

HEART

Foreword

Interventional cardiology

Until now, there has been no publication dedicated to intervention as practised in the United Kingdom. The British Cardiovascular Intervention Society, an affiliated group of the British Cardiac Society, was therefore pleased when invited to produce this supplement of *Heart*.

1997 sees the 20th anniversary of Andreas Gruntzig's pioneering exploration into the world of percutaneous coronary revascularisation. The production of this supplement is consequently not only timely but also serves to indicate the considerable rate at which this technique has progressed. A rapid advance in any subject makes such a snapshot publication rapidly out of date. As editors we recognise that this applies particularly to the field of interventional cardiology. Nevertheless, we hope that the contributions from our international group of authors provide up to date and authoritative accounts of the subject, together with speculation as to future directions in which technology, research, and clinical practice are likely to head. Whether these forecasts are accurate at the end of 1997 will be up to the reader to judge.

We appreciate that many developments in interventional cardiology in the United States or mainland Europe may not be valid, feasible or even possible in the UK. It was for this reason we felt that contributions from international sources should be balanced by commentaries and opinion from UK interventionists to provide a locally relevant perspective.

The activity that interventional cardiologists and surgeons like doing best is practising intervention. Our requests for them to produce manuscripts can only have added to their already demanding workload; we are grateful for their efforts. On behalf of BCIS we also express our thanks to the staff of *Heart* and our Coeditors, Peter Mills and Pim de Feyter.

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