

## Foreword

After negotiations with the Swedish Government and the National Board of Health and Welfare, the World Health Organization established a Collaborating Centre for Research and Treatment of Urinary Bladder Cancer at the Karolinska Hospital in Stockholm in 1976. The director of the Collaborating Centre is Professor Folke Edsmyr of the Radiumhemmet, and the surgical director is Professor Lennart Andersson of the Department of Urology. The purpose of the Centre is to stimulate and co-ordinate research in urinary bladder cancer, to help make the results of research available for clinical use and to work to achieve a more wide-reaching understanding of the aetiology of the disease, more accurate early diagnosis and more effective therapy. In this respect, the divergent problems of industrial and developing countries must be taken into consideration.

At the behest of the WHO Cancer Unit in Geneva, representatives of a number of centres were invited to Stockholm for an introductory conference in April, 1977. The purpose of this conference was to present an up-to-date survey of research and its ap-

plication in diagnosis and therapy and to discuss ways in which departments and laboratories in different parts of the world can support each other to improve the results, as well as ways to prevent unnecessary duplication of effort.

It was evident that for certain projects, international co-operation is highly desirable for a quicker solution of the problems. Examples of such projects are fractionation schedules in radiotherapy of bladder carcinoma and various chemotherapy regimens. Other undertakings, for example certain immunological and biochemical projects, are still of such a special nature that the research should be carried out in one or two laboratories. But it is the task of the Centre to help to bring about as quick a dissemination of the results as possible.

The Collaborating Centre wish to thank the Editorial Board of Urological Research for recommending that the summaries of the papers read at the conference in Stockholm should form the Special Issue on bladder cancer.

Folke Edsmyr

Lennart Andersson