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Xenotransplantation: A Closer Look

David K.C. Cooper

“There are many ways of losing money. Women are the most fun. Gambling is the fastest. Research is the most certain.”
—Lord Hives (Former Chairman of Rolls Royce)

A good deal of money is currently being spent—and hopefully not lost—on research into xenotransplantation. Some of the results of this research were summarized in the last issue of *Graft*, and others are outlined in the current issue. In this second, and final, issue of *Graft* to be devoted to the topic of xenotransplantation in 2001, the contributions conclude a review of the immunological aspects, and present brief commentaries of a variety of other topics. These range from aspects of cell transplantation and the function of xenografted organs to the potential risks of xenozoonoses. In addition, experts have contributed papers on the important regulatory, legal, financial, cultural and ethical aspects of xenotransplantation.

As before, the question I asked the contributors to answer was, “In the pig-to-primate, what progress have we made in . . . (the topic you have been requested to review)?” In some cases, the “primate” is the human patient. In others, it is the experimental animal. To enable me to include reviews of many different topics of interest and importance to xenotransplantation, I requested the manuscripts be brief and to the point.

I thank the authors, all of whom have provided informative and valuable reviews of their subjects, and I hope that you, the reader, will enjoy the fruits of their labor.

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