

## INTRODUCTION

### **Introduction from the chairmen of the WHO International Consultation on Prostate cancer**

The reports from the two large PSA-based screening studies of prostate cancer reported in 2009, ERCP in Europe and PLCO in USA and Canada, supplemented by a Scandinavian trial, based in Gothenburg, have widened our understanding of the value of systemic screening and, at the same time, thrown light upon the shortcoming, or rather imperfection, inherited in studies based upon PSA values. These data inspired us to undertake a more wide front updating of not only screening but as well diagnostic procedures and therapy of prostate cancer. What has emerged in modern research with respect to prognostic markers, evaluation of tumor extent and progressive character, treatment modalities, etc? When is active surveillance justified? Feasibility of prophylactic measures? Are some of the drugs in the big flora of substances with a presumed cytostatic property of any value in the treatment of prostate cancer? And – not least – how can the profession collaborate with our patients and their organizations to arrive at optimal solutions in situations, many times of a difficult character – when it comes to the selection of treatment modality.

With all this in view, we decided to invite a faculty of scientists representing a manifold expertise and all

of them selected among those world-leading at present, to collaborate with us to focus on these issues in the light of modern research. After a period of preparation we came together for an open conference in Stockholm, entitled "Prostate Cancer: Screening, Prevention and Therapy – Lessons Learnt from Current Trials. WHO International Consultation". This book presents those conclusions we arrived at. In case at least some of these of our conclusions will stand the test of time, our common efforts will be worthwhile. We even hope our reports will open a window to new research. And – like in all our international consultations – the ultimate aim of our efforts is to serve our patients.

We wish to convey our warm thanks to all our Faculty members for your devoted contributions at non-profit conditions and for our stimulating debates. We also wish to convey our sincere thanks to our supporting organizations. Without your financial and idealistic support this endeavor would never had become a reality.

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