



Emilio C Campos is Professor and Chief of Ophthalmology at the University of Bologna, S Orsola-Malpighi Teaching Hospital in Italy since 1994. His research interests include strabismus and amblyopia, clinical psychophysics and electrophysiology, paediatric ophthalmology, neuro-ophthalmology, ocular surface and age-related macular degeneration (AMD) treatment. He has had over 400 papers and books published. Dr Campos is an Editorial Board member of several ophthalmology journals. He has visiting professorships in Europe, Israel, Australia, Saudi Arabia and North and Central America, and is an invited lecturer at more than 180 international meetings. Dr Campos has been a board member of the International Council of Ophthalmology since 2010 and a member of *Academia Ophthalmologica Internationalis* since 2013, and a board member of the Italian Ophthalmological Society from 2010. He was Secretary-Treasurer of the European Strabismological Association from 1987 to 1995 and President of the International Strabismological Association from 1994 to 1998. He founded the Italian Strabismological Association and was its President from 1998 to 2000 and 2011 to 2013. His previous posts include Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Louisiana State University, New Orleans from 1978 to 1979, Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Modena from 1979 to 1982 and Associate Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of Modena from 1982 to 1994. He completed a Diplomate in Ophthalmology at the University of Rome in 1977.

It is a pleasure to present the winter edition of *European Ophthalmic Review*, which contains interesting updates in cornea, cataract surgery, glaucoma and reviews in retinal hot topics, including age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and diabetic macular oedema treatments.

The role of pro-angiogenic signalling and their complex crosstalk in many pathological conditions of the eye has gained interest over the last few years and a great body of research has been focused on the subject. In particular, pathological angiogenesis of the retina observed in proliferative diabetic retinopathy and AMD has been investigated in detail, with the purpose to find a substance or a combination of substances capable of counteracting new vessel development and consequent growth inhibition. Corneal neovascularisation is also a process derived from locally synthesised pro-angiogenic chemokines in response to a variety of damaging insults, yielding to infiltration of vascular cells into the physiologically avascular stroma, which results in the unbalance of corneal immunological characteristics.

The current anti-angiogenic therapies consist of recombinant antibodies against vascular-related growth factor (in particular, anti-vascular endothelial growth factor [anti-VEGF]) isoforms. However, the considerable economic burden of these approaches on the health system has led to questions being raised about the cost to benefit ratio: as a consequence, multicentre clinical trials on the safety and the comparative efficacy of the anti-angiogenic drugs are now increasingly being performed.

Technologically advanced equipment now permits eye structures to be observed, analysed and managed at a level of precision not imaginable even a couple of decades ago. The impact of such a tremendous evolution in the devices available to many eye doctors is particularly focused in laser-assisted surgical procedures. Moreover, microstructural changes are now detected by laser-based orientated images, the specificity of which is invaluable when trying to plot disease follow up.

The main outcomes given at the European Society of Ophthalmology (SOE) 2013 Symposium on ocular surface damages exerted by chemical preservatives contained in anti-glaucoma eyedrops have also been included in this issue. This is a surface problem that is common in daily practice, which is reviewed by the experts Professors Christophe Baudouin from Paris and Carlo E Traverso from Genova, with the final recommendation to consider safer preservative-free treatments.

Finally, I believe the articles in the present edition of *European Ophthalmic Review* will certainly meet the interest of readers as they cover many specific topics concerning practice, science and technology. I would like to thank the contributors for their timely work and efforts and Editorial Board colleagues for their continuing help and expert guidance, which are a fundamental requirements in the success of the journal. ■