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RHEUMADERM
Current Issues in Rheumatology and Dermatology

Edited by
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PREFACE

The disciplines of rheumatology and dermatology are involved in the care of several diseases that share cutaneous and locomotor as well as, quite often, systemic involvement. While traditionally remaining separate, it has long been recognized that there are several areas of common interest in these two specialties. Indeed, this had been realized by several far-sighted physicians, both rheumatologists and dermatologists, such as G. Rodnan and J. Gilliam. A number of books have been published over the past few years specifically dealing with skin involvement in the connective tissue diseases, both inherited and acquired. These include *The Skin in Rheumatic Disease*, by C. R. Lovell, P. J. Maddison, and G. V. Campion (Chapman and Hall Medical, 1990), *Connective Tissue Diseases of the Skin*, edited by C. M. Lapiere and T. Krieg (Marcel Dekker, Inc., 1993), and *Cutaneous Manifestations of Rheumatic Diseases*, edited by R. D. Sontheimer and T. T. Provost (Williams and Wilkins, 1996).

However, despite this shared interest, meetings combining the two specialties were generally limited to small interest groups. It had long been felt that a workshop should be organized that could bring together the views of specialists from the two areas and focus on the challenges that this common ground brings to these two disciplines. Such a meeting was first held in 1994 in Malta (MaltaDerm '94), jointly organized by the Medical School of the University of Malta and Jefferson Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, United States of America. The enthusiasm shown during this meeting prompted the organizers to hold another interface meeting between rheumatology and dermatology. This was entitled “RheumaDerm '97—the dialogue continues” and was, again, held in Malta in December 1997.

This volume is a collection of papers that were presented during RheumaDerm '97, with the plenary lectures, free papers, and posters being presented in topical order. It is hoped that this will provide an academic link between RheumaDerm '97 and the next dialogue conference we hope to organize in the year 2001.

Carmel Mallia
Jouni Uitto
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This publication would not have been possible without the financial support of a number of pharmaceutical and other firms. We wish to acknowledge our thanks and appreciation to Mr. Alan Miller (Cherubino Ltd.), Mr. Alfred Gera de Petri (Drugsales Ltd.), Ms. Victoria Grima (Vivian Commercial Corporation Ltd.), Mr. Alex Gingell (Clinipath Services Ltd.), Mr. Stefan Cassar (Zeneca), and, in particular, to Mr. Vincent Farrugia of VF (Malta) Ltd. and to Dr. Frank Pace of Pharmacia and Upjohn. We are grateful to all the contributors as well as to Ms. Silvana Scerri for her invaluable secretarial support.

Carmel Mallia
Jouni Uitto
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