

## Cardiovascular Pathology in the year 2000: a series of reviews in honour of Professor Neville Woolf

The International Journal of Experimental Pathology has published many review articles over the past few years, including an overview of Transgenic Technology, and most recently series on topical issues such as 'Stem Cells' (which appeared in Vols. 78 & 79; 1997-8), on hepatology (Vol 79; 1998) and on tumour vasculature (Vol. 79; 1998).

However, the series of reviews that is launched in this issue, while targeting another current area of progress, also has a second and different remit.

The background to the series is that it marks the fact that for more than 25 years Professor Neville Woolf has served as Secretary to the Council of the Journal and has helped to guide it through the vicissitudes of changes in editor, in publisher and in publishing climate. In parallel with this, over the same period there have been many spectacular advances in the research field of cardiovascular pathology, to which he has made significant contributions. To recognise this long association, and also Neville's forthcoming 70th birthday in the year 2000, several of his colleagues and friends have agreed to contribute to a review series on different aspects of cardiovascular pathology.

The first two of these articles appear in this issue, and the remainder will be appearing in successive issues over the coming year.

These first two reviews are particularly appropriate for the launch of such a series. By a happy coincidence the joint winner of the Journal-sponsored award for the best oral presentation at the January Pathological Society meeting in 1999, Dr Boyle, works in an area of the molecular pathology of cardiovascular disease, where there have been remarkable recent developments. Thus his review is not only timely, but also is an outstanding example of how the young experimental pathologist, working with the molecular techniques of the year 2000, is studying in depth some of the questions about the atheromatous plaque that Neville started to explore when he first came to the St George's Hospital from the University of Cape Town in the 1950s. The second review is from a senior colleague at UCL Medical School, Prof. Latchman, who is one of the leading researchers carrying on the tradition of cardiovascular

molecular pathology studies at that Medical School, which Neville has encouraged since he moved to the Middlesex in the 1970s.

The full list of contributors to the series is:

- Dr J. Boyle: Smooth muscle cells in atherosclerosis;
- Prof. M. J. Davies: The role of thrombus in atherosclerosis;
- Prof. G. A. Ferns: The mechanisms of coronary restenosis: insights from experimental models;
- Dr A. Henney (together with colleagues): Genetic diversity in the matrix metalloproteinase family: effects on function and disease progression;
- Prof. T. Kishimoto (together with colleagues): Cytokines and their receptors in cardiovascular diseases;
- Prof. D. S. Latchman: The role of cardiotrophin-1 in cardiac pathology;
- Dr E. W. Raines: The extracellular matrix can regulate vascular cell migration, proliferation and survival: relationships to vascular disease;
- Dr F. McTaggart: Pharmacology and pleiotropic action of statins;
- Prof. R. M. Pittilo: Cigarette smoking, endothelial injury and cardiovascular disease;
- Prof. P. Vallance: The role of endothelial nitric oxide synthesis in humans in health and disease.

Unfortunately there is one name that is missing from this list. During the weeks before his untimely death, the Editors were in communication with the late Prof. Russell Ross about the series. Prof. Ross' remarkable contributions to this field have been widely acknowledged and, as a close friend of Neville's, sharing interests in music as well as in heart disease, he was the obvious person with whom the proposed articles had been discussed. Russell was planning to write a review which would have been the first article in the Journal for the year 2000, and the Editors are very grateful to Dr Raines, as, despite her increased load since Russell's death, she has agreed to contribute. This will help to make the series reflect the multidisciplinary approach to cardiovascular pathology which both these biomedical scientists did much to foster.