

16. Edinburgh 2001

The 16th International Workshop was held in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland under the presidency of Ian Laing. Mary Ellen Avery gave the 4th Nils W Svenningsen Memorial Lecture entitled "Milestones in Pediatric Research". It was a delightful pleasure to hear the "Grande Dame" of surfactant research speak about the early years of neonatology. Our other guest speakers were Eduardo Bancalari from Miami, Olli Pitkanen from Helsinki, Bob Hume from Dundee, Joanna Floros from Hershey, Tsutomu Kobayashi from Kanazawa and Adolf Valli-Soler from Bilbao. Their topics included bronchopulmonary dysplasia and surfactant, lung epithelial ion transport in neonatal lung disease, thyroid hormone metabolism and the developing lung, genetic variants of surfactant proteins A and B, experimental models of ARDS and liquid ventilation. Fifteen oral presentations and an equal number of poster presentations were made on a variety of topics including choriomnionitis, neonatal lung inflammation, expression of SP-A and SP-D in the upper airway, fetal lung maturation, lung morphogenesis, surfactant treatment of streptococcal pneumonia, surfactant inactivation and pressure controlled ventilation. The proceedings of the Workshop have been published in a Supplement of *Biology of the Neonate* [16].

The social programme included visits to Edinburgh Castle and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh where Mel Avery and Bengt Robertson were conferred as Fellows. Those attending the ceremony were invited to visit the College's famous library and examine a copy of *De Moto Cordis*, a memorable end to a wonderful occasion. The welcome dinner was held in the Great Hall of the Royal College where the Master of Music, none other than the President, Ian Laing himself, serenaded us on his fiddle with a Scottish reel that he had composed specially for the occasion.

Prior to dinner we had been entertained to bagpipe music in the Queen Mother's Conference Centre. After a memorable dinner Christian Speer was seen momentarily in a kilt but the ladies present hardly managed to see his legs never mind his hairy sporran. Jean Pierre Relier led the assembled members in the post-dinner singing which included an international version of *Flower of Scotland*.



IAN LAING, THE PRESIDENT ENTERTAINING GUESTS WITH HIS FIDDLE



JEAN-PIERRE RELIER LEADS THE SINGING OF *FLOWER OF SCOTLAND*

The Gala Dinner was held at the fashionable Balmoral Hotel on Princes Street and was followed by the customary dancing enjoyed by all family members, especially Bengt. The next day there was a visit to Edinburgh Castle followed by a very convivial buffet dinner in the George Hotel before departure the following day.



PAOLO CHIESI SHAKING HANDS WITH MARY-ELLEN AVERY (SVENNINGSEN LECTURER) WITH NIAL FINLAYSON (PRESIDENT OF THE EDINBURGH COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS) LOOKING ON