



forum

Volume 12, Number 1

January/February 2002

Brave New World

Gerard Seery, MD *Carmichael, California*

Evolve or perish. This phrase may be relevant to the dilemma that the ISHRS now faces. What dilemma? Let me explain.

As recently as about five years ago, the art and science of hair restoration was in reasonably good shape. The mini-crisis precipitated by the numerical drop-off of patients had stabilized and denigratory advertising seemed to be on the decline. A sense of collegial civility was beginning to prevail in a young Society beginning to find its feet.

The specialty itself was moderately multidimensional with several treatment options available to practitioners. Scalp reduction was declining in popularity but there was always the

The benefits of FUHT, once recognized, were embraced to the virtual exclusion of all other modalities of hair restoration. The change, although profound, was insidious and not the subject of much discussion in hair restoration circles despite its potential for changing the way hair restoration is delivered.

So What's the Problem?

Hair restoration, as it exists today, is virtually a one-dimensional, one hammer, and one nail treatment. The universal acceptance of FUHT has had a stultifying effect on hair restoration by crowding out all other modalities of treatment. The result is that a lay individual can deliver

This is not a criticism of FUHT. It is an undesirable side effect of its success. Please don't kill the messenger.

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Members should represent themselves not as practitioners of hair restoration, but as practitioners of hair restoration and scalp surgery. ISHRS should consider changing its name to the International Society of Hair Restoration and Scalp Surgery.

possibility that Patrick Frechet might yet restore it to at least a semblance of its former glory.

At this juncture, a great new treatment modality, follicular unit hair transplantation (FUHT), came on the scene. Ironically, it was this that triggered the present dilemma.

the present treatment modality with only a few months training. This may have undesirable consequences for patient and practitioner alike in that the ease with which hair restoration can be effected will not go unnoticed by those motivated only by the desire to make a quick buck with the minimum of effort.

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President: Bobby L. Limmer, MD

Executive Director: Laura Musgraves

Editors: Michael L. Beehner, MD, and William M. Parsley, MD

Surgical Assistants Corner Editor:
To Be Announced

Managing Editor & Graphic Design:

Cheryl Duckler, cduckler@attbi.com

Advertising Sales (Interim): Lisa Rafael,
847/330-9830; lrafael@aad.org

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The ISHRS Golden Follicle Award sculpture, as seen on the cover of this issue, was designed by Francisco Abril, MD. Dr. Abril offers for sale, copies of a small bronze hair follicle sculpture (10" high). For more information, please contact: Clinica Dr. Francisco Abril, PO dela Habana, 137, 28036 Madrid, Spain. Phone: 34-1-359-1961; Fax: 34-1-359-4731.



President's Message



Bobby L. Limmer, MD
San Antonio, Texas

This first issue of the 2002 *Forum* launches the 10th year of the ISHRS, and provides us time to both reflect and anticipate. In 1993, as Dr. Dow Stough and Dr. O'Tar Norwood convened the first meeting, few of us would have anticipated the professional scientific advancement that this organization and the *Forum* would bring to our field, or the friendships that would come to enrich our lives by getting to know our colleagues. Those who have been here since the beginning have been rewarded both professionally and personally. We have grown from a loosely scattered field of independent physicians to a more cohesive group under the ISHRS. What we do and say influences each others' lives more than we may appreciate. Let us all dedicate this year to a constructive attitude to our colleagues and our profession.

Many very special words of appreciation go out to our leaders: Immediate Past President Marcelo Gandelman, MD, for his level-headed leadership throughout the past year. A big ap-

plause to Mark Avram, MD, who held a steady course to bring off an excellent 9th Annual Meeting, when many feared a disaster was imminent. To the program chairmen who helped organize and carry out the Scientific Program: John Cole, MD, Bill Parsley, MD, Marilynne Gillespie, and all their co-workers. And to each committee chairman and member who devoted work "in the trenches" to provide the true skeletal strength of our Society. You are inspirations to all who follow your lead, and you have set the bar high!

In anticipation of this year, plan to be more active. Every dues-paying member is vitally important, and your officers want to hear from you. Mark your calendars now to allow you to participate in the 10th Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois, October 10–13, 2002. Also consider attending the Live Surgery Workshop in Orlando, Florida, March 6–9, 2002. Each of you has something to say, some experience to share, some interesting problem or case solved in your practice—bring it as a presentation or poster to Chicago!

I encourage all ISHRS members:

***Be an active part of
your Society this year.*** ♦

Bobby L. Limmer, MD

CHICAGO, IL



10TH Annual ISHRS Meeting
October 10–13, 2002
Chicago Marriott Downtown

Editors' Message

This first issue of 2002 marks a new beginning for the editorial staff and a new look for the *Hair Transplant Forum International*. Cheryl Pomerantz will be leaving as Editor of the *Assistants' Corner* column. She has worked tirelessly to obtain information from our valuable surgical assistants. This has not been an easy task, but one to which she has given a stellar performance. The entire Society is indebted to her for her valuable contributions.

The candidate for the next Editor of the Assistant's Corner must be willing to spend an adequate amount of time interviewing and discussing issues with surgical assistants and must also be an ISHRS member in good standing. Several quality candidates have already stepped forward. Technicians interested in this position should contact Cheryl Pomerantz and fill out and send in the application found on page 30.

Dr. Ed Epstein will be taking over the *Cyberspace Chat* column for Dr. Bill Parsley. Bill's column has emerged from a

Happy New Year to all and I wish you much success in 2002. I write this editorial with mixed emotions as I am proud of the continuing success of the *Forum* but realize that, over time, all things change. I will miss the inspiration and wisdom, not to mention the breadth of knowledge, of my esteemed Co-Editor Dow Stough. His enthusiasm, and the absolute skill and



Russell Knudsen, MBBS
Sydney, Australia



Dow B. Stough, MD
Hot Springs, Arkansas

mere concept to a cornerstone section in the *Forum*. E-mail is the lifeblood of cyberspace; therefore, Dr. Epstein is relying on all physicians to keep their e-mail flowing and maintain this valuable section.

Drs. Jim Harris and Paul Cotterill will continue with their roles as Co-Editors of the *Life Outside of Medicine* column. Drs. Jeffrey S. Epstein, Jim Vogel, Marc Avram, and Francisco Jimenez will peruse the medical journals, news, etc., and submit entries for the *From the Literature* column.

The new editors for the *Forum* will be

commitment to detail of his able assistant, Deborah Hunter, have been integral to the timely production of the *Forum*. They will be a very hard act to live up to but, as we manage the change of editorships over the next few issues of the *Forum*, I am confident standards will be maintained. Drs. Michael Beehner (Platinum Follicle Award winner) and William Parsley

Drs. Michael L. Beehner and Bill Parsley. I am confident that with the knowledge, skill, commitment, and expertise of these two wonderful surgeons, the *Forum* will no doubt be raised to another level. I welcome both Dr. Beehner and Dr. Parsley.

Finally, I will be stepping down as a Co-Editor. My close friend and confidante, Dr. Russell Knudsen, will stay on for the next year to assume continuity of care. It has been a tremendous pleasure and honor to work with all of the above-mentioned editors, and I will especially miss working with my esteemed Co-Editor, Dr. Russell Knudsen. My secretary, Deborah Hunter, deserves accolades for her tremendous efforts over the past three years. If I could clone her, I would gladly do so for the new editors. It has been my privilege to play a small part in the composition of the *Forum*. ♦

Dow B. Stough, MD

(Cyberspace Chat Editor) are eminently qualified, greatly experienced, and, most importantly, eloquent writers who will undoubtedly move the *Forum* ahead to even greater heights. I salute them for their commitment and apologize to their wives for passing them the "poisoned chalice." ♦

Russell Knudsen, MBBS

If we could make but one request in this last editorial, it would be for every physician to seriously consider making a commitment to attend our 10th anniversary meeting in Chicago. This meeting will truly have something for everyone, so bring your entire staff and your spouse and show your support on behalf of our Society. —Dow and Russell

To Submit an Article or Letter to the *Forum* Editors

Please send submissions via a 3½" disk or e-mail, double space and use a 12 point type size. Remember to include all photos and figures referred to in your article as separate attachments (JPEG, Tiff, or Bitmap). For e-mail submissions, be sure to ATTACH your file(s)—**DO NOT** embed it in the e-mail itself. **We prefer e-mail submissions with the appropriate attachments.** Send to:

William M. Parsley, MD
310 East Broadway, Suite 100
Louisville, Kentucky 40202-1745

E-mail: bparsley@bellsouth.net

Submission deadline for the March/April issue is February 10; May/June, April 10.

Please note new
submission
address!

Notes from the Editor Emeritus



Richard C. Shiell, MBBS
Melbourne, Australia

A hearty welcome to new *Forum* editors Drs. Bill Parsley and Mike Beehner. They are being eased into this important post over the next couple of editions by

retiring editors Drs. Dow Stough and Russell Knudsen.

For newcomers to the ISHRS, a little history may be applicable at this point in time, and I quote from a paper that I presented in Korea in May this year.

Hair Transplant Forum International was the brainchild of Dr. O'Tar T. Norwood from Oklahoma City and the first edition of 4 pages was published privately by O'Tar in September 1989. It was definitely an example of an idea whose time had come, as it took off immediately and subsequent editions expanded rapidly to 8 and then 12 pages as subscribers and contributors quickly realized the value of an international newsletter in which to exchange ideas.

It was only a matter of time before the need for an International Society was recognized. All the past meetings in this field had been conducted by American Societies of Dermatology, Dermatologic Surgery or Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and non-board certified practitioners were not able to gain full membership. Hair transplant surgeons were from a wide variety of medical disciplines and many were family physicians with a flair for surgery. O'Tar and Dow Stough were the driving force behind this move to create a new society, and the ISHRS was founded at a meeting held in Dallas, Texas in May 1993.

In 1995, O'Tar retired from the constant pressure of the Forum and

sold the newsletter to the ISHRS for \$50,000... He very generously gifted this money back to the ISHRS for use in a fund to encourage improvement in hair transplant techniques. Dr. Richard Shiell, from Melbourne, Australia, who had been the most prolific contributor to the Forum over the previous 5 years, was appointed as the new Editor. Under his guidance, the Forum expanded to a standardized 32 pages (occasionally 36), and many regular features such as "Life Outside of Medicine," "Surgeon of the Month," and "Dermatology for the Non-Dermatologist" were added.

After three exhausting years, Richard handed over the reins to two ex-Presidents of our organization, Dow Stough and Russell Knudsen. These energetic, politically aware, and computer literate young men quickly dragged Forum production techniques into the computer age and the fax machine, metal scissors, and bottles of paste were pensioned off to be replaced by their electronic equivalents.

A great deal of responsibility rests with the *Forum* editors as the ISHRS Board gives them complete editorial freedom. While traditional peer review of material is not the usual practice, the Editors have all had vast experience in hair restoration surgery, so there is a type of peer review before publication. In addition, readers may be assured that *all* past editors have sought assistance from other experts in the field before publishing sensitive or potentially controversial material (and sometimes from many such individuals).

Bill and Mike, we wish you every success in this new role. It will be a lot of work and you will not get to watch much TV over the next three years. It will be a rewarding experience, however, and certainly one you will always treasure when you, too, have joined the growing ranks of *Forum* Editors Emeriti.

The Puerto Vallarta Meeting

This went off on schedule October 18–22, and meeting convenor Dr. Marc Avram is to be commended for his excellent program and smooth organization under trying circumstances. While the meeting halls always appeared to be comfortably filled, the obvious gaps in the speaker schedule were the main indicators of last minute cancellations as a result of the events of September 11.

The workshops and social events were well attended. The Saturday night dinner took the form of a fiesta with a variety of Mexican music and colorful dance from various regions demonstrated. At this event, the ISHRS Awards were presented and we were all delighted to hear that Dr. David Seager had received the Golden Follicle Award and Dr. Bob Bernstein the Platinum Follicle Award for 2001. Both were thoroughly deserved after many years of dedicated research, lecturing, and writing in our field.

The ISHRS Scientific Committee awarded only one research bursary this year, and that went to Professor J.C. Kim and his research team at the Kyungpook National University Hospital in Taegu, Korea. Dr. Jung Chul Kim was our first Platinum Award winner in 1994, and I am sure we will hear much more from him in the future as he and his team have many research projects in hand.

Discussions between ISHRS and ABHRS

Representatives from these two bodies met informally in Puerto Vallarta to discuss their differences and considerable progress was made without any loss of blood. While the use of the term "Board" is still a point of dispute amongst a few members of the ISHRS, the value of the ABHRS as an advanced educational, examining, and credentialing organization

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