Editorial

Hommage à Karl Oberdisse

On March 18, 1993, Professor Karl Oberdisse will celebrate his 90th birthday in Düsseldorf where he has been holding a chair of internal medicine as the director of the Second Department of Medicine of the Düsseldorf Medical Academy (which became a full University under his rectorate in 1966) from 1956 until 1971. In 1958, Professor Oberdisse organized the 3rd Congress of the International Diabetes Federation IDF in Düsseldorf – only the second international congress to be held in Germany after the second world war which was a tremendous encouragement and motivation for a new beginning of diabetology

in this country. Subsequently, Professor Oberdisse was not only the founder (and later an Honorary Member) of the German Diabetes Association (established 1965), but – together with J. P. Hoet sen. (Louvain), Sir Frank Young (Cambridge) and Albert E. Renold (Genève) – he was also a coiniciator (and since 1974 Honorary Member) of the European Association for the Study of Diabetes (EASD) which was founded in Montecatini/Italy in April 1965. Professor Oberdisse had clearly recognized the crucial importance of establishing an official journal of the new European Diabetes Association “in order to facilitate the exchange of information and experience amongst European workers” as he wrote as the “Preface” on the first page of *Diabetologia* as its founder and Editor-in-Chief in 1965. As its first Editor for two consecutive four-year terms of office until 1973. Professor Oberdisse created and developed our journal through the first difficult years of its existence. It was he who established the co-operation with Springer-Verlag (Berlin-Heidelberg) as the Publisher of *Diabetologia* and to campaign for the worldwide distribution and reputation of *Diabetologia* right from the beginning of its existence.

Diabetologia has long since become an internationally leading forum for the publication of diabetes research. Through its present (since 1989, C.H.) and its previous Editor (1982–1988, and his faithful former assistant in Düsseldorf, M.B.) the journal wishes to pay tribute to its founding father Professor Karl Oberdisse, the true Nestor of European diabetology, on March 18th, 1993.

Professor Claes Hellerström, Uppsala
Professor Michael Berger, Düsseldorf