they are, nevertheless, at least just as important as a heart transplantation. Such success as achieved by multidrug therapy demonstrates to the world how highly beneficial the results of medical research can be for humanity.

I am extremely impressed by the fact that medical research scientists and doctors from so many countries in the world have joined together to achieve this common success in the fight against leprosy and I am proud that so many have found it possible to attend this conference here in Würzburg.

I could think of no better wish for myself or one of my successors that to be able to announce here in Würzburg in the foreseeable future that another country has finally been freed of the scourge of leprosy.

I should like to extend a warm welcome to all those participating in this symposium and to wish the conference every success.

**PROF. DR. DR. HANS-ACHIM MÜLLER**

A cordial welcome in Würzburg to all participants in the ‘Symposium on Multidrug Therapy in Leprosy’. For the first time a new drug regimen puts mankind in the position to not only stop leprosy, but to heal it finally. This is a milestone in the medical development of an efficient therapy against leprosy.

I wish to congratulate all scientists who contributed to the development of this therapy to their outstanding achievement and I thank above all the German Leprosy Relief Association that, by using this new treatment, will continue to perform its beneficial work which, originating from Würzburg, brings help to the poorest of the poor all over the world.

Big talks and nice words do not change anything. But there are the scientists who fight this cruel scourge of mankind by making new discoveries. And there are also the many individuals who by giving donations and assistance, virtually show solidarity with our leprosy-stricken fellow brothers who often live in unbelievable misery.

**DR KLAUS ZEITLER**

*(Translated by Karin Rößler)*

**Tribute to Professor Dr Enno Freerksen and Dr Harold Wheate**

One of the reasons of this Symposium is that the German Leprosy Relief Association wants to pay tribute to Professor Dr Enno Freerksen who may be
considered as a real pioneer of the development of new and effective drug regimens against leprosy. He paved the way for new approaches and developments without which this Symposium would not take place.

On the occasion of its General Assembly in November 1985 the German Leprosy Relief Association already honoured Professor Freerksen in an official way. I should like to seize the opportunity now to express to him once more the heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation of our association and of leprosy patients all over the world.

We also wish to pay tribute to a good and old friend of our association. In consideration of his long and outstanding engagement in leprosy work and his fruitful work as the Secretary to the Medical Commission of ILEP, the German Leprosy Relief Association thankfully bestows this document to Dr Harold Wheate.

HUBERT COUNT BALLESTREM

Reply from Professor Dr Enno Freerksen

Let me thank you for the honouring words which I accept for my co-workers at the same time. First of all, I pass thanks to Mrs Rosenfeld with whom I have been studying these problems for decades, and furthermore to the great number of co-workers abroad, especially to those who are directly engaged in today’s colloquy: Dr Alvarenga from Asunción and Dr Depasquale from Malta. Both will report today on their results.

There is no other way than giving honours always to persons. But it has to be asked what advantage patients have from our work, and where the imperfections are which directly concern practice but only can be removed by scientific work. Please, accept some short remarks in this connection.

In scientific studies on chemotherapy a lot of factors must be considered but effectivity, tolerability, practicability, and acceptance will always remain as the big four on which success depends for each therapy. If only one of these four is missing, there cannot be an effective treatment. Even high effectiveness does not help when there is no tolerance. The best therapy is also worthless when not being applied. And all is in vain when medication is refused by the patient—indifferent by which reasons.

Although the fixed combination Isoprodian–RMP includes four drugs, the daily dosage does not exceed 2·000 mg for adults. This is of great importance because of the compliance. The medication does not require a differentiation between multi- and pauci-bacillary cases with the consequence of saving time and money and avoiding faults. By including RMP into the fix combination, such a