



Note from the new President

I am honored to address the members of the Society as newly elected president. First I would like to thank to the leadership of the Society and many others who have made this happen. Secondly, I would like to grab the opportunity and say a few words about the present and the future of the ESSR. We are a special group in Europe, not specialists, but perhaps the ultimate many-sided cluster of clinicians and scientists: everyone is linked to surgery but with different fields of interest. If we read the program of our congresses, we realize that every surgical problem, a large variety of questions and skills are reflected, and indeed, investigators from all over Europe are gathering to our meetings to exchange information. But there is something wrong in this system, too. The enthusiasm which the ESSR meeting is created is restricted to a more and more decreasing number of surgical scientists, research centers and experimental institutes - and we are having more and more trouble selling our message.

The founding fathers, the several hundred members of ESSR were the ancient Greeks of experimental surgery, with academic, medical, and social influence. They came from France, Germany, Italy, Scandinavia, East and West, from all over Europe. It was their pre-eminence that drew many of us into the field. They succeeded because they were good. I do think that our generation does not differ from them significantly; it is society, surgery, and science which have been changed, and as a consequence, the power of surgical research and therefore the influence of this Society changed significantly, too. We have to accept that we are living in a world of transition. Rather than pretend otherwise, we must take advantage of our limited resources and opportunities without delay. All we need is a chance to define a new strategy as we think best, including clinical surgery, research and education. In addition, we only need to renew our courage, which has recently been in a decline.

Firstly, it is obvious that clinical surgery and surgical research cannot be isolated. In this respect we need to work to improve our relationship with national surgical societies. Secondly, we must not forget that our traditional role is to provide a platform for young clinicians and undergraduate researchers presenting their work at the annual meeting. We have to bear in mind, that there are no other societies of this kind. In this respect we must concentrate all our efforts to re-vitalize this traditional system. We owe nothing less to our students and our heritage... Thirdly, I do hope that our planned web-based education system on surgical research will further strengthen our basis. Internet is a fantastic tool, and we all owe a debt of gratitude to Miguel Cainzos in this sense, too.

Finally, I wish to thank and acknowledge the efforts of all members and officers of the Society. Thank you for your support and for the honor to serve as your president.

Mihály Boros

General Assembly, Konya, Turkey, 2005

On behalf of the Society, we report on the General Assembly (GA) held in Konya, Turkey, on May 27, 2005. Thirty-three members were present.

1. Report of the President (M Cainzos)

1. First, the President thanked M Sahin to organize an excellent meeting. He then reported on the activities of the sister societies (SUS and SARS) and the presentation of the 2004 Walter Brendel awardee at the Newcastle meeting of the SARS. The SUS prize winner and Patey Prize awardee were invited to present at the 2005 ESSR congress.
2. In response to a question from U Hesse concerning the general quality of the abstracts at the ESSR congress and the selection procedure thereof, the President reminded the fact that the General Committee (GC) is relying on the judgment of the abstract review board and cannot interfere with the abstract scoring assigned by this board.
3. Finally, the President proposed to develop a web based internet educational course on Surgical Research, following the example of a similar existing module by the Surgical Infection Society Europe. Details were shown and a demonstration was given. All members of the GC agreed that this initiative merits further development and will represent a valuable tool to further the Society's attractiveness.

2. Report of the Secretary General (M Boros)

1. Congress venue 2007: the Secretary General informed the GA that J Bonjer, who was elected by the GA in Athens (May 2004) to organize the 2007 congress in Rotterdam (The Netherlands), has left for Canada, is unable to organize the congress and has to be replaced. For the Congress venue 2008, formal proposals arrived from Malaga (Spain) and Warsaw (Poland).
2. ESSR contract with S Karger AG: the Secretary General was authorized by the GC to renegotiate the existing contract. The changes were unanimously approved by the GA. Essential changes agreed upon include:
 - i. the number of paying subscribers will be 200 instead of 250;
 - ii. the abstracts of the annual congress will be published as a supplement issue of the Journal of the Society;
 - iii. page charges will be reduced to 50% for members of the Society.
3. N Inston, elected Member at large from the GC in Athens (May 2004), proposed to step down for personal reasons. This was approved by both the GC and the GA.
4. No significant progress has been made regarding the National Delegates; the Secretary General proposed to reactivate this issue during the 2006 Congress in Rostock.

3. Report of the Treasurer (T Minor)

The saldo of the society during the year 2004 has been negative by 3760.35 € , predominantly due to the fact that the due revenues from Congress held in Athens have not yet been credited. About 2500 € have been spent for travel expenses, another 1600 € for funding of prizes (Brendel award and poster prizes). On the other hand 300 € were received from delayed payments of missing membership fees. The total balance of the society's account to 31. December 2004 amounts to 36 617.63 €.

Again, a notable number of members were not paying their membership fees for 2004, despite replicate reminders sent out by Karger and by the treasurer's bureau. We thus have to consider, that redundantly not paying members are to be excluded from receiving the Journal ESR and will eventually be expelled from

the society membership list, if a last reminder to settle the due fees will not adequately be followed.

4. Report of the Congress President 2005 (M Sahin)

We (Members of Selcuk University) were honored and happy to organize the 40th Congress of ESSR on May 25-28, 2005 in Konya, Turkey. We received more than 435 abstracts, and finally a total of 343 free papers, including 195 oral communications and 148 posters were presented. The Congress started on May 24 with two pre-congress courses; 1-Basic course in laboratory animals, with the cooperation of Manchester University, Erciyes University – Kayseri and Selcuk University – Konya, 2-Wound healing and care course with the cooperation of World Union of Wound Healing Societies. The core meeting was then arranged between Thursday, May 25, and Saturday, May 28 in The Congress Center of Selcuk University, Aladdin Keykubat Campus in Konya.

There were four Symposiums and 9 Keynote Lectures, in general the papers have been of very high scientific level. The participants arrived from over 40 different countries; we were honored to welcome the representatives of our sister societies, including SUS, SARS, SRSSA and Japanese representatives of the ESSR. The SARS and SRSSA prize winners of 2004 also presented their works. The abstracts have been published in a supplement issue of European Surgical Research (37, S1, 1-131, 2005). On the occasion of the congress, Monduzzi Editore has been delegated the task of publication of the proceedings; 14 papers appeared (in: Proceedings of the 40th Congress of the European Society for Surgical Research, May 25-28, 2005, Konya, Turkey. Monduzzi Editore, International Proceedings Division, Bologna, Italy. Pp.1-128, 2005).

The social program included a Welcome Reception at the Konya Hilton Hotel, a Turkish Night Diner in Horozluhan, a historical Kervansaray, a Gala Diner at the Konya Hilton Hotel, Tours to Historical places of Konya. I do hope that all delegates, lecturers and participants enjoyed their stay in Konya.

Personally, I would like to thank the local organizing committee for their nearly 3-years devoted work, and I would like to thank the members of the society for giving us the opportunity of this organization, in Konya, an Asian City.

5. Report of the Congress President 2006 (B Vollmar)

On behalf of the board of the European Society for Surgical Research and the local organizing committee it is our honor and pleasure to invite you to Rostock-Warnemünde, Germany, to attend the 41st Congress of the ESSR on May 17-20, 2006. Based on the traditions of our Society, we are sure that the congress will promote stimulating scientific discussion between and across disciplines, and will provide a broad overview on the recent advances of surgery.

The main objective of our Society is to bring together an interdisciplinary group of clinicians and scientists to share their knowledge in the fields of clinical and experimental surgery. Therefore, we have planned an interesting and relevant program, combining oral and poster presentations, as well as invited lectures and symposia. The most up-to-date and important topics of surgery and surgical research will be included. We are confident that the meeting will provide an excellent forum to continue the dialogue between surgical practice and basic sciences - between distinguished experts and young investigators.

The organizing committee will be pleased to welcome you in Rostock-Warnemünde, a romantic Baltic sea resort with the legendary 5-star hotel Neptun, located directly at the open sandy beach. This unique place offers all requirements of a modern congress center and additionally provides a comprehensive program covering beauty, health, fitness and nutrition. A

stimulating and attractive social program for all tastes will provide ample opportunity to meet new friends in an enjoyable international atmosphere.

Deadline for submission of abstracts is January 9, 2006. On-line submission should be made directly to the congress homepage: <http://www.essr2006.de>. For further informations, please contact our Scientific Secretariat:

Scientific Secretariat:

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On behalf of the organizing committee I extend a warm welcome to you. Do join us in Rostock-Warnemünde in May 2006. Yours sincerely, Brigitte VOLLMAR

6. Election of new members

The following new members were accepted to the Society:

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Kaplan Sadi | Ankara | Turkey |
| Adilardi Pasquale | Verona | Italy |
| Cikirikcioglu Mustafa | Geneva | Switzerland |
| Djuric Dragan | Belgrade | Serbia and Montenegro |
| Ionac Mihai | Timisoara | Romania |
| Tehrani Hamid | Norwich | UK |
| Alwayn Ian | Rotterdam | The Netherlands |
| Helmy Ahmed | Cairo | Egypt |
| Dimitroulis Dimitros | Athens | Greece |
| Amaral De Avelar Dias Paul | Vila Real | Portugal |
| Yağmur Yusuf | Diyarbakır | Turkey |
| Ayazi Shahin | London | UK |
| Doğanay Mutlu | Ankara | Turkey |
| Kafalı M.Ertuğrul | Konya | Turkey |
| Yüksel Osman | Ankara | Turkey |
| Khaladj Nawid | Hannover | Germany |
| Yiğitbaş Hakan | İstanbul | Turkey |
| Reis Erhan | Ankara | Turkey |
| Kulaçoğlu Hakan | Ankara | Turkey |
| Eren Veli Çağatay | Ankara | Turkey |
| Savaş M.Çağrı | İsparta | Turkey |
| Altan Egemen | İstanbul | Turkey |
| Baca Emre | İstanbul | Turkey |
| Abbasbeyatlı Ertan | Erbil | Irak |
| Kocabaş Rifat | İstanbul | Turkey |
| Ethem Alhan | Trabzon | Turkey |
| Ertürk Türker | İstanbul | Turkey |
| Uzunköy Ali | Şanlıurfa | Turkey |
| Taşkın Mustafa | İstanbul | Turkey |
| Manekeller Steffen | Bonn | Germany |
| Iscan H. Zafer | Ankara | Turkey |
| Topaloğlu Serdar | Ankara | Turkey |

We welcome the new members to the Society and count on their active participation. A corporate membership was requested by A Helmy for the Egyptian Society of Surgeons and The Egyptian Group for Surgical Science and Research, but this was considered inappropriate by the GA.

7. Election of new Officers 2005/2006

This year M Cainzos and M Menger stepped down from the GC; they were thanked by the President for their dedication and commitment to the Society. Following a vote (22 valid, 4 void) by the GA the newly elected Office of the Society is given:

1. General Committee

President: M Boros, Szeged, Hungary
Secretary General: W Ceelen, Ghent, Belgium
Treasurer: T Minor, Bonn, Germany
1st Vice President: B Vollmar, Rostock, Germany
2nd Vice President: I Alwayn, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Members at large:

E Antoniou, Athens, Greece
M Sahin, Konya, Turkey
G Szczesny, Warsaw, Poland
I Garcia-Alonso, Bilbao, Spain

2. Nominating Committee

A Montgomery, Malmö, Sweden
T Van Gulik, Amsterdam, The Netherlands
I Sayek, Ankara, Turkey

3. Award Committee

R Anderson, Lund, Sweden
U Brückner, Ulm, Germany
T Karatzas, Patras, Greece
I Miko, Debrecen, Hungary
U Hesse, Stuttgart, Germany
Y Yamamoto, Akita, Japan
JM Bellon-Caneiro, Madrid, Spain
M Menger, Homburg, Germany

4. Scientific Studies Committee

M Cainzos, Santiago de Compostella, Spain

5. Trustees

B Jeppson, Malmö, Sweden
C Vagianos, Patras, Greece

8. Election of the Congress Venue 2008

Formal applications were presented to the GA by G Szczesny (Warsaw) who presented his plans for Warsaw, Poland and by M Garcia-Caballero who proposed Malaga, Spain as the congress venue 2008. Following discussion from the floor and voting by the GA, **Warsaw** was elected as congress venue 2008 by 17 votes against 4. Congratulations!

The President closed the GA at 2100h.

Awardees, Konya, 2005

Walter Brendel Award: S Manekeller (Bonn, Germany). 'Time and Temperature of oxygenated machine perfusion preservation as determinants for ulterior recovery of marginal donor livers.'

Young investigator award: S. Ábrahám (Szeged, Hungary): 'Kupffer cell blockade ameliorates the obstructive jaundice-induced microcirculatory inflammatory reaction in the liver.'

Poster prizes:

C. Torday (Hungary): 'Methane production in endothelial cells – a consequence of free radical attack?'

W Bouquet et al: (Ghent, Belgium): 'Taxol versus Paclitaxel beta-cyclodextrin complexes for hyperthermic peritoneal perfusion: an in vitro study.'

We warmly congratulate the awardees and remind the Brendel award winner that he is expected to present his work at the coming SUS and SARS congress.

41th Congress, Rostock, Germany, 2006

We cordially invite you to attend the 41st Congress of the ESSR on May 17-20, 2006 in Rostock, Germany – see details on page 3.

42th Congress, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 2007

The 42th congress is to be organized in Rotterdam (exact dates will be announced in the next newsletter). For information, contact I.P.J. Alwayn, M.D., Ph.D, Office Hs-323, Division of Hepatobiliary and Transplant Surgery, Department of Surgery, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. tel: + 31 10 4633416; fax: +31 10 4635307, email: i.alwayn@erasmusmc.nl

Further Important Notes

- The ESSR, as a small society, is highly dependent on the commitment of its members for its functioning. We therefore would like to urge all members to timely fulfill the membership fees in order to keep the financial balance of the Society healthy.

- As you are certainly aware, European Science is currently in a crisis compared to the efforts in the fastly growing Eastern economies and the US. As a scientific society, the ESSR should actively play its role in promoting basic and clinical surgical research. Therefore, we would like to stress the importance of attending the yearly Congress and submitting your best abstracts for this event. Also, some of the larger European states (France, Scandinavia, Italy) are currently underrepresented in the Society and we would urge interested members to step forward as a potential National Delegate.
- If you do not yet receive the newsletter by email, **please provide us with an email address** in order to facilitate the forwarding of the newsletter and other ESSR related material.

With best regards,



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