

From the editors

News and comments

Robert H. Anderson, Fernando Lucchese and Hiromi Kurosawa

MUCH HAS HAPPENED SINCE WE LAST COMMUNICATED via the Editorial Chair, and we will give an account of changes among ourselves shortly. The major happening recorded in this issue, nonetheless, is a very sad and unfortunate one—namely the untimely death of Tomas Pexieder. We publish in the issue an appreciation of Tomas by his great friend and collaborator, Ed Clark, and a review of his many achievements coupled with his formidable bibliography. It would be inappropriate, however, if we did not add our own thoughts on this tragic event. Those concerned with studies on development of the normal and malformed heart are sufficiently few in number for the loss of anyone to be a disaster. To lose Tomas Pexieder at the peak of his considerable career is the worst blow that could strike this burgeoning field. Tomas was particularly well known to one of us as a friend, collaborator and critic. It was in the latter role that he was particularly important. He was the true scientist in that it was possible to disagree fundamentally on scientific points and principles without affecting in the least interpersonal relationships. His integrity was complete. As Ed Clark points out, he did not believe in republishing material which had appeared in books, often to his own detriment, but that was the mark of the man. When we think of him, we are reminded of the Shakespearean epigram, “This, above all, to thine own self be true.” It is a fitting epitaph.

Tumultuous happenings have occurred among our own editorial team as some of you may have already noted in the January issue. Giancarlo Crupi informed us late last year that he was closing the editorial office in Bergamo at the end of 1995. We wish him and his colleagues in Bergamo our very best. The decision of the Bergamo team to withdraw coincided with our efforts to increase our exposure in the Far East and to stabilize our position in the Americas and Europe. Thus, editorial activities in Europe will now be shifted exclusively to the London office, where they will be ably coordinated by Felicity Gil.

The most exciting developments are in the Far East. Hiromi Kurosawa has agreed to head a newly expanded editorial team based at Jikei University in Tokyo. It is our aim to increase both our circulation and our role as information facilitators throughout the Far East, and the responsibility for these activities will lie with Hiromi. He will be ably assisted and supported in these activities by Edgardo Ortiz of Manila. Together, Hiromi and Edgardo coordinated the outstanding scientific and educational symposiums held late in the Fall of 1995 in Tokyo and Manila. Scientific discussions of the highest quality were held in Tokyo, attended by an enthusiastic audience. A selected faculty then continued on to Manila, where a postgraduate teaching symposium of the highest caliber was well attended by delegates from most of the Far Eastern countries, despite the activities of super-typhoon Rosing (or Angela). Encouraged by the enthusiastic response of the delegates, coupled with the success of the earlier symposiums organized in Hong Kong and Osaka, *Cardiology in the Young* has asked Edgardo Ortiz to take responsibility for arranging future teaching and scientific meetings so as to provide postgraduate education in the long periods between the World Congresses—the next World Congress being scheduled in May 1997 in Hawaii. Edgardo has agreed to take on these responsibilities, and will work together with us to ensure the continued excellence of *Cardiology in the Young*.

As we were going to press, we learned of Fernando Lucchese's intention to open an editorial office for *Cardiology in the Young* in Brazil to coordinate the burgeoning activities of our colleagues throughout South America. We are delighted to report this development and look forward to bringing you further details in the July issue.

*National Heart & Lung Institute
London, United Kingdom*

*Hospital São Francisco de Cardiologia e Transplantes
Porto Alegre, Brazil*

*Jikei University
Tokyo, Japan*

Accepted for publication 29 February 1996