

Hair Transplant Forum International
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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



Mario Marzola, MBBS
Adelaide, Australia

It is 3 o'clock in the morning and I can't get to sleep. My wife and children are happily dreaming in our hotel room but the Gala Evening with all the beautiful

feelings won't stop going around in my head. I'm talking about our 11th Annual Scientific Meeting of ISHRS at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York. I hope you were there.

Undoubtedly the best meeting ever, they just get better and better don't they? May I share with you some of the highlights. The program put together by Jerry Cooley asked for professional and scientific papers and in the 11 years of ISHRS I have never seen the presenters respond so well. Speaking for all the attendees, Jerry, I wish to thank you for the time and effort that I know you put into our program. You are a star.

The Distinguished Assistant Award was presented for the first time. Has anybody deserved it more than Cheryl Pomerantz and Marilynne Gillespie? Maybe just maybe the super important status of our surgical assistants is starting to be recognized. As an Australian, I was very proud of Jennifer Martinick's Platinum Follicle Award and cheered loudly when Bill Parsley's Golden Follicle Award was presented as it was well overdue. Who would argue with these choices? The ISHRS Executive Committee does not give the

Manfred Lucas Award every year but Walter Unger deserves to join the elite group for he speaks and writes so clearly that it is a pleasure to learn from him. To know that he is a gentleman and a devoted family man is just a bonus.

Who will ever forget all the Pioneers present? Tom Alt, Sam Ayres, Hiram Sturm, George Farber, Bobby Berger, Patrick Rabineau, Jay Barnett, Walter Unger, O'Tar Norwood, Richard Shiell, (Norman Orentreich was present earlier in the day), and what did you all feel when Dow Stough made that speech off the cuff about his dad, Blu Stough? I don't think there was a dry eye in the house.

I would really like to thank Bob Haber and Victoria Ceh for looking after the ISHRS as if it were their own. That is the way I hope we all look upon the ISHRS, our Society, full of our friends, looking for all ways to improve our patient outcomes while having the best time along the way. This is our life, it is not a dress rehearsal.

Please help me to run the ISHRS even better next year. There are many committees and positions on which to serve so let Victoria Ceh know at head office. Tell her you want to be involved to keep developing this great Society of ours. We need your input so please fax me at 630.262.1520, E-mail info@ishrs.org, or contact me at mario@marzola.net. ✧

Sincerely,

Mario Marzola, MBBS

Note to All Members

2004 Annual Membership Dues were mailed November 18. Payments are due by December 31, 2003. You may make payment online, via fax, or post.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for the New Year!

Co-Editors' Messages



William M. Parsley, MD
Louisville, Kentucky

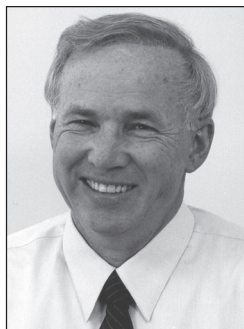
The 11th Annual Scientific Meeting of the ISHRS has just ended and what an experience. To no surprise of those who know him, Dr. Jerry Cooley did a wonderful job of orchestrating the meeting, and of emphasizing the techniques and research of highest interest to the Society. Follicular unit extraction, perpendicular grafting, and new research were among the areas given ample attention on the program. Summaries of each day's program are elsewhere in this issue (most pictures and Awards will be in the next issue). Education was not confined to the lecture rooms, but also spilled into the hallways. Dr. Bill Rassman, always

inventive, was seen showing some doctors a new device that he hopes to showcase soon. It is an implanting device that sucks up the graft into a disposable needle; it then creates a site and ejects it into the recipient area. It is the new version of the Hair Implanting Pen (HIP) and it certainly looks promising; however, history has repeatedly demonstrated the obstacles along the road from the drawing table to the operating table for automated planting. If anyone can do it, Dr. Rassman will probably be that person. Meanwhile, Dr. Marc Avram demonstrated a magnifier utilizing a Polarized LED light. It is called the Syris and also seems to have much promise.

The highlight of the meeting for most of us was the Pioneers in Education panel. Eleven of the doctors who founded and taught hair restoration were gathered on one stage and introduced, along with some highlights of

their accomplishments. These included Drs. Norman Orentreich, Hiram Sturm, Bob Berger, Bluford Stough, Patrick Rabineau, O'Tar Norwood, Jay Barnett, George Farber, Tom Alt, and Walter Unger. Dr. Sam Ayres was also honored but was unable to attend. With Dr. Unger moderating, the panel turned out to be a trip down memory lane with each giving a little tidbit of history, ending with Dr. Orentreich describing his work that turned out to be the birth of modern hair restoration. It was coincidental that this was the Golden Anniversary of the first hair transplant performed by Drs. Orentreich and Sturm (late 1952) and was within a mile or so of the place it was performed. Saturday night at the Gala Dinner, the honorees were given an award, highlighted by Dr. Dow Stough giving the award to his father, Dr. Bluford Stough. Dr. Jay Barnett

continued on page 464



Michael L. Beehner, MD
Saratoga Springs, New York

New York Meeting

The depth and breadth of knowledge presented at the recent annual ISHRS meeting in New York was truly awe-inspiring. It makes me feel

fortunate I am not entering the field at this time, as I may have been scared away by the complexity of it all, and all the seemingly conflicting methods for accomplishing the same goal, namely, the simple task of placing hair on a balding scalp. Hats off to Dr. Jerry Cooley for organizing and pulling off a fantastic meeting! The support of the membership, with the high attendance numbers, also speaks well for the strength and vitality of our Society.

First IBHRS Exam

On Sunday afternoon, after the meeting's conclusion, the first three international candidates took the IBHRS written and oral exams. I am pleased to announce that all three passed. Tentatively, it is due to be next offered this coming March in Orlando, Florida, in association with the annual ISHRS Live Surgery Workshop (ABHRS exam will be offered also).

Original Okuda Papers

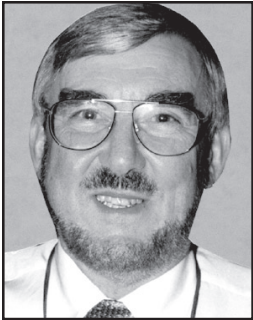
One of the highlights of the meeting for Drs. Bill Parsley, Richard Shiell, and myself was Dr. Imagawa sharing with us an exact duplicate of the original papers written by Okuda in Japan in the 1930s, along with an English translation by Dr. Imagawa himself. In a future issue of the *Forum*, Dr. Shiell will be sharing some of the highlights from this text with the readership. It makes for fascinating reading, especially in light of how many decades it preceded our current state of the art.

On Transplanting Areas Other Than Male Scalps

I was reflecting the other day on the fact that I find my hair transplant practice all the more interesting because I do other things besides simply transplant males who are losing their hair on top. And yet, these other procedures—eyebrows, temple work, transplanting of females and trans-gender patients—are all somewhat riskier to take on in the early years of one's practice. My advice to those starting out would be to avoid these in the early years, watch several experts perform them many times, and then cautiously get started in these areas on ideal candidates. In each of these types of surgery, there are lots of would-be candidates who should probably not be attempted, even by so-called experts. Especially with regards to transplanting the anterior temple and eyebrow areas, the grafts are very much exposed and have to look exceedingly natural. Angulation is very key, along with controlling the direction of the curl of

continued on page 454

Notes from the Editor Emeritus



Richard C. Shiell, MBBS
Melbourne, Australia

Pioneers Article

I was greatly flattered by Dr. Mike Beehner's article about me in the last issue of the *Forum*.

Such articles are usually only published after one is dead, and

it is a humbling experience to read such stuff during one's actual lifetime.

Anyway, it has been an honour to serve the members of our Society and to try and pass on some of my knowledge and enthusiasm for this field to our younger members.

New York Meeting

This meeting concluded a few hours ago and I am rushing a few comments into the *Forum* before it goes to print. Much more will undoubtedly be published in editions 1 and 2 of 2004, but let me preempt these by saying that I think that this meeting was, in my mind, the best ever and a fitting conclusion to the outstandingly successful year of ISHRS President Dr. Bob Haber. The attendance was the third highest ever, and Dr. Jerry Cooley, Chairman of the organizing committee, and his legion of helpers are to be congratulated.

The program was full of interest and ran like clockwork. There was seldom a subject without appeal, although I noted with regret that any talk of flaps or reductions was guaranteed to send 200 participants to an early coffee break and lectures on genetics and medico-legal topics produced a similar rapid thinning of the audience ranks. I urge future meeting conveners to persist with these important subjects, however, as "popularity" should not be the only criteria for staging important topics. If our meetings are to continue to have scientific status and CME accreditation, important but less popular topics such as genetics, scalp reductions, and artificial hair implants should continue

to be listed along with "sexier" subjects such as finasteride and FUE.

Highlights

In the brief space available in these notes, I would like to mention my highlights of the meeting. First was the extraordinary display of fine work in the Live Patient Display. Every one of the more than 25 patients on display served as a reminder of how far we have advanced in our craftsmanship these past few years. It is so gratifying to find that these skills, once restricted to a few masters, are now becoming more widespread in our ranks.

My next highlight was the assembly of the Pioneers of Education on Friday afternoon. It was a great achievement to gather these 11 individuals together in New York as only 3 of us (Walter Unger, O'Tar Norwood, and I) are members of the ISHRS. I was honored to be included amongst the ranks of such HT luminaries such as Drs. Norman Orentreich, Hiram Sturm, Jay Barnett, Bob Berger, Blu Stough, Sam Ayres III, George Farber, Tom Alt, and Patrick Rabineau who, with over 40 years of experience, were all my mentors some 36 years ago when I commenced hair transplantation. It is humbling to find that Norman (now 82), George, and Patrick, although well into their 70s, are still in practice.

It was gratifying to hear from Drs. Walter Unger, Bill Reed, Vance Elliot, and others that grafts larger than FUs still have a place in their practice. I suspect that these carefully cut, multi-unit grafts may even be on the verge of a comeback as their cost-effectiveness is better appreciated. Scalp reductions still have a few faithful adherents and Frechet Flaps are alive and well in the capable hands of Drs. Patrick Frechet and Daniel Didocha.

Awards

Saturday evening was the usual happy occasion with the highlight of the night being the presentation of the new (and long overdue) Distinguished Assistant

Awards to Cheryl Pomerantz and Marilynne Gillespie. We were equally delighted to celebrate Walter Unger's Manfred Lucas Award for his 36 years of service to our profession that included innumerable papers, book chapters, and 4 textbooks. The Golden Follicle Award went to our popular Editor, Dr. Bill Parsley, for his 30 years of service and Dr. Jennifer Martinick, our first female recipient, was voted the Platinum Award for her consistent and ongoing scientific research.

Finally, it must have been gratifying for the meeting organizers and speakers to find an unusually large audience of more than 150 participants still in attendance on Sunday morning to hear the concluding lectures. A great improvement on the 50 or so at some past meetings.

Grants

We were extremely disappointed to receive only 4 applications for Research Grants this year, the lowest number on record. Does this mean that you have all given up on research or are you all too affluent to bother filling out the application form? As we had \$6,000 to spend, all applicants received some support this year. Please remember to apply for a Research Grant next year. Every application is carefully considered by the Committee.

Japan Trip

I had a pleasant and instructive trip to Japan in late August to inspect the Nido artificial hair factory and clinics. I did this in the company of local HT surgeon Dr. Kenichiro Imagawa, who has given a number of talks on the complications of artificial hair implants. The Nido management and staff were very friendly and cooperative, and answered all our questions quite openly. The Report of our trip has been passed on to the Ad Hoc Committee on AH Chaired by Dr. Martin Unger. Recommendations will be made to the ISHRS Board as to whether we should continue to permit

continued on page 464