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HAIR TRANSPLANT *forum* INTERNATIONAL

The 6th Annual Meeting of the ISHRS Washington, DC September 16-20, 1998

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The attendees of the 6th Annual Scientific Meeting of the ISHRS discovered a greater emphasis placed on scientific information at this year's conference. Results from comparative studies in surgical techniques were of special interest. The increased emphasis on medical treatment for hair loss was also evident. "There were more facts and less opinions" in this program organized by Paul Cotterill, MD. Walter Unger, MD, stated, "I am impressed with so many scientific papers coming to the floor compared with previous meetings."

The state-of-the-art and evolving trends in hair transplantation were

addressed by Russell Knudsen, MBBS, Richard Shiell, MBBS, and others. The Internet has given an abundance of information to patients, resulting in more educated and sophisticated patients. Propecia® is having an impact on hair restoration and can be viewed as a valuable ally. Incorporating the benefits of Propecia® "encourages a holistic approach to hair loss," Dr. Knudsen emphasized. Selecting medical treatment when indicated, surgery when indicated, or a combined treatment, provides much greater choice for both the surgeon and the patient. The field of hair replacement has forever changed with the advent of potent medical therapy. The specialists of the future will need to be aware of the latest medical treatment as well as the latest surgical treatment for hair loss.

Angela M. Christiano, PhD, was invited to give a special lecture on the genetics of inherited alopecias. Dr. Christiano, a molecular biologist, is known for her original work discovering the genetic aspects of congenital atricha. Dr. Christiano personally experienced a severe episode of alopecia areata with the associated psychological "madness of hair loss," which turned her focus of research toward alopecia. Genetic aberrations on chromosome 8, the same gene which is altered in "hairless mice," is the site for several congenital forms of "hairless people." While Dr.

Christiano's work is not directed at androgenetic hair loss, it is quite evident that greater clarity in the relationship of hair loss and genetics is fast approaching.

Bobby Limmer, MD, gave an excellent discussion on factors influencing the final appearance of density following hair transplantation. Dr. Limmer acknowledged there are many ways to give density, i.e., flaps, large grafts, small grafts, etc. However, the use of follicular units best mimics both "naturalness and density." Using slides provided by Manny Marritt, MD, (somehow a lit-

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Angela M. Christiano, PhD, Herbert Irving Assistant Professor of Dermatology, Columbia University, New York, served as a guest speaker at the meeting.

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