This double issue of BIORHEOLOGY, comprising issues 1 and 2 of volume 19, is dedicated to my dear friend Alex Silberberg, the sixth recipient of the Poiseuille Gold Medal Award. It is the highest honor by the International Society of Biorheology, which was bestowed upon Alex Silberberg at the Fourth International Congress of Biorheology, held at the Jikei University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan from July 27 to August 1, 1981.

I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate Eiichi Fukada, Syoten Oka, Honorary Chairman, and all members of the Organizing Committee for a splendid Congress. I believe that each attendant who, as I, was fortunate in participating in the activities of the Congress shares with me the gratitude we felt to the organizers and for making this event a memorable one in our lives. We also are grateful to our hosts for the fine hospitality which we enjoyed during the Congress.

This special issue contains both Communications presented at the Congress as well as Non-Congress Communications.

The issue also contains many of the Proceedings of the Congress including a report by the Congress Chairman, Eiichi Fukada. Among the proceedings are the six Plenary Lectures by Eiichi Fukada, Shunichi Usami, Alfred L. Copley, Yukio Hiramoto, Yuan-Cheng B. Fung and William E. Stehbens. It also contains the presentations at the Poiseuille Award Ceremony by Eiichi Fukada, Harold Wayland, Syoten Oka, and the Poiseuille Gold Medal Award Lecture by Alex Silberberg.

Five of the seven communications of the Symposium 'Physiological Fluid Dynamics' edited by the Symposia Chairmen who acted as Guest Editors are included. Although it would have been preferable to have all Papers presented at one Symposium published together,
the policy of our Journal for rapid publication had preference. Thus, Symposia Papers, which have not been included, will be published in subsequent issues soon after they have been edited. Any Congress Papers, accepted by our Editors thus far, are included. It is hoped that Congress Papers by other participants have already been submitted to Editors of their choice. Upon their acceptance, they will be published as rapidly as possible.

In order not to delay publication of Non-Congress Papers accepted by our Editors, they have been included in this double issue under the heading "Non-Congress Papers".

Our Readers will be surprised to find one Paper in this double issue which, in accordance with the Editorials in BIORHEOLOGY (volume 17, number 5/6, pp. 397-398, 1980) and in CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY (volume 1, number 2, pp. 115-116, 1981), should not have been published in this journal, but in CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY instead, as this Paper deals with clinical hemorheology. However, this particular Paper was included in this issue as an exception to the Editorial Policy of BIORHEOLOGY and CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY mentioned above, in order to secure its rapid publication. It should have been submitted to an Editor of CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY by the Authors or by the Editor. I must emphasize that this is merely an exception. It is hoped that Authors and Editors of both BIORHEOLOGY and CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY will strictly adhere to our Editorial Policy, published in the above mentioned Editorials. In accordance with the above mentioned policy for both journals, communications on clinical hemorheology presented at the Fourth International Congress of Biorheology will be published in CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY instead.

It should also be mentioned that the Proceedings of the Satellite Meeting of the Fourth International Congress of Biorheology, entitled "Hemorheological Approach to Cardiovascular Diseases" and held at the National Cardiovascular Center at Osaka on 3. August 1981, are published in CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY volume 2, double issue 1/2, 1982. These Proceedings of the Satellite Meeting will also be published by Pergamon Press separately as a book, edited by Hideyuki Niimi.

This double issue of BIORHEOLOGY contains a lecture by George W. Scott Blair, entitled "The History of Rheology", which he gave
at the Second European Conference on Clinical Hemorheology, organized by the Royal Society of Medicine, held in London from 30. September to 2. October 1981. The abstracts of this conference will appear in CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY volume 1, double issue 5/6, 1981. Since the Chairman of this European conference, John A. Dormandy, expressed the wish that abstracts of Papers on non-clinical hemorheology be published in CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY, these abstracts will appear in CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY volume 1, number 5/6, 1981. However, any Papers on theoretical and experimental hemorheology presented at this conference will be published upon acceptance by any Editor of BIORHEOLOGY in this journal.

It should be noted that abstracts given at the Fourth International Meeting of the Japan Society of Biorheology held June 20 to 21, 1981, that do not deal with clinical hemorheology, are included in this double issue. Any abstracts of communications given at this meeting, which deal with clinical hemorheology, appeared in CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY, issue number 4, 1981.

Alex Silberberg and I are pleased to welcome Pavel Riha of Prague, Czechoslovakia as an Editor of BIORHEOLOGY.

I am glad to announce that the Fifth International Congress of Biorheology will take place in Baden Baden, Federal Republic of Germany, under the Chairmanship of the new President of our Society Siegfried Witte, from August 20 to 25, 1983. The international congresses of our Society have been every three years. The date in 1983 constitutes an exception. This will be explained in a forthcoming issue by the new Secretary of our Society, Herbert Meiselman. It should be further noted that the Society's newly elected Treasurer is Joseph Gross. It is hoped the three new officers of our Society, Siegfried Witte, Herbert Meiselman and Joseph Gross will inform our Readers in future issues about the new activities of the International Society of Biorheology.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate my dear friend Alex Silberberg, co-Editor-in-Chief of our Journal, to the great honor of his Poiseuille Award. I feel certain that this is
shared by all our Readers. A recent portrait photograph of him, carrying the Poiseuille Gold Medal, greets our Readers as the frontispiece of this double issue dedicated to him.

All my best wishes to our Readers for a happy and scientifically profitable New Year!

Alfred L. Copley
Co-Editor-in-Chief