

ABSTRACTS

To all contributors

a congress without free papers is like “a soup without salt.” Often the most exciting results and most current developments are presented in selected oral presentations and poster sessions. Thus the related abstracts are especially welcome, and the current issue of *Virchow's Archive* is dedicated in particular to these contributions at the 18th European Congress of Pathology, Berlin 2001.

The enormous number – more than 800 – and extraordinary quality of the abstracts reflect the vitality and attractiveness of pathology, both from a scientific and diagnostic point of view. The content varies from high-tech molecular methods to clinical diagnostic work and again underlines the key function of our specialty as a bridge between laboratory research and clinical applications. It further shows that there are many unsolved

problems and that the young generation of scientists still has a lot to do at the bench and at the microscope to further improve our insight into many pathophysiological pathways and increase the accuracy of pathohistological diagnosis, including prognosis and prediction of treatment response.

Rudolph Virchow, the patron of this journal, once wrote “medicine will be a science or it will not be” – let us keep this in mind when we enhance the relevance of experimental and surgical pathology step by step as an indispensable part of human medicine.

Manfred Dietel
President of the 18th European Congress of Pathology