

## Preface

There is, nowadays, enough evidence for the presence of an inflammatory process in the airways of all asthmatics. Airways inflammation is a multifactorially-mediated process involving various cells along with humorally and tissue-derived mediators. Our therapeutic armamentarium for inflammatory diseases of the airways is currently limited. Although effective and safe treatment of asthma is no longer an elusive target, the widespread requirement for drugs that offer greater efficacy and fewer complications than steroids has shifted our research interest towards an improved understanding of the mechanisms involved in airway inflammation.

Since their introduction in Italy, sodium cromoglycate (1971) and nedocromil sodium (1989) have generated a large database of information in many scientific areas. The aim of this workshop

is to bring together Italian experts in paediatric bronchopneumology to describe their experiences and highlight advances achieved in the clinical and biochemical knowledge of these drugs.

It is the hope of the organizers that this workshop will meet the scientific and medical need for a review of the '*Italian experience*' of the use of these non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in asthma.

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