

## 1000 Liver Transplants at Cliniques Saint-Luc, An Update Symposium (Brussels, 30/10/98) — Introduction

J.B. Otte

Cliniques Saint-Luc, Université Catholique de Louvain, 1200 Bruxelles.

This special issue of *Acta Gastroenterologica Belgica* brings together the papers presented during the "1000 liver transplants at Cliniques Saint-Luc. An update symposium". We are deeply grateful to all contributors for their willingness to write manuscripts despite their heavy workload and to Jan Lerut for his editing work as well as to J. Henrion, Editor-in-Chief of *Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica*, for having agreed to publish this special issue.

This special issue is providing readers with an update of most important aspects of liver transplantation which confirms the rightfulness of the decision made at the NIH Consensus Development Conference (1983) that liver transplantation had become a service.

The success of our own transplantation program is epitomized by the return to a life of quality of 650 of long term pediatric and adult survivors. Currently, our longest adult survivor received a transplant on 2.04.1984 for subacute liver failure and since returned to her full time work in computer sciences. Our oldest transplant patient, 71 years old at time of transplantation on April 14, 1991 is enjoying every day life. Our first low age infant, 16 months old at time of transplant on August 27, 1984, is currently the longest worldwide survivor with her original cutdown liver while our longest survivors after split liver transplantation are a child transplanted on November 23, 1988 and a lady transplanted on November 27, 1990. Our youngest infant who was 3 months old at transplant on June 2, 1991 for fulminant liver failure also became longterm survivor.

I dedicate this issue to the donors and their bereaved families, as well as to our multidisciplinary medical and nursing staffs for their expertise and their dedication to our common patients.

Beside the highly valuable and seminal role he played in my early initiation to the field of organ transplantation, I learnt two important lessons from Professor Thomas E. Starzl: to very critically review our own experience and to share our acquired knowledge and expertise with the transplant community through papers submitted to peer review and contribution to the training of younger colleagues from various horizons, countries, cultures and languages. This issue gives me the unique opportunity to salute and thank the colleagues who joined our group over the years and helped to push back the limits of an ever evolving and still

*unfinished product* (1). After returning to their home country, most of them remained active in the field of liver transplantation: Albert Jens-Uwe, surgeon, Leipzig – Germany, 1994; Alberti Daniele, pediatric surgeon, Brescia – Italy, 1988-1989; Ambrosio Angelo, surgeon, Foggia – Italy, 1994-1995; Aronson Daniel, pediatric surgeon, Amsterdam – The Netherlands, 1992-1993; Auvray Sylvain, surgeon, Caen – France, 1988-1989; Bail Jean-Pierre, surgeon, Brest – France, 1992-1993; Balducci Genevière, Rome – Italy, 1989-1990; Ballardur Pierre, surgeon, Paris – France, 1989-1990; Baquedano Paulina, pediatric surgeon, Santiago – Chili, 1990-1991; Bar Nathan, surgeon, Tel Aviv – Israel, 1995; Baranski Andrej, surgeon, Gdansk – Poland, 1991; Barker Andrew, pediatric surgeon, Perth – Australia, 1993; Bonneville Michel, pediatric surgeon, Lille – France, 1988; Bourlier Pascal, surgeon, Tours – France, 1994; Brant de Carvalho Fabio, surgeon, Sao Paulo – Brasil, 1989-1990; Cacciaguerra Sebastiano, pediatric surgeon, Catania – Sicily, 1992-1993; Campos Miguel, surgeon, Porto – Portugal, 1997; Garagiozoglou Thomais, pediatrician, Thessalonique – Greece, 1992; Carles Jean, surgeon, Bordeaux – France, 1996; Cerruti Elisabeta, anesthetist, Torino – Italy, 1998; Chardot Christophe, pediatric surgeon, Paris – France, 1992-1993; Chio Francesco, surgeon, Torino – Italy, 1990-1991; Chrupiek Marguerite, pediatric surgeon, Warsaw – Poland, 1990-1991; Conoscitore Pasquale, gastroenterologist, Foggia – Italy, 1992; Costantin Giorgio, surgeon, Padova – Italy, 1998; De Caluwe Diane, pediatric surgeon, Antwerp – Belgium, 1997; Delaby Jean, surgeon, Angers – France, 1989; Donataccio Matteo, surgeon, Foggia – Italy, 1992-1995; Falchetti Diego, pediatric surgeon, Brescia – Italy, 1989; Ferrari Giovanni, surgeon, Milan – Italy, 1992; Gauthier Frédéric, pediatric surgeon, Paris – France, 1987; Gennari Fabrizio, pediatric surgeon, Torino – Italy, 1998; Gibbs Paul, surgeon, Newcastle-upon-Tyne – United Kingdom, 1995; Giembicki Jacek, pediatrician, Gdansk – Poland, 1998; Goncalves Isabel, pediatrician, Coimbra – Portugal, 1995; Gottrand Frédéric, pediatric surgeon, Lille – France; Hausleithner Viktoria, pediatric surgeon, Vienna – Austria, 1991-1992; Ionescu Sebastiano, pediatric surgeon,

(1) Starzl T.E. *et al.* Liver Transplantation: an unfinished product. *Transplant. Proceed.*, 1989, 21: 2197-2200.

Bucarest — Roumanie, 1991 ; Königsrainer Alfred, pediatric surgeon, Innsbruck — Austria, 1996 ; Laberge Jean-Michel, pediatric surgeon, Montreal — Canada, Lagget Marco, hepatologist, Torino — Italy, 1991 ; Lallier Michel, pediatric surgeon, Montreal — Canada, 1998-1999 ; Lecoultre Claude, pediatric surgeon, Geneve — Switzerland, Li Bo, surgical research fellow, Beijing — China, 1994 ; Lopes Ana Isabel, pediatrician, Lisbon — Portugal, 1991-1992 ; Lu Xiaoshan, pediatric surgeon, Shanghai — China, 1991 ; Martinez Castillo Jorge, surgeon, Santiago — Chile, 1994-1995 ; Mazza Davide, surgeon, Torino — Italy, 1990-1992 ; Moisiuk Ivan, pediatric surgeon, Moscou — USSR, 1993 ; Oike Fumitaka, surgical research fellow, Kyoto — Japan, 1997-1999 ; Otsuka Masayuki, surgical research fellow, Tokyo — Japan, 1998 ; Palazzo Ugo, hepatologist, Palermo — Sicile, 1991 ; Pastore Maria, pediatrician, Foggia — Italy, 1995 ; Pesce Ciro, pediatric surgeon, Napoli — Italy, 1991 ; Piras Maria Rosaria, pediatrician, Cagliari — Sicile ; Rakoczy Georgy, pediatric surgeon,

Budapest — Hongary, 1993 ; Rigamonti Waifro, pediatric surgeon, Brescia — Italy, 1995 ; Ringers Jan, surgeon, Amsterdam — The Netherlands, 1990 ; Salizzoni Mauro, surgeon, Torino — Italy, 1986-1989 ; Sanchez Dina, pediatric surgeon, Lima — Peru, 1992 ; Saul José Eduardo, surgeon, Bueno Aires — Argentina, 1995 ; Schieronni Rodolfo, surgeon, Torino — Italy, 1988 ; Scotte Michel, surgeon, Rouen — France, 1992 ; Secchi Mario, surgeon, Rosario — Argentina ; Suarez Leopoldo, surgeon, Santiago — Chile, 1995 ; Taglietti Lucio, hepatologist, Brescia — Italy, 1992 ; Tan KC, surgeon, London — United Kingdom, 1987 ; Uemoto Shinji, surgical research fellow, Kyoto — Japan, 1997 ; Ulla Laura, pediatrician, Milan — Italy, 1991 ; Uribe Mario, surgeon, Santiago — Chile, 1995 ; Uryuhara Kenji, surgical research fellow, Kyoto — Japan, 1999-2000 ; Van Der Zee David, surgeon, Nijmegen — The Netherlands, 1989 ; Yandza Thierry, pediatric surgeon, Paris — France, 1986-1987 ; Zuckermann Michele, surgeon, Sienna — Italy, 1998-2000.