



Editorial

In this special issue of *Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases* we are pleased to publish an exceptional selection of papers presented in the spring of this year at the 4th Biennial Meeting of the Prostate Cancer Charitable Trust. The meeting was held in Bethesda, Washington, USA and was hosted by our new editor Judd Moul, and addressed by, among others, Judah Folkman and Senator Bob Dole. The Trust was established eight years ago by British philanthropist millionaire Clive Bourne, himself a prostate cancer sufferer. His vision was an organization which stimulated research by bringing together clinicians and scientists from all over the world. A second aim was to support research, not only by his own generosity, but also by lobbying the UK Government to increase funding for research into the causes and treatment of prostate cancer.

Readers of this special issue will, we feel sure, agree that the first aim has been achieved admirably—see the

comprehensive overview by Sir Walter Bodmer (pages 218–223). The recent announcement of a major increase in funding for prostate cancer research in the UK (from a miserly £47 000 per annum to £4 million over the next four years) provides testimony to the success of the second. However, the level of funding for research in the UK, and Europe, still falls considerably behind that in the USA, and even there more funds are needed to conquer this insidious and highly prevalent disease.

We hope that our readers will find plenty to interest and stimulate them in the papers published here. Finally, we would encourage urologists and oncologists as well as basic scientists to send in their own papers for peer review and publication in the 4th and subsequent volumes of *Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases*.

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