

## PREFACE

Welcome to the first Volume of ADVANCES IN TISSUE BANKING. At successive meetings of the European Association of Tissue Banks we have discussed the most appropriate vehicle of communication for those involved in Tissue Banking at the production level, those who are utilising the products of tissue banks clinically and the scientists who strive to improve the methods and understanding of the various processes involved. First a Journal was suggested, but on closer scrutiny it became clear that the specialist in, say, orthopaedics using bone allografts would publish his/her best papers in a recognised orthopaedic Journal. The same would be true in the burns, heart, ophthalmic and indeed any of the associated specialities that combine to form the tissue bankers' province. Some vehicle was needed which can draw these diverse fields together without duplicating existing publications. We believe that we have the answer in ADVANCES.

The model is presented in this Volume. We will attempt to deal with all the various aspects of the subject. Bone is the most used and produced tissue, and so deserves a prominent place. Burns and wound healing must also have a representation, along with the various skin and foetal membranes used. Heart valves and cornea banking have not always integrated into the general mill of tissue banks, but it is important that they do so. Regulatory affairs and quality control impinge on all now involved with the subject, as does procurement and donor availability. The methodology too is changing rapidly, and cryopreservation is fundamental to most tissue preservation processes. Now the culturing of tissues is proceeding apace, with skin and cartilage moving into clinical practice. Ethics

and public awareness are also in the front line of the tissue banker's concerns, as is the demonstration of the safety of allograft tissues. In this regard, serological testing needs to be given suitable emphasis. Then, there are other fields such as sperm and cell banking which must be included. Without question, the field is a wide one and as such possesses the strengths and weaknesses of all inter-disciplinary subjects. No one person can be an expert in all the diverse areas which meet up in a tissue bank.

For this reason we believe that the REVIEW contribution has an important place in ADVANCES. This can be the vehicle to acquaint the various specialists about the state-of-the-art in one or other of the complementary fields. In this volume we have reviews dealing with heart valves, demineralised bone, bone substitutes, sterilisation, foetal membranes, and cryopreservation. There is comparison of the regulatory approaches of Europe and USA, and to transplantation donation in two European countries. Additionally, we have included research and clinical reports, which take us to the boundaries of individual subjects. Indeed, if a contribution advances our understanding of tissue banking, then there will be a place for it in this series.

On behalf of the Editors, may I invite you to approach them if you have in mind a suitable contribution within the broad parameters which I have outlined here. There is also a distinguished International Advisory Board associated with ADVANCES whom you can consult. The research contributions will be subjected to peer review by a suitable expert, so that the publication can safely assist the career development of the individual worker. Please feel free to contact one of us.

Finally, may I thank WORLD SCIENTIFIC for undertaking the publication, and the various International Tissue Banking Associations in Europe, USA and the Asia Pacific Region for their encouragement and being represented in a personal capacity on the Editorial or International Advisory Boards. The ball is now in play and we invite you all to join in the game.

Glyn O. Phillips  
Editor-in-Chief