

Prologue

This Abstracts Book contains the summaries of 839 original works accepted by the Scientific Committee of the 17th European Congress of Pathology and the XIX Spanish Congress of Pathology. These works have been selected from the 1084 abstracts initially submitted.

Even though the Abstracts were selected following strict criteria of quality, the number remaining is the largest ever presented at a European Congress of Pathology. This fact shows the increasing role of the Congress of the European Society of Pathology as an international forum for scientific activities, as well as the synergism developed by the simultaneous organization of the European Congress with the Congress of the National Society of the host country, in this case the Spanish Society of Pathology.

For organizational reasons, most abstracts were categorized as posters, and only 106 scheduled as oral pre-

sentations. Therefore, we would like to emphasize the similar scientific value of both types of presentations. The Presidential Papers were selected only among those abstracts whose authors had chosen platform presentation.

We would like to thank all the authors for their scientific contribution and active participation in this joint Congress. Their attendance helps to enhance the role of pathology in European medicine.

Finally, we would like to record our appreciation of Springer-Verlag for its support in making the publication of this special issue of *Virchows Archiv* possible.

Prof. Dr. G. Klöppel
President of the European Society of Pathology

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President of the Spanish Society of Pathology