



forum

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10th Anniversary Address: The History of the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery

Edited from the speech given by Dow B. Stough, MD, on October 10, 2002, at the Annual Meeting of the International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery in Chicago, Illinois.



It is a special time for us...the opening ceremony of the 10th Anniversary of our Society. It is fitting and proper that we take a few minutes to reflect upon the history of this small, proud Society. The roots of this organization find their origin with Dr. O'Tar Norwood's *Hair Transplant Forum International* newsletter. This was a publication aimed at the idea of

for our Society. The 10-year history of our Society reflects that we have stayed close to our original goals. In the beginning, Dr. O'Tar Norwood and I felt that a meeting must first be held before any society could be formed. He agreed to co-chair this meeting and Dallas was selected as the first meeting site. The meeting was a huge success and generated over

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sharing information among surgeons. The formation of this newsletter drew immediate applause throughout the world, and signaled the beginning of communication among transplant surgeons. The initial theory behind the *Forum* in 1990 is still reflected in our Society today—that is, that the internationalization of knowledge will benefit all and will raise the standards of this field.

Dr. Richard Shiell once stated: "What a difference a decade can make." Well, the same could be said

\$300,000, which was then given to the Society for the start-up fund. And what a meeting it was! As Dr. James Mayson stated, "The meeting welded our interests into one and forged support for a hair replacement conference as never before." Dr. Carlos Puig said, "It was an historic time for hair replacement surgery. Never before have I attended a medical symposium where egos were put aside." "Continuing medical education took on a new dimension." Others stated that

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