The First Meeting of the International Society of Hair Surgeons

by Dow B. Stough, M.D.

The realization of the International Society of Hair Surgeons has been a goal for me and others for many years. I received letters and calls of support on a daily basis for this new society. Our primary goal is clear... to provide an educational platform for the exchange of ideas for all those involved in hair surgery. Hair restoration surgery is rapidly emerging as one of the most respected and most effective of the cosmetic surgical specialties. This, combined with the overall changes and more governmental regulation in medicine, has caused many to become interested in the field.

With the increased competition, there is a natural tendency to withhold knowledge or limit training opportunities. This approach is not of the best interest of patients or hair surgeons. With new techniques in flap surgery, scalp reduction, scalp lifting, and now, one-thousand grafts per session, results not dreamed of previously are possible.

I believe we are only scratching the surface in terms of meeting the needs of people who would now consider the benefits of hair restoration. As we begin to lay the groundwork for this society, let us embrace the idea of sharing knowledge as the most important investment in the future we can make.

The agenda for the International Society of Hair Surgeons first meeting is now complete. Countless hours, phone calls, faxes, and planning have taken place. There will be over fifty international speakers. This will have something for everyone, beginners, intermediate, and advanced hair surgeons. It will offer in-depth discussions on single-hair grafting, micrografting, scalp reductions, scalp lifting, and scalp flaps. As an added feature of this meeting, there will be