Dear Colleague

I am very pleased to welcome you to this symposium entitled ‘Controversies surrounding RAASI treatment and hyperkalaemia in cardio-renal patients’, sponsored by Vifor Fresenius Medical Care Renal Pharma.

We will start the symposium by introducing a patient case study, which will be used by our internationally renowned faculty to place clinical trial evidence into real-world clinical context. After a presentation on the pathophysiology of recurrent hyperkalaemia by Professor Biff F. Palmer (USA), we will consider the relationship between renin–angiotensin–aldosterone system inhibitor (RAASI) therapies and elevated potassium levels with a particular focus on the renoprotective effects of these treatments. Professor Laurent Juillard (France) will explain how current guidelines recommend discontinuation, dose reduction or withholding initiation of RAASI in patients with, or at risk of, hyperkalaemia, and that these approaches may prevent patients from attaining optimal cardiovascular and renal benefits and outcomes. There is rationale to suggest that new potassium binders may offer a potential solution to this predicament. In the final presentation, Professor Bertram Pitt (USA) will summarize the evidence suggesting how these new potassium binders may enable physicians to better manage and control the risk of hyperkalaemia in patients with chronic kidney disease with comorbidities – such as heart failure or diabetic nephropathy, so that they can initiate, maintain or optimize RAASI therapy. We will conclude with a roundtable discussion, where we will consider how new potassium binders might be used in clinical practice and answer questions from the audience.

This symposium promises to be an informative educational session with an engaging discussion that will be relevant to your clinical practice. I encourage you to submit your questions throughout the symposium via www.pigeonhole.at (Event passcode: RAASI) or by completing the question cards provided and handing them to an organizer.

Professor John Cunningham
Chair