

## Introduction

**Jack W. Milder**

*Research Administrator, American Cancer Society, Inc., 219 East 42nd Street, New York, New York 10017*

In the early 1960's, the Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society appointed a committee to formulate a series of conferences covering the leukemias and lymphomas. The second series of meetings was devoted to the topic of Hodgkin's disease. A group of approximately 42 individuals met in the Fall of 1965 at Rye, N. Y., and addressed themselves to the subject "Obstacles to the Control of Hodgkin's Disease."

A broad and comprehensive coverage of the subject at hand was accomplished in an intensive 2½-day symposium. From this meeting emerged two committees. One committee devoted itself to the question of staging in Hodgkin's disease and the other tackled the problem of nomenclature that would be most appropriate for the histological expressions of Hodgkin's disease. It was hoped that the recommendations from these committees would be adopted on an international basis. The Rye classification was widely accepted, and it provided a framework for the reporting of this disease in a uniform manner.

In the past 5 years additional information has been generated to indicate the need for modification of the Rye Staging Classification. So that this could be accomplished, a recommendation was made that a conference with a limited number of participants be held. A Program Planning Committee was formed and, through the thoughtful and considerable efforts of Dr. Paul P. Carbone, Chairman, Dr. Henry Rappaport, and Dr. Saul A. Rosenberg, such a meeting

took place in April 1971, entitled "Staging in Hodgkin's Disease."

The purpose of the meeting was to present data on new approaches to staging, criteria for diagnosis in certain anatomic areas, and the implications of clinical stage for a therapeutic strategy. During the course of the conference an innovative step was taken in that the participants were assigned to one of three committees—these being the committees on Staging Procedures, Staging Classification, and Histopathologic Criteria Contributing to Staging. These Committees met separately in the afternoon of the second day of the symposium and verbal reports from each were presented during the final session. The final written reports appear as part of the Proceedings.

The following pages contain the formal presentations and summaries of the informal presentations and informal discussions which occurred during the symposium. Because of space limitations, it was impossible to invite everyone actively working in the field. Therefore, a representative group was chosen to participate.

Funds to support this conference were made available through a grant from the American Cancer Society, a cost-sharing contract from the National Cancer Institute, and a special contribution from the Whiting Foundation of Flint, Mich. On behalf of the American Cancer Society, may I express our sincere thanks and gratitude not only to those who planned this meeting but also to all the individuals who participated to make this conference a success.