

## CELESTIAL CHAPTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF LYMPHOLOGY: PASSING OF PIONEERS

During a special reunion at the 19th International Congress of Lymphology, August 31, 2003, in Freiburg, Germany many ISL Pioneers came together after a long hiatus, at Congress President Ethel Földi's invitation to celebrate nearly 40 years of "progress in lymphology." Since the formal inauguration of our discipline by Alois Ruttimann in Davos, Switzerland, the founding of the International Society of Lymphology, the beginning of the journal *Lymphology*, and 19 international congresses have taken place. With new members joining in record numbers, congress attendance far surpassing expectations, and *Lymphology* submissions at an all-time high, recent advances in molecular and clinical lymphology are infusing unparalleled excitement into our field and providing promising new approaches to understanding and treating the multi-faceted disorders of lymphatics, lymph, lymphocytes and lymph nodes. The ISL's "systems" approach to lymphatic biology — originally conceiving the system as far more than "lymph nodes held together by strings" — now asserts that it is far more than a set of genes and proteins regulating lymphatic growth. The focus is on placing the lymphatic system "in context" within the body, educating professionals, and improving patient care, which remain at the core of our Society's mission.

It is therefore with bittersweet sadness that we pause to remember and further, to celebrate the lives and contributions of the ISL's pioneers who have passed from us during the past year or two and particularly within recent months. These diverse men and women contributed mightily to the ISL's

strength, global perspective, and forward direction while personally exuding ineffable charm and camaraderie overflowing national borders, overpowering political differences, and breaching oceanic chasms.

It is our expectation that this cadre of distinguished departed lymphologists, joining others who left before them, will continue to inspire and lead us in the future challenges that lie ahead as we bridge the gap in translating advances full circle from bench to bedside to community. They will probably even be saying more than once, "I told you so!" Accordingly, it is time for a Celestial Chapter of the ISL to take shape and begin its work — we remember, envision and celebrate this immortal brotherhood-sisterhood of physicians, surgeons, other health professionals, basic scientists, and researchers contemplating ultrastructure and molecular biology, swollen legs and viscera, and afflicted communities; restoring function, reestablishing continuity, and reducing swelling; writing, teaching, journal editing, and reviewing; congress organizing and proceedings coordinating; debaters and conciliators; booming and soft voices speaking many languages; formal and casual, bawdy storytellers and shy reflective listeners; mentors all united by their undying passion for lymph, lymphatics, lymphocytes, and lymph nodes, undaunted during their worldly existence as they worked almost alone in a field that they recognized was both dawning and dismissed, an orphan and a stepchild with boundless potential. Together again now, they have much to do and discuss, neither muted nor forgotten by passing from the mortal world of Lymphology.

Cheers to the Celestial Chapter of the ISL! We will keep our readers posted periodically on how these pioneers have shaped the past, contributed to the present ferment, and are poised to touch the undiscovered future of Lymphology. Sic transit gloria!

**Marlys H. Witte, M.D.**  
**Secretary-General, ISL**

Passings

(Tributes will continue in future issues)

- Joseph Beninson, MD, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, Michigan USA — 2001
- Sabine Godart, MD, Chirurgie Infantile, Hopital d'Ixelles, Brussels, Belgium – 2001
- Arthur C. Guyton, MD, former Chairman, Department of Physiology and Biophysics, University of Mississippi, Oxford, Mississippi USA – 2003
- JA Jiménez-Cossio, MD, Head of Angiology and Vascular Surgery Department and Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Hospital La Paz, Madrid, Spain – 5/3/03
- Sumiko Magari, MD, PhD – Department of Pathology, Kansai Medical University, Kyoto, Japan – 10/12/02
- Professor Carla Marchetti, Department of Experimental Medicine, Section of Histology and General Embryology, Università di Pavia, Pavia, Italy – 1/15/02
- Patricia Jean O'Morchoe, MD, Professor and Head of Pathology and Professor of Cell and Structural Biology, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Urbana-Champaign, Illinois USA - 7/5/03
- Marceau Servelle, MD, general and vascular including lymphatic surgeon, Cardiovascular Service, Clinique Ambroise Pare, Nuelly sur Sein, Paris, France – 10/02
- Bengt Tjernberg, MD, Department of Anatomy; University of Uppsala, Sweden and Department of Gynecology, Radiumhemmet, Karolinska Sjukhuset, Stockholm, Sweden – 8/27/02
- Charles L. Witte, MD, Professor of Surgery and Editor-in-Chief, Lymphology, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Tucson, Arizona USA – 3/7/03