Acceptance of the 2001 A.N. Richards Award

FLOYD C. RECTOR, JR.

I am deeply honored to be the 2001 corecipient of the A.N. Richards Award and I am grateful to Professor Andreoli and the members of the board of the International Society of Nephrology for choosing me to receive this honor.

For over 40 years, nephrology has been the core of my professional and intellectual life. My intellectual heroes were the renal physiologists Homer Smith, Robert Pitts, and Robert Berliner. For me, nephrology was more than just an intellectual discipline—it was a worldwide community of scientists and scholars with a shared interest in the mysteries of the kidney. It was in this community where I made some of my closest friends—Ike Robinson, Tom Andreoli, and Klaus Thurau.

Over the years, I have been privileged to work with a large group of very gifted colleagues. Neither time, nor memory, permits mentioning them all, but a few deserve special mention. While I was in Dallas, Norman Carter’s work on pH-sensitive microelectrodes made possible our studies on the mechanism of bicarbonate reabsorption in the proximal tubule. Juha Kokko’s studies on the transport properties of the thin limbs of Henle’s loop provided the basis for our development of the passive model for countercurrent multiplication for the inner medulla.

In San Francisco, Robert Alpern, Christine Berry, Martin Cogan, and Patricia Preisig all made important contributions to our studies in delineating the active and passive components of proximal tubule transport. The clinical studies on a very unusual patient by Morris Schambelan and Anthony Sebastian provided the basis for identifying a unique chloride ion shunt in the distal tubule as the underlying pathogenetic mechanism for a form of aldosterone-resistant hyperkalemia and hypertension (Gordon’s syndrome).

Early in my career, one of the most remarkable men in American medicine became my mentor, my collaborator, and my close personal friend. To have Donald Seldin present this A.N. Richards award makes this a very special and intensely moving occasion for me. Thank you.