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## Submit an Abstract



Deadline:  
December 29, 2008  
17th Annual  
Scientific Meeting  
Amsterdam,  
The Netherlands

## Blu...A Man Remembered...

**Editors' Note:** This issue was planned as a post-meeting issue. A week before press, we heard the sad news of the passing of HRS pioneer, Dr. Bluford (Blu) Stough. In an ironic way, it might be fitting to remember Blu in this issue, as he was a true pioneer of hair restoration surgery meetings, hosting the first-ever HRS Symposium in Hot Springs back in 1975. Many of the prominent names in this field today owe their inspiration to Blu Stough and the dozen or more meetings that he chaired in the early days of hair restoration.

### D. Bluford "Blu" Stough, MD 1927-2008



#### Reminiscences of Blu Stough Richard C. Shiell, MBBS

Nothing had prepared me for the dynamic little man who drove his Excalabre soft-top sports car onto the tarmac at Hot Springs that day in February 1975 to meet our plane. I had known "D. Bluford Stough" by repute but had not read any of his papers. These had been published mostly in journals that were unavailable in Australia at that time.

I was immediately attracted to his friendly, extrovert nature, his obvious popularity and his Arkansas accent. I was surprised to find that everyone at the meeting found my accent very different as well. Few folk in Hot Springs in those days had ever met an Australian and many, confusing Australia with Austria or Argentina, were surprised to discover that I spoke English at all!!

It was the first HT meeting that I had ever heard about and I had traveled halfway around the world to be there. The 2nd Annual Hair Transplant Symposium and Workshop was sponsored by Dermatologists and Facial Plastic Surgeons led by Dr. Stough and a smaller meeting had been conducted in Hot Springs a year earlier. They had now gone "International" by advertising the meeting in some of the Dermatology and Plastic Surgery journals, and I had learned about it from a friendly surgeon in Sydney.

There were many of us who got off the little commuter plane that day and most seemed to be attending Blu's meeting. We had boarded at Little Rock but had come in from the USA, Canada, Mexico, Finland, and Australia. Amongst those that I met over the next few days were men who became the legends in the field—Larry Bosley, George Farber, Sheldon Kabaker, Rolf Nordstrom, O'Tar Norwood, and Walter Unger. There were also past luminaries such as Tom Alt, Sam Ayres, Jay Barnett, Bob Berger, Edwin Krull, Chuck Monell, John Yarborough, Konstantine Sparkuhl, and Dick Webster.

Blu made us feel welcome straight away and held a wonderful reception that first night at his home in Hot Springs. We were greeted by Blu and his gracious wife Jerry, and we were quickly introduced to what was meant by the term "Southern hospitality." Most of the waiters that night had been patients of Blu's so we soon got to see many examples of his work long before the first color slides were shown next morning. One of the other waiters that night was a young college student whom Blu introduced as his son Dow (Dowling B. Stough IV). Little did we know that the pleasant young man with the endearing smile and open face would be one of the future founders of our International Society of Hair Restoration Surgery some 18 years later in 1993. He was to become our first President and a worthy successor to his illustrious father.

*"We quickly learned what  
was meant by the term  
'Southern hospitality.'"*