

## EDITORIAL

### REFLECTIONS ON THE ISL



The rise and development of a new society is governed by certain general rules. In the initial phase, knowledge concerned with a specific field of research begins to accumulate. It may be a field within an existing discipline or one touching on research scattered through many disciplines. Nonetheless, a new discipline is emerging and taking shape. Later on, its experts seek an opportunity to exchange views and information not only in the form of communications and monographs, but also through direct personal contact. At first, these contacts are purely informal, but eventually the time comes when formal and regular contacts are needed. A new society is born, which spawns a journal and holds regular congresses.

It was this very pattern that led to the formation of the International Society of

Lymphology (ISL). Fortunately, the first President of the ISL, Prof. Dr. Rüttiman—although himself a radiologist—readily grasped the specificity of lymphology as an important interdisciplinary field. As a result, members of the Society entered the world of the lymphatic system through many different doors and represented numerous professions: physiologists, pathologists, immunologists, internists, surgeons, orthopedists, transplantation biologists, radiologists, anatomists, to name but a few.

As for myself, I have the fondest memories working on the lymphatic system and contributing to the ISL, and consider those times as some of the happiest periods of my life. I was always fascinated when a new idea brought together a group of enthusiasts singularly dedicated to a common goal. The ISL succeeded in creating such a stimulating atmosphere, and other Czechoslovak lymphologists were unable to resist temptation to join and participate: Prof. A. Belan, Dr. Vl. Bartos, Dr. J. Kolc, Dr. J. Vosmik, Dr. Vl. Vojtíš'ek. I greatly appreciate the fact that Czechoslovak specialists were honored with the opportunity to explore the biologic issues germane to lymphology and contribute to its position among the other branches of medicine. I think my views expressed some time ago are still valid, and that is why I repeat them now.

1. Lymphology is predominantly a discipline of basic research.
2. Clinical lymphology including pathophysiologic aspects traverses many medical disciplines.

3. Lymphological research brings together specialists in many different medical disciplines.
4. Lymphology contributes to a more profound understanding of etiology, pathogenesis, and treatment of disease.
5. Lymphology's influence on different medical disciplines is uneven and diverse.
6. Greater application of lymphologic aspects to clinical pharmacology is needed.

Let me make an additional observation by way of conclusion. At one of the earlier Congresses Hymen Mayerson of New Orleans made "lymphomania" and "lymphomaniacs" a "nom de guerre". At first thought somewhat

derogatory, these terms became expressions of enthusiasm and a rallying cry common to all lymphologists. In my opinion, this attitude should not be underestimated nor forgotten because without enthusiasm, nothing can ever come into existence and nothing can continue and develop. In this light, I wish the next generation of scientists join the ranks of lymphomaniacs.

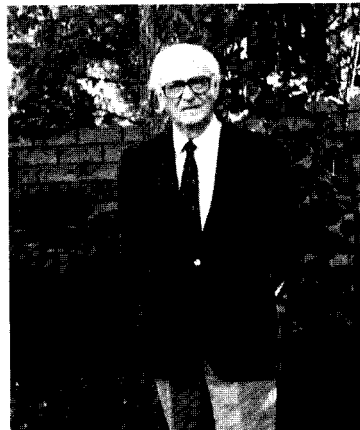
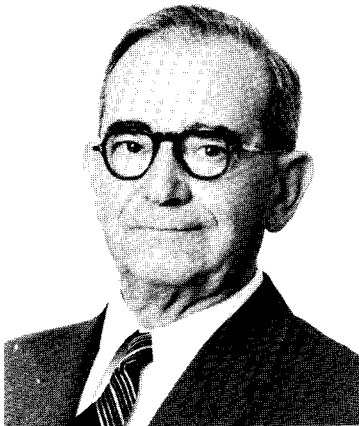
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## AND MORE

The past 20 years have witnessed substantial advances in Lymphology. While there has been a continuation of experimental work on animals, the most striking changes have been in the growth of clinical lymphology. This is an area in which one can safely predict steady expansion over the next two decades. In addition to problems of normal and abnormal lymph flow, one can also foresee increasing interest in the origin, identity, and

destination of the cells present in lymph and in the cellular migration streams which link together the different parts of the lymphomyeloid complex. These are bound to arouse increasing interest as we learn more and more about them. All in all, there appears to be exciting times ahead for lymphologists.

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*Fig. 1. Left: Professor Joseph M. Yoffey. Right: F. Colin Courtice. Because Dr. Courtice's photograph was not available when his "Reflections" appeared in the March 1987 Lymphology (Vol 20., p. 2), and because of his close association over many years with J. Yoffey (see Lymphatics, Lymph, and the Lymphomyeloid Complex, Academic Press, 1970), these "giants" of lymphology are illustratively reunited here.*