

From the Editor

News and comments

Robert H. Anderson

THE FIRST THING TO SAY IN THIS ISSUE IS THAT ALL of you will have noted the late arrival of our April issue. We hope that when it arrived the lateness will have been mitigated by the quality of its content, since we believe this to be one of our best single issues to date. It was our determination to preserve our quality not only of content but also of presentation which resulted in the unavoidable delay. When the final color proof was submitted for our approval prior to mailing, we were dissatisfied with the appearance. Although aware of the fact that reprinting the entire journal would produce a delay, we considered it more important to preserve the quality. This was the first time we had encountered this problem in the six years of publication. In our opinion, the end result more than justified this decision, but we apologize to all of you for the delay you experienced in receiving your copies. We sincerely hope this will not be repeated.

In this issue we are pleased to publish abstracts from the *XXXI Annual Meeting of the Association of European Paediatric Cardiologists* which was held in Göteborg this past May as well as selected abstracts from the *Annual Meeting of The British Paediatric Cardiology Association* which was held in Bristol last November. We are also delighted to publish a superb review article by Richard Mainwaring and his colleagues in San Diego regarding management of the patient with a functionally single ventricle. We confess that Dr. Mainwaring challenged us regarding nomenclature, but we worked out our differences successfully and quite amicably.

The topic of functionally single ventricle is especially appropriate in that a special announcement follows on the next page regarding the first competitive Research Award from Herzkind e.V., a non-profit organization active in Germany.

As most of you are now aware, all editorial responsibility has now been transferred to our London office, although Hiromi Kurosawa and Fernando Lucchese are coordinating activities in the Far East and South America, respectively. All manuscripts for submission, nonetheless, and all correspondence, should be sent at present to

our London office at the National Heart & Lung Institute, where Felicity Gil has everything under control. Any of you who might have inquiries concerning the progress of manuscripts, or concerns with transfer of manuscripts during the transitional period, can contact us by telephone (44-171-351-8751) or by facsimile (44-171-351-8230). We will respond to all inquiries as expeditiously as possible.

We are also trying to publish your work as swiftly as we can, in keeping with our mission statement. We have a problem in this respect, nonetheless, in that you have sent us very many manuscripts containing material which is well worth publishing. This is particularly so with case reports, those submitted usually being unique. Since another of our missions is to promote publication of worthwhile material, rather than censoring it, this presents us with a major problem. We simply have more manuscripts which deserve publication than we have pages on which to print them. We have two options in dealing with this situation. The first is to reject more manuscripts on a priority basis, even though our referees tell us they are worthy of publication. The second is to strive to publish more issues of the Journal in each year, and hence publish more work more swiftly. It is the second option which is our preferred choice, but publication of more pages needs greater resources. In the meantime, as we seek ways and means of providing this necessary support, we request the patience of those of you who have "papers in the pipeline." An apparent silence in editorial communications does not mean we have lost, or forgotten, your paper! We would point out, however, that we have a particularly long list of case reports awaiting publication. Those of you who continue to discover and submit unique cases, therefore, must anticipate some delay before we will be able to publish them. As always, we try to prioritize full studies describing interesting material, while not ignoring editorials on topics of particular importance. Please feel free to consult the section, *Instructions to Authors*, for guidance on specific issues regarding the submission of manuscripts to avoid any further delay.

It is particularly encouraging to read that our colleague and friend, Lucio Parenzan, is meeting with

continued success in the activities of the important *Kirklin-Parenzan International Heart School*. We have just received details of the activities of the School during 1995. Extensive teaching was provided for 21 students from Italy and from nine developing countries. The list of those providing tuition is most impressive. The next issue of *Cardiology in the Young* will provide additional information as to the activities of the School. Professor Parenzan deserves the support of all of us as he continues to promote this learning experience. We wish him well.

Finally, a number of upcoming meetings are worthy of special comment. Unfortunately space limitations prevent us from sharing more extensive information, but please contact the relevant individuals or contact the editorial office here in London if you need an address or telephone or facsimile number. Lucio Parenzan has asked us to announce that the *International Heart School* will sponsor an *International Workshop on Left Ventricle Retraining* to be held in Massa during 1-2 November 1996 with an impressive international faculty. Please contact Dr. Parenzan for addi-

tional information (Tel. 39-35-310018). The National Heart & Lung Institute will host a one-day symposium in London on 12 September 1996, *Echocardiography of Congenital Heart Disease Made Simple*, supported by videodemonstrations and real-time echocardiographic sequences. Harald Kaemmerer has brought to our attention a meeting in Hannover during 14-15 September 1996—*Adult Congenital Heart Disease: Hemodynamics—Diagnostic and Therapeutic Cardiac Catheterization*. A superb international faculty has been recruited for this symposium. Professor Yasuharu Imai reports plans for the *The Second World Congress of Pediatric Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery* are well advanced for the meeting scheduled for 11-15 May 1997 in Honolulu. The British Heart Foundation is sponsoring a symposium entitled *The Right Ventricle in Congenital Heart Disease* for 25-27 September 1997 in London. We will have more information regarding this meeting in the next issue of *Cardiology in the Young*.

*National Heart & Lung Institute
London, United Kingdom*

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In 1996 the parents and patients association, HERZAND e.V., is for the first time awarding two prizes at a maximum of DM50,000 each for the support of scientific research in the field of the univentricular heart, especially hypoplastic left heart syndrome. The award may be given to one institution individually or split among a number of different institutions which intend to follow a scientific project in the field of pure research, clinical diagnostic, cardiological or surgical intervention or long-term care and prognosis. The award should basically cover the costs for personnel and equipment but definitely not the purchase of instruments and machines. Applications including detailed presentation of scientific intention as well as the procedure concerning timing and financing must be received by 31 August 1996 at the latest. An independent scientific committee will decide the award of the prize.

HERZAND e.V.
Husarenstraße 70
38102 Braunschweig
Germany
