



forum

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Report on the 6th Congress and Live Surgery Workshop of the ESHRS Berlin, Germany

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Eighty delegates from over 20 nations attended the 6th Annual Congress and Live Surgery Workshop of the ESHRS held in Germany's magnificent capital, Berlin. A city once divided is now returned to its powerful whole and its rapid progress makes it akin to our hair restoration industry. Where we once had great diversity of opinions on how best to treat our patients, surgeons' goals now are becoming more parallel, focussing on improving techniques that technically and aesthetically produce the better outcomes for patients, while ergonomic improvements protect our technicians and the precious follicles.

What better place to stay than on the picturesque island town of Potsdam, where Prussian kings used to hunt game and have their grand summer palaces.

The ultra modern Sanssoucci ("without concern") Hotel nestles at the edge of this "Grünewald."

Live surgery was conducted at the world-class MEO Clinic in the centre of Berlin, which Dr. Gerd Westphal

runs with admirable German efficiency.

Dr. Michael Pees gallantly manned the microphone, posing questions from the attendees to the various demonstrators in the ORs.

Dr. Ron Shapiro demonstrated hairline design and dense packing. Surreptitiously, he was observed (with his assistant) to be implanting a remarkable 16 follicles per minute (or close to 1,000 per hour!) into holes pre-made with Sharpoints and Hasson & Wong chisel blades.



Dr. Frank Neidel demonstrates his techniques at the live surgery workshop.

Dr. Patrick Frechet, assisted by Ciro de Sio, carried out one AR and two triple flap procedures. One of the latter had no "give" in his scalp, but Dr. Frechet was undeterred, took exact calculations, and made the whole procedure look like child's play. Nothing could be further from the truth. Only a handful of surgeons in the world could approach this man's remarkable capability.

Drs. Arturo Sandoval, Isabel Banuchi, Frank Neidel, and Alex Ginzburg also demonstrated their special techniques to the audience.

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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



Robert S. Haber, MD
Mayfield Heights, Ohio

What a year! I find it hard to believe I'm writing my last President's Message, as it seems just last week that I wrote my first. It has been an exciting and productive year, and it has been a great privilege to serve as your

President. If the ISHRS is thought of as a child, than in its eleventh year, it has passed long ago from infancy to childhood, through adolescence, and it has now firmly entered young adulthood. In its maturity, it has learned to face and address significant challenges from inside and outside, and is unafraid to grapple with issues that affect us all.

The economic concerns that we faced several years ago are behind us, and we are now financially healthy, with a clear sense of fiscal responsibility that should keep us healthy (although somewhat more sober) in the years ahead.

We are actively in the process of evaluating the controversial topic of artificial hair fiber use, carefully monitoring the Internet for activities and messages that are counterproductive or fraudulent, aggressively seeking independent CME accreditation, and diligently developing a core curriculum to guide our educational efforts, to name just a few of our activities.

Being a truly international organization brings the benefits of friendships, ideas, and collegiality from all corners of the globe. It also brings with it the difficulties of cultural, legal, and technical differences that often cannot be fully reconciled.

We enjoy the status of the world's largest organization of hair restoration surgeons, but we must increase our

efforts at growth by identifying and recruiting the many non-members that practice our craft. We enjoy the knowledge that hair restoration surgery has improved dramatically over the past decade, but we still face the reality of poor public perception, negative media attention, and "rogues" who still give us a bad name.

We are blessed with an involved membership interested in the activities of the Society, but we still have gifted surgeons that have not stepped up to the podium to share their techniques, or joined our committees to add their input to our direction.

I would like to thank the Society membership for electing me to the positions I have held. It has been an honor to represent you, and I will continue to do so in any way that I can. Although I will miss the responsibilities that the President shoulders, it is reassuring to know that the next President, Mario Marzola, MBBS, is a stellar individual who will capably guide the Society through the challenges of the next year.

I must also publicly state again how much I have relied upon the competence, organization, and intelligence of our Executive Director, Victoria Ceh, without whom my tasks would have been significantly greater, and my accomplishments significantly diminished. We are most fortunate to have her with us, and excited at the news that her family will be growing again soon.

The 2003 Annual Meeting in New York should be one of the most rewarding meetings we have ever convened, and may set new records in attendance. I look forward to seeing you all there this October! ♦

Sincerely,
Bob Haber, MD

"I've had a lot of problems in my life,
and most of them never happened."

~Mark Twain