

PREFACE

Diabetes research is a rapidly evolving and very important branch of medical science. The present issue of the Uppsala Journal of Medical Sciences (UJMS) is an attempt to review the ongoing research about diabetes in a defined location, namely Uppsala University, where diabetes research has been particularly intense in the last two or three decades. The purpose is to inform the readership both of what has been achieved, and, more importantly, of what is going on at present and what are the goals and expectations for the future. The wealth of information in diabetes, as in other biomedical research areas, makes it often difficult for the student, teacher and researcher to keep abreast of all important advances achieved both worldwide and in neighbouring laboratories. An overview of this kind may also serve the purpose to inform the scientific community in general as well as local researchers and visiting scientists about possibilities of collaboration and exploitation of new techniques available within a relatively limited geographical area. This applies also for industry with interests in diabetes as a disease with great potentialities for developments of new principles for both cure and prevention.

As will be evident from reading this issue of UJMS, diabetes research in Uppsala shows a remarkable diversity and spans from assessment of patient education about self care, to molecular analyses of genes that code for the growth of the insulin producing Beta-cell. Each of these activities has its roots in research over many years by gifted and dedicated scientists, who have been able to recruit both excellent collaborators and financial support sufficient to produce first-class science in a very competitive national and international environment. For more than 10 years these research activities have been recognised by the Medical Faculty of our University through the formation of a Center for Diabetes Research. The Center organises courses, invites prominent speakers and arranges departmental visits, all with a view to expand the scholarly knowledge and stimulate exchange between those concerned with diabetes research in Uppsala. It is hoped that the present issue of the UJMS will further this exchange and disseminate knowledge about diabetes research in Uppsala to wider circles to the benefit not only of the scientists themselves but also, and in the first place, the diabetic patients.

Claes Hellerström
June 2000