About the Editor

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Erik Berntorp studied at Lund University (Sweden) and trained at the University Hospital in Malmö. He specializes in internal medicine, hematology and coagulation disorders. Since 1985, he has worked at the Malmö Center for Thrombosis and Hemostasis (Sweden) and is presently Professor there. His research interests include the prophylactic treatment of hemophilia and of von Willebrand disease, the genetic aspects on inhibitor development, and the treatment of inhibitors in hemophilia, including bypass therapy and immune-tolerance induction. He has served on the councils of the World Federation of Haemophilia and European Haematology Association.

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Foreword

Contemporary approaches to hemophilia

Erik Berntorp

In this book, hemophilia is addressed from both a basic science and a practical perspective. The eight chapters are written by a group of the most distinguished hemophilia treaters and scientists in the world, sometimes in collaboration with members of the next generation of professionals in the field. This assures that the content is up-to-date, reliable and written in a manner that will engage and educate less experienced staff at hemophilia treatment centers and hematology departments. For that matter, it is our hope that staff from other disciplines, students and administrators, will enjoy reading this book or parts of it.

Hemophilia is an old disease that dates back several thousand years. The distinction between hemophilia A and B was not made until the 1940s and 1950s. At the time, it was a disease with a very poor prognosis with an expected median survival of not much more than 10 years. Since then, evolution of the understanding of the disease and treatment has been explosive. Concentrates and home treatment became available during the 1950s/1960s and 1970s, respectively. The unexpected catastrophe of HIV transmission struck the hemophilia population during the early 1980s and upended much of what had been achieved. Today, however, the expected survival time of a person with hemophilia is close to that of the general population, at least in countries with considerable economic resources. Although safe products now rule the scene almost worldwide, there are still several major problems threatening the hemophilia population (e.g., lack of

knowledge, lack of concentrate, and development of inhibitors to concentrates).

Much has been accomplished, and much still needs to be done. Hopefully, this book will contribute with an accessible and up-to-date collection of writings, the ultimate goal of which is to promote the development of care in hemophilia.

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