

## Preface

During the last two decades there has been a rapid and significant increase of knowledge and success in the control of Hb disorders. This was the result of a marked revival of interest by the international medical community and of the tremendous progress achieved in the empowerment of patients all over the world. Ingredients that contributed to literally changing the natural history of this disease from a fatal one to a well managed chronic disease, with survival and quality of life of patients to near normal standards.

Furthermore the study of these disorders promises to answer some fundamental questions about the genetic mechanisms involved in defective protein synthesis and in genotype/phenotype relationship. In addition, as a multi-organ disease requiring a strong multidisciplinary approach, thalassaemia has indeed become in recent years the field of interest for health workers of many different disciplines.

There is still, however, considerable work to be done in many parts of the world, including epidemiological work to allow better and more appropriate service planning and development of effective control and management programmes.

This book compiles almost all the presentations covered by national, regional and international experts in the field - both in the specialist but also in the multidisciplinary area of management of Hb disorders in the context of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Thalassaemia and the Haemoglobinopathies that was held in Antalya, Turkey, in May 2011. It intends to provide the state-of-art knowledge on the treatment and curative methods but also on the current state with regards to the worldwide implementation or development of control strategies within and between countries in the different regions of the world.

This information is vital as we move towards more recognition and respect of patient's right for access to quality healthcare, quality health for ALL and equity in health provision.

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