

From the Editor

Since 1937, the *Annual Report* has provided the greatest possible comparability between therapeutic statistics in cancers of the female genital tract, in order to secure reliable evaluation of the different methods of treatment. The unique feature of such a *Report* is the collection of data from many different countries in all continents, where we know from epidemiology that cancer incidence, prevalence, treatments and survivals may be strikingly different. Such a diversity – properly collected and analyzed – gives a thorough picture world-wide regarding each cancer site of the female reproductive system. Thanks to the contributing centers, the Editorial Office has been able to provide data that have been widely used and quoted everywhere. This requires that all factors that can negatively affect such comparability are possibly eliminated, by applying uniform rules for the recording of data and common definitions of treatment modalities. Since Volume 23, data have been electronically collected, thanks to the excellent work of Dr. Peter Boyle and Eng. Patrick Maisonneuve of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics of the European Institute of Oncology, and of all contributing centers, that have been stimulated to improve the quality of their data, using common definitions of treatments made available by the Editorial Board. We know how difficult it is to collect data and organize a satisfactory follow-up of patients in all countries, due to rising costs and lack of proper funding. Therefore, we are even more grateful to all contributors for their effort and outstanding performance and we are proud to announce the remarkable increase in number of the Contributing Centers (+46%), with an increase in the total number of patients. This modality of data collection, thanks to an enhancement in the homogeneity of the data, has allowed an improved statistical analysis and, finally, much more reliable results. As has recently been the case, I hope that this volume becomes a source of further investigation and the Editorial Office not only the place for data collection and management, but a place for scientific research on the collected data, open to all interested contributors and investigators.

Looking at the data, it is unfortunate to see that no major improvements are reported in the survival analyses of all tumor sites. It is perhaps the first time that we have to make such a comment in the long history of the Report. This should move us to consider the possible causes of such a stop in outcomes as well as to think about other areas we should be focusing on. No doubt we are not doing all we can in the field of prevention, if we consider that a preventable disease such as cervix

cancer reports over 25,000 new cases in the economically and socially developed European Union. Moreover, too little attention is paid to the quality of life of our cancer patients. If better treatments are still to come in order to ensure longer survivals, we have no excuse not to provide decent quality to the life of the survivors. For these and other reasons, three papers are presented to the attention of the readers of Volume 25, following the usual chapters dealing with each tumor sites. Peter Boyle, Maria Elena Leon, Patrick Maisonneuve and Philippe Autier present an updated picture of the epidemiology of female cancers; Elise Kohn, Gordon B Mills and Lance Liotta lead us into the new and fascinating world of proteomics for the purpose of cancer prevention; and Lari Wenzel, Ignace Vergote and David Cella focus our attention on the oft-underestimated value of quality of life.

In this volume, the new classification of gestational trophoblastic neoplasia is presented. Professor Hextan Ngan has made some comments about it; I just want to underline the importance of it, which represents the result of long and animated discussions among all experts in the field. Special gratitude goes to Professor Ernest Kohorn, whose invaluable work, perseverance and determination have greatly contributed to the achievement of the goal. Last year we lost two outstanding contributors and supporters of the Report, Nina Einhorn from Stockholm and Fredrick (Rick) Montz from Baltimore. The Editorial Board and Office want to remember these good and loyal friends who gave so much to the cause of the gynecologic cancer patients.

I want to thank the members of the Editorial Board, Hextan Ngan (Chairman of the FIGO Committee on Gynecologic Oncology), Uziel Beller, J. Louis Benedet, William T. Creasman, and Peter Heintz for their generous input of knowledge, science, time, and enthusiasm in order to reach the goals of this publication, and the FIGO Committee on Gynecologic Oncology for its support and precious advice. Also, I wish to thank Drs. S Dexeus, S Fujii, D Luesely, J Monaghan and E Trimble, members of our Advisory Board, for their great expertise and collaboration in peer-reviewing the whole manuscript of Volume 25. A particular word of gratitude goes to my Editorial Office in Milan: Peter Boyle, Director of the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, where our office is located, for his continuous advice and valuable contribution and support, Patrick Maisonneuve, responsible for the data base and the analysis; Franco Odicino, gynaecological oncologist and Assistant Editor, and Lucia Zigliani, Administrative

Assistant. In particular, I want to acknowledge the incredible and outstanding work of Lucia Zigliani, who runs the Editorial Office, and of Patrick Maisonneuve and Franco Odicino, who supervised all data. A special tribute goes to the European Institute of Oncology and its President, Francesco Cingano, who has recently passed away. He was a strong, generous and enthusiastic supporter of our Report, both through the Institute and the Foundation. The FIGO Committee on Gynecologic Oncology, the Editorial Board and the Editorial Office are proud to dedicate this Volume to this exceptional person and friend. I am grateful to Marco Bono, past CEO of the European Institute of Oncology in Milan, Carlo Ciani, present CEO, and Giuseppe Della Porta for their unrestricted support and for hosting the Office of the FIGO Annual Report.

A special thank you goes to Professor Umberto Veronesi, Scientific Director, who has always encouraged our work and shared our goals.

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to all those whose contribution has made this volume possible; in particular I want to thank the European Institute of Oncology Foundation and Ortho Biotech Janssen Cilag for their outstanding generous support.

Finally, a special appreciation goes to the International Journal of Gynecology and Obstetrics, its Editor-in-Chief Jack Sciarra and Christine Tanguy of Elsevier for their co-operation and generous help.

Sergio Pecorelli
Editor

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