Editorial: Marseille Nephrology Joint Meeting 1994

Nephrology, like other medical disciplines, is the subject of many local, national and international scientific gatherings. Learned societies of all levels organize congresses every year, or every 2 or 3 years. Is there a place for a Mediterranean Nephrology Society? Although it has not veritable status, this society has existed de facto for more than 10 years thanks to Professors Traeger and Vercellone. Lyon, Barcelona and Turin successively brought together three countries: Spain, Italy and France.

The Société de Néphrologie under the Presidency of Professor C. van Ypersele and then Professor D. Cordonnier entrusted us with organizing the fourth congress in Marseille. Enthusiastic over the idea of continuing these gatherings, we were proud to welcome Portugal as a new member.

Four major topics were chosen by the Scientific Committee, which was of great help and which included as enthusiastic chairpersons J. P. Amorin, J. Cannata, R. Maiorca, R. Rossi, F. Valderrabano and D. Cordonnier. First, the new data on the mechanisms of action and the use of recombinant erythropoietin. Second, the need to control high blood pressure so as to slow the development of renal insufficiency and cardiocirculatory complications, by specifying in particular the role of calcium antagonists and ACE inhibitors.

As concerns severe renal insufficiency, it is recognized world-wide that the patients are increasingly old. For the nephrologist confronted with this fact, it is important to reflect on the best treatment and to discuss the indications and contraindications for dialysis. These topics were debated in depth by the speakers and the participants.

Transplantation and hepatitis C were then considered: the problem of hepatitis C, its incidence, possible modes of contamination and prevention. What are its links to certain glomerulopathies? Finally, when faced with a hepatitis, how should it be diagnosed and treated, and is it an obstacle to renal transplantation? This led to the question of organ donors, since Mediterraneans are seen by some as reluctant—falsely so.

The quality of the presentations given—whether as reviews by internationally recognized experts, open communications, or posters retained by the Selection Committee recruited among the four countries—evidenced that the scientific competence of those working in these countries is of the highest level. Three hundred participants followed the 2-day congress with the greatest of interest.

Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation, and more particularly A. M. Davison and E. Ritz, convinced of the great value of the studies presented at the congress, have accepted publication of them in this special issue. We are grateful to them, as well as to the majority of authors who sent their papers rapidly and whose work was so highly appreciated.

To conclude, we hope that Marseille and 1994 represent only a further stage in the life of such Mediterranean meetings, with the next project of organizing with the same committee a meeting in 1997 in Portugal.

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