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HAIR TRANSPLANT forum INTERNATIONAL

International Meeting – Rome

by James Arnold, MD, Reporter at Large

The Italian Society for Hair Restoration hosted their third international meeting in early June. "International" truly described the faculty and attendees. In addition to 36 speakers from the Italian Society, the program included over 30 international speakers from throughout Europe, North and South America, and from such distant lands as Australia and Japan.

The ISHR annual meeting has expanded dramatically since their inception three years ago. This year, the expanded meeting included an instructional course for assistants organized effectively by Joe Greco plus an introductory course for surgeons arranged efficaciously by Ron Shapiro. Martin Unger played a pivotal role in helping to organize the scientific program. Joe Greco, Ron Shapiro, and Martin Unger received special recognition by the Society for their generous contributions.

The Rome meeting is held at the IDI, a hospital devoted to dermatology, plastic surgery, and scientific research. The facility is an excellent meeting site with a comfortable auditorium and modern surgical suites under the same roof. The program format has panel discussions or speakers addressing the conference in the auditorium while live surgery is performed in one of the operating rooms. Every 15-20 minutes, the live surgery is viewed by the audience on a large video screen. Two-way communications enables the surgeon to explain the sequential steps of his

procedure and allows the audience to ask specific questions. The six invited surgeons felt honored to demonstrate their techniques and the attendees indicated the live surgeries were an important part of their learning experience. Four of the surgeries involved hair transplantation. James Arnold demonstrated a contemporary micro and minigraft approach and Ron Shapiro showed his meticulous technique for a 1200-graft megasession, with grafts placed very close, i.e., 1 mm apart. Dr. Shapiro clearly demonstrated that one-four hair grafts can be placed quickly and easily into very small, non-dilated incisions. The key is to develop gentle insertion skills.

Dr. Carlos Uebel transplanted a patient using his original micrografting techniques. Of particular interest was Dr. Uebel's deft use of an #11 scalpel blade as his sole instrument in transplanting grafts. The #11 blade quickly cuts an incision followed immediately by an assistant introducing a graft as the tip of the blade is used to hold open the incision site. Dr. Uebel next uses the #11 blade tip to maneuver the graft down to the proper insertion depth, orients the graft in the proper direction and instantly cuts the next incision. This sequence is repeated remarkably fast, each cycle repeated within three to four seconds, enabling Dr. Uebel and four assistants to transplant 1,500 grafts in two hours.

Giuseppe Rosati, MD, used a small round trocar with a 3-sided sharp tip to cut "micro-star" incisions in his

transplant demonstration. The skin openings created by the trocar appear similar in shape to a 3-point Mercedes star. The openings are also dilated. The micro star openings accept "larger grafts" and the irregular shaped openings hold the grafts snugly. Also of interest, Dr. Rosati uses both microscopes and video magnification for graft dissection.

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