Professor Sandor Eckhardt, Director of the National Institute of Oncology, Budapest, Hungary, since 1971, has been elected to the presidency of the International Union Against Cancer (UICC) for the term 1990–1994. He is a leading figure in basic and clinical chemotherapy and has introduced a number of cytostatic drugs into clinical practice, among which are the dibromohexitols, dibromodulcitol and dibromomannitol. He has been a major contributor to their pharmacokinetics and has headed a number of cooperative trials, including a large clinical trial of di-anhydrogalactitol on human gliomas. He has published and edited a number of books including results of a UICC workshop in drug resistance and selectivity in cancer therapy and, as a WHO expert, a volume on chemotherapy of solid tumors.

Eckhardt was born in Budapest, received the M.D. degree at Semmelweis Medical School, and pursued advanced training at Villejuif, the Chester Beatty Institute, and the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda. He is Professor of Clinical Oncology, Postgraduate Medical University of Budapest and Chairman of the trial center and Program Coordinator of Drug Research of Eastern European Countries. He is a corresponding member of the American Association for Cancer Research and the American Society for Clinical Oncology and is active in many programs of the UICC. He was Secretary-General of the 14th International Cancer Congress in Budapest in 1986. He serves on numerous editorial boards and advisory committees in oncology throughout the world.

The National Institute of Oncology in Budapest is a comprehensive cancer center devoted to research, patient care, and professional and public education. It has 350 hospital beds and a professional staff of 170. Research is focused on experimental and clinical chemotherapy, new cytotoxic agents, hormones, and biological response modifiers. The Institute is a leader in the southeastern European oncology group and is a trial center for the area.

George Weber