COMMUNICATIONS (CONT'D)

Letter From the Editor-in-Chief

This issue of Immunohematology is dedicated to the impressive career of Dr. Peter Issitt. When I first met Peter over 35 years ago, I was most impressed with his deep sea of knowledge, his enthusiasm for the unknown, his intellectual honesty, his sense of humor, and of course, his accent. The first three attributes continued to be honed to the level that produced countless papers, talks, research projects, and the answers to many blood group mysteries. His accent continued the same in spite of a long stay in New York City.

The amazing depth of his scientific skills is covered to some degree in the papers presented in this edition of Immunohematology and by Dr. George Garratty's introduction. It is the tip of Dr. Issitt's intellectual iceberg. One has only to try to pick up the latest edition of Applied Blood Group Serology to understand the dedication to blood group serology necessary to produce such an all-inclusive tome.

Many don't know of his sense of humor, which has long been at work behind the scenes. Many of his British friends have been roasted by his quick humor, but not everyone realizes what lengths he will go to have fun! I will only tell one story, one of my favorites. While Peter was at the Hoxworth Blood Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, and I was at the Dayton Community Blood Center in Dayton, Ohio, we exchanged interesting samples occasionally. One day we received a sample on a little girl with tularemia that Peter said they couldn't solve and asked for help. (That should have been the first two clues!) We worked for several days before we figured out that the serum was from a rabbit (tularemia) and cells were from a human. We of course retallated later and the fun continued.

Peter may have retired, but he has left a great store of knowledge for blood group serologists and some great memories for his friends.

If you wish to order the 4th edition of Applied Blood Group Serology and/or to extend your good wishes to Peter, you may do so by contacting him at Montgomery Scientific Publications, PO Box 2704, Durham, NC 27715, U.S.A.

Delores Mallory
Editor-in-Chief

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Annual Joint Scientific Conference. The Canadian Society for Transfusion Medicine, Hema-Quebec, and Canadian Blood Services will hold a joint scientific conference May 13-16, 1999 at the Delta Bessborough Hotel, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. The theme of the conference is "The Millenium—What Can We Expect?" There will be workshops including one on automated blood banks, and scientific sessions including one on blood substitutes. Social events include the president's reception, the annual banquet, and a Western barbeque. For further information, contact: Laurie Beital, phone: (306) 766-4475; fax: (306) 766-4772.

Update in Transfusion Medicine—1999. Harvard Medical School Department of Continuing Education will present a course titled "Update in Transfusion Medicine—1999" April 9-10, 1999 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel, Boston, MA. The object of the course is to provide a scholarly review of aspects of blood banking as well as an introduction to new research developments in the field. Presentations will cover viral and bacterial inactivation strategies, transfusion-transmitted diseases, the 21st century blood donor, and hematopoietic progenitor cell collection/transplantation. For further information and registration, contact: phone: (617) 432-5153; e-mail: hms-cme@mhs.harvard.edu

VI Regional European Congress of the International Society of Blood Transfusion. The VI Regional European Congress of the ISBT will be held in Jerusalem, Israel, May 9-14, 1999 at the International Convention Center and at headquarters hotels (Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza and Jerusalem Renaissance). Plenary lectures and mini-symposia will cover all aspects of transfusion medicine, both present and future. For complete information, contact: The Congress Secretariat, phone: 972-3-5140014; fax: 972-3-5175674; e-mail: blood@kenes.com

Immunohematology Reference Laboratory Conference. This conference, sponsored by the American Association of Blood Banks (AABB) in cooperation with the AABB Immunohematology Reference Laboratories Conference, will be held May 14-16, 1999 at the Holiday Inn Select in St. Louis, MO. The conference is intended for physicians (pathologists, hematologists, blood bank/transfusion specialists, oncologists), medical technologists, and technical supervisors/directors. Key topics will include immunohematology reference labo-