

E D I T O R I A L

The Second Symposium on Morphometry in Morphological Diagnosis was held in Kuopio, Finland, September 7-9, 1983. The meeting was lucky in getting participants from all over the world. This created an international atmosphere in which a valuable exchange of ideas could take place. The expertise of the participants seemed to reflect the growing interest in stereology and morphometry among pathologists. In their work pathologists concentrate on microscopy and through experience of looking at hundreds and thousands of samples from human patients reach unusual quality in skills of interpreting the microscope image. The final diagnosis of tumors - and especially the question whether they are malignant or benign - is in the hands and brains of pathologists. However, because there are borderline cases, methods which could make subjective interpretation more accurate are welcome. Such methods could also increase reproducibility, and so give a more exact basis for therapeutic decisions than has been possible so far. Stereology and morphometry are potentially valuable in this context, and there is lots of evidence today that many problem areas can be handled better if these methods are applied.

The Symposium was organized by the Department of Pathology of the University of Kuopio and the Finnish Society for Stereology and Morphometry. Many members of the organizing committee participated in the First Symposium on Morphometry in Morphological Diagnosis in 1981 at Koli, Finland. I express my gratitude to the staff of the Department, and to many medical students who were with us in organizing the meeting. We are grateful to the participants of the Symposium for scientifically sound presentations and for an approach which not only satisfied the needs of stereology but was also sensible from the standpoint of histopathology. Most of the papers presented during the meeting are included in these proceedings.

I would like to express our gratitude to the International Society for Stereology for the interest the Society has had in our Symposium. The positive attitude is very important because without it pathologists may not realize the potential these methods can offer. We would especially like to thank the president of ISS, Dr. Exner, and the editor of Acta Stereologica, prof. Kalisnik, for making Acta Stereologica available to the organizers. This journal does not reach many

pathologists, but it may help those researchers on other fields who deal with stereology and morphometry, to understand the special nature and needs of diagnostic histopathology. To cover the interested pathologists outside the International Society for Stereology the papers of this issue are also published as a separate book.

I hope that this collection of papers presented at the meeting will guide a growing number of pathologists into the theory and practice of stereology and morphometry.

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