

## *From the editors*

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### News and comments

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THE JULY ISSUE OF THE JOURNAL IS HEADED BY AN exciting array of editorials supplemented by two important contributions in our series of articles concerned with health policy. The lead editorial is the thoughtful reflections of Julien Hoffman which formed the basis of his presidential address to the first *World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Pediatric Cardiac Surgery* held just over twelve months ago in Paris. The wide and long experience of this internationally recognized authority is encapsulated in this work, with equally important prognostications for the future of our specialties. These prognostications are then matched by two equally thoughtful editorials submitted to the Journal and undergoing the usual process of peer review—one concerned with the evidence that atherosclerosis begins in childhood and the other offering an hypothesis concerning the etiology of digital clubbing. We encourage all our readers who are nurturing hypotheses and concepts to submit them for consideration for publication. In this issue, we begin to explore the problems involving adequate provision of care in various countries, with a thoughtful review by Stewart Hunter reflecting on the situation in the United Kingdom, and a discussion from Fause Attie and Manuel Cardenas, who highlight the current arrangements in México.

Another considerable matter of concern relative to the future of cardiology in the young is the provision of services in pathology, particularly histopathological back-up. It is a truism that clinicians are most likely to diagnose those lesions of which they are aware, and it is universally accepted that a thorough knowledge of intracardiac anatomy is a prerequisite for the cardiac surgeon. Teaching in all these areas is provided by the pathomorphologist. Increasingly, however, the experts in this crucial field are drawn from the ranks of cardiologists and anatomists rather than "pure" pathologists. This trend disturbs all those who have visions for the future. Steps are now being taken to rekindle interest in the field, hopefully among those who count pathology as their major specialty. An important seminar will be held in Minneapolis over the period of July 12 through 22, 1994. Organized by the *Council on Pediatric Cardiology* of the *International Society and Federation of Cardiology*, together with the *Councils on Cardiovascular*

*Surgery and Cardiovascular Disease in the Young* of the *American Heart Association*, this meeting will bring together most of the acknowledged experts in the morphology and diagnosis of congenital cardiac malformations and offer them the opportunity to discuss their contributions with a selected group of young clinicians either nearing or at the end of their training. It is the intent of the International Society to sponsor this seminar every other year. It is suggested that the seminar in 1996 will occur in Europe and the one following in the Asian-Pacific area. This initiative is now matched by a similar one originating from Europe. In the *World Forum* section of the Journal, Anton Becker announces the formation of the *European School of Cardiovascular Pathology*. As he emphasizes, all with any interest in this area are encouraged to register for this School. There is no fee. It is hoped that both these important initiatives will maintain and increase interest in the field of structure of congenital cardiac malformations.

There is one additional item of particular significance published in association with this issue—namely, the abstracts of the meeting held in Edinburgh in May of the *Association of European Paediatric Cardiologists*. We are also pleased to announce that, in one of our forthcoming issues, we will publish the text of the Mannheim lecture to be given by Jean Kachaner at this meeting. Although we take pride in our independence, it will have been noted in previous issues that, whenever possible, we are prepared to publish abstracts, either within our pages or as a supplement to a given issue. The publication of the Abstract book from the Paris World Congress was, from our stance, a particular landmark. We hope that the similar publication of the proceedings of the European Association will be the start of a long collaboration. Any national Society or Association wishing to have its proceedings recorded within our pages should make contact with one of us.

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