John Swales and the organization of our past president, Dr J. I. S. Robertson.

For your information, over 1000 scientists have registered and are attending this meeting, representing 33 countries. We welcome each and every one of you.

I should like to take this opportunity, at the outset of this meeting, to introduce to you one of the founders of the Society, its first president, and dean of American 'hypertensionologists', Dr Irvine H. Page, who is the Honorary President of this meeting. I see that Dr Page has taken his usual place in the first row. In addition, I should like to present several other outstanding senior leaders in the area of hypertension from around the world who not only have carried out long and faithful work in the hypertension area but who were among the original organizers of this Society. They have made many contributions to the field of hypertension and have introduced a large cadre of investigators worldwide. I should like to present Professors Ernst Wollheim, Jan Brod and Franz Gross from West Germany; Björn Folkow and Lars Wernkö from Sweden; Alberto Taquini from Argentina; and Cesare Bartorelli of Milan, Italy. I regret that Sir George Pickering, Dr Paul Milliez, Dr J. C. Fascioli and Dr Hector Croxatto were not able to join us this year.

I also want to acknowledge the effort and work by the members of our Local Organizing Committee and the Scientific Programme Committee, who have done so much to help in the organization of this meeting. I shan't take time to detail each name but they are presented in the programme as well as the book of abstracts. I do, however, express my deepest appreciation to Helen Dunn, Elizabeth Murray and Susan Pildner for their unfailing help in organizing, promoting and making these sessions possible and to Marina Enrico for arriving early and helping with our final arrangements.