

PREFACE

It is gratifying to note from comments, reviews, its use in training and educational courses and possibly even more diagnostically – sales – that the series has gained general acceptance from its target audience. From reviewers' reports, it is evident too that the papers submitted are generally of a very high quality and are now fully recognised in the academic promotion stakes. Thank you all for your comments and criticisms. Two of these we address in this volume, namely, inclusion of a subject index and easier access at the beginning of the volume to contributors' contact addresses.

The subjects covered in the present volume reflect the greater organisational and regulatory requirements in tissue banking and its consequent effect upon clinical users of tissues.

Quality and safety are the paramount factors associated with any tissue allograft. Thus, organised Quality Systems and the principles of Good Manufacture Practice need to be rigorously applied, as described by Dr. R. Von Verson and H.-J. Mönig in Chapter 1. The days of the "cottage industry" approach, long favoured by orthopaedic surgeons have long gone.

This new approach has inevitably led to the growth in institutional tissue banking, as is clearly demonstrated in Chapter 2. where the status and growth of tissue banking in Argentina, Finland, France, Indonesia and Scotland are described. Whatever the state of development of the country, the tissue banking activity is moving towards greater organisation and closer regulatory control. The survey information from France, presented by Drs. Tuppin and Loty and the groping changes in the UK, illustrated by Dr. Galea for Scotland, show, however, that much more remains to be done. Old habits die hard! Nevertheless, it is now a global activity, as was

eloquently demonstrated in the 2nd World Congress of Tissue Banking organised in Warsaw in late 1999.

The main emphasis for the clinical application of grafts in this volume is that of Orthopaedics. In this respect, I am grateful to my colleague and friend Dr. Jouni Heikkilä for his guidance in the preparation of this volume. The ideas originated during our discussions at the European Association of Tissue Banks meeting organised by Dr. Heikkilä and a doyen in this field, Professor Allan Aho. The object was to address orthopaedic surgeons at their level since many remain to be convinced about the merits of allografts.

Not so our contributors. Dr. Yongyudh Vajaradul has presented to us his monumental work in tumour surgery, describing the use of 2120 allografts used in 1728 patients. He is also a tissue banker as are Professors Yim and Aziz Nather, who describe the production and use of allografts in mandibular reconstruction and spinal surgery. The subsequent papers demonstrate eloquently that preparation of the appropriate graft and surgical implantation skills are equally important in achieving clinical success. Possibly, the lesson from this Volume is the need for closer collaboration if not integration of the various technologies associated with this subject.

A special chapter is devoted to knee ligament surgery and another to the use of allograft prosthetic composites. The choice is not either graft or prosthesis but, often in specific circumstances, both. The contributions are authoritative and are of equal value to the tissue banker and surgeon.

Finally, an opportunity has been taken to publish the European Association of Tissue Banks and European Association for Musculo-Skeletal Transplantation Joint Standards. These surely demonstrate what this volume seeks to affirm, namely, that tissue banking and orthopaedic surgery in their joint endeavours have come of age.

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