

EDITORIAL

This issue contains a report of the International Committee for Standardization in Haematology - ICSH (Expert Panel on Blood Rheology), entitled: "Guidelines for measurement of blood viscosity and erythrocyte deformability".

The ICSH has an official relationship with the International Society of Haematology, International Society of Blood Transfusion, World Health Organization, International Committee on Thrombosis and Haemostasis and the International Standard Organisation (Geneva, Switzerland). The ICSH has also a working relationship with several other international organizations and constitutes more than twenty Expert Panels.

We are glad to publish the Guidelines of the Expert Panel on Blood Rheology, whose eleven members are from four countries. The names of the eleven authors are listed on the front page of the article, which was submitted to CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY by Professor J. Stuart, Chairman of the Expert Panel on Blood Rheology. Its first meeting was held in Cambridge, England in January 1986 and a second meeting is planned in Bordeaux, France from 1 - 3 July 1987 following the 5. European Conference on Clinical Hemorheology.

In a letter of 18 July 1986 to one of us (ALC) Professor Stuart writes the following: "The aim of this new ICSH Expert Panel is to provide guidelines on rheological methods for clinical departments in order to achieve some standardization of methodology and, hopefully, an overall improvement in the quality of clinical haemorrhology studies. In future years, we may be able to develop an erythrocyte standard preparation for quality assurance studies in rheological laboratories."

We believe that the article by the ICSH Expert Panel on Blood Rheology will be of great interest to our Readers.

This issue contains also the abstracts of the last annual conferences of two national societies. The abstracts of the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Biorheology, held at Ehime, Japan from 13 - 15 June 1986, are published as far as clinical hemorheology is concerned in this issue, while the abstracts of communications pertaining to biorheology other than clinical hemorheology will be published in issue 5 of volume 23 of BIORHEOLOGY.

The other abstracts concern communications of the Fourth Congress of the German Society for Clinical Hemorheology, held at Minden/Westfalen FRG from 24 - 25 October 1985. Although these abstracts were sent to the Executive Editorial Office about nine months following the conference, we decided to publish them at such a late date, but expect to receive abstracts of communications presented at congresses or conferences of international and national societies prior or soon after such meetings.

We should like to invite the presidents or secretaries of societies dealing with clinical hemorheology to submit to us abstracts of communications presented at their scientific meetings, reports of such meetings, news items and announcements, which we would like to consider to publish in CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY.

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