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HAIR TRANSPLANT forum INTERNATIONAL



Presidential Address

by Russell Knudsen, MBBS, Sydney, Australia

(The following was the 1997 Presidential Address, presented on October 16, 1997, in Barcelona, Spain.)

Let me begin by thanking both the membership and the Board of Governors for the privilege and honor of becoming your fifth President. On a personal note I must pay tribute especially to two people that have been responsible for this honor. Firstly my wife Anne, who sadly, and ironically, as my biggest and most loyal supporter, misses this moment due to temporary ill-health. She will see her many friends in this room at the next meeting in Washington. Secondly, and no less importantly, my friend and mentor Richard Shiell who has wisely and generously guided and supported me throughout my professional career. It would not have been possible without either of you.

What excites me most about today is how the ISHRS has demonstrated its international nature. We have 667 physician members and 89 assistant members who represent 37 countries. This meeting in Barcelona is our second outside of the US in our first five years, is our first meeting in Europe and I have the privilege of becoming your first non-US President. As well, 46% of your Board members are non-US. Truly an international society.

The ISHRS is a big business and our support staff in Chicago are vital to our success. Christina Achziger is

our excellent Executive Director and we have 14 part-time support staff directly involved in the management of our society. As well we have developed a successful relationship with both our public relations firm—Dragonette—and our Website developer.

The continued success of our society is in no small way due to the wise and successful leadership shown by our past-Presidents. Dow Stough in 1993 was our Founding President followed by Paul Straub in 1994, Robert Leonard in 1995 and James Vogel in 1996, your outgoing President. "Top-Dogs" indeed!

The success of this meeting is due to the diligent efforts of our Program Chairmen Robert Haber and Patrick Frechet and our Live Operating Director Ramon Vila-Rovira. Thanks go to them and to Deborah Elliott for her terrific work in organizing the Assistant's Meeting.

I believe that our biggest achievements in 1997 were firstly in public relations, with a succession of supportive articles appearing in US and international publications. Secondly, and perhaps more significantly, ISHRS developed and released its Website — www.ISHRS.org., which recorded over 12,000 "hits" or visits in its first 3 months! We are only beginning to understand the incredi-

ble power and significance of this technology that will profoundly affect the way we inform the public about our specialty. As a benefit of membership, the ISHRS is listing the entire membership details—name, address, phone number—on our Website at no cost. Individual homepages are able to be designed and purchased for this Website. This price will be discounted during this meeting to \$550 US but will from

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