

## Foreword

The European Dermatology Forum is a pan-European non-profit organization, dedicated to improving the capabilities for the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of skin diseases throughout Europe. The new Europe includes a wide variety of different health care systems, hospital infrastructures, reimbursement systems and training programs. In order to set goals and unify efforts, a global description of the disciplines of dermatology and venereology, as set forth in this book, is essential.

The magnitude of diseases affecting the skin is considerable. Skin cancer is the most frequent cancer of mankind, allergies have become a major health concern with puzzling shifts in prevalence across Europe, venereal diseases including HIV are on the upswing in Eastern Europe, and several very common skin diseases, such as atopic dermatitis, psoriasis and occupational contact dermatitis put a severe burden on the affected individuals and their health care systems. Thus the public, including patients, fellow physicians, educators and political decision makers, needs to be thoroughly informed about dermatology and venereology.

The EDF has undertaken this important task, now in a second, completely revised edition of the White Book, and proudly presents this comprehensive survey, which we hope you will find valuable.

This edition would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of Prof. Dr. Peter Fritsch, Innsbruck, Austria, and his colleague Dr. Walter Burgdorf, Tutzing, Germany. The EDF applauds them for the impressive results we now have in our hands. We thank also all the chapter authors who generously shared their time and knowledge to make such a sweeping survey possible. Our publisher, Dr. Axel Bedürftig, put the combined works to paper with competence and speed, delivering a product of which we are proud.

The White Book—a unique effort in the world of dermatology—defines our view of where European dermatology and venereology is and what it should strive to reach across the entire continent.

Modena, Berlin, April 2005

Alberto Giannetti  
(Past President)

Wolfram Sterry  
(President)

on behalf of the Board of the European Dermatology Foundation