

President's letter

by Robert T. Leonard Jr., DO, Cranston, Rhode Island

I am writing this just after reading the March/April issue of our Forum. I hope that all of you were able to review the draft of our Code of Ethics. I offer my sincere appreciation particularly to Dr. Paul Straub for the work he has done to bring the code to this stage.

As you must know, the ISHRS is not a medical regulatory body; we cannot discipline members by pulling their licenses to practice, sanctioning members by levying fines, etc., all of which are suggestions that were given to me by some members during the past few months. As indicated by our editor, however, we can dismiss a

member from the society if she or he violates our Code of Ethics. Please review this draft document and forward any comments you may have about it to me prior to our annual meeting in September.

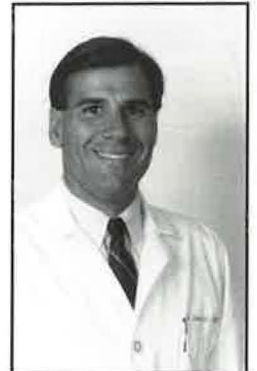
By now you have received my memorandum reviewing the various councils and committees of our society. Several members have expressed interest in serving on these panels. Thank you! If you want to participate, please contact Christina Achziger, ISHRS executive director, at the society offices, at (847) 330-9830.

Final preparations are under way for

our fourth annual meeting in Nashville. I can assure you that you will be most pleased with the scientific sessions and the social activities.

So, dust off your 10-gallon hat and polish

your cowboy boots – we have plans to put them to good use!



Dr. Leonard

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Editor's notes

by *Richard C. Shiell, MB, BS, Melbourne, Australia*

I would like to thank all those who have sent congratulations on the new look of the Hair Transplant Forum International newsletter. The changes are a reflection on



comments we have received from readers. As our membership grows, perhaps we can stretch our resources to something major like color pages.

I had the pleasure of presenting

the keynote address at the 2nd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society of Hair Replacement Surgery in Tokyo on June 22, 1996. The chairman for the meeting was Dr. "Tommy" Hirayama, who is well-known to many of us as the Japanese representative on the ISHRS Board.

This enthusiastic body was formed last year with Dr. Masumi Inaba as its first president. He is a highly respected cosmetic surgeon, author and father figure to the growing number of hair surgeons. This second year has been under the guidance of Dr. Tetsuo Ezaki, a plastic surgeon with more than 20 years of interest in hair

replacement surgery and a regular visitor to our ISHRS meetings.

The incoming president, Dr. Shingo Wakamatsu, speaks flawless English and no doubt will be eager to see Japanese hair restoration surgery return to the forefront that it occupied 60 years ago. An attempt was made to form an Asian Society of Hair Replacement Surgery, but there were insufficient attendees (six) from other Asian countries to get this off the ground.

At present, the Japanese Society is dominated by plastic surgeons and, therefore, there is understandably a distinct bias toward flap surgery and reductions. Punch grafts and the recent mini- and micrograft techniques are making increasing inroads. Curiously, the Choi system for single hair follicle implantation is widely practiced in Japan. This seems to be due to the lack of sufficiently trained in-house surgical assistants. When a cosmetic surgeon wishes to do a hair replacement case, he contacts the Choi organization, which subcontracts equipment and trains assistants. This is, no doubt, a satisfactory arrangement for the occasional hair transplant practitioner who has little opportunity to get his own staff up to the speed and expertise required by these new procedures. Perhaps this system will be taken up in some modified form in the West as the staffing requirements for megasessions become ever more forbidding.

There will be a detailed account of the scientific presentations at the Japanese meeting in the next edition of Forum.

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An index of the first five years of the Forum has been completed after a lot of hard work by Dr. O'Tar Norwood, his associate Dr. Blaine Lehr and their staff in Oklahoma City. To mark this event and the transfer of Forum ownership to the ISHRS, they have a number of bound volumes of the complete Forum files available for those who are interested. The cost is a very reasonable U.S. \$100. Please send for your copy, enclosing your check to Dr. Norwood. For those who are happy with their present newsletter collection, the all-important index will accompany an upcoming edition of Forum. ■

Writers wanted.

I am appealing to Forum readers to become writers and submit copy for publication. It doesn't have to be a learned scientific treatise – that's the scope of the formal journals. I would like to hear about your experiences, your practices in out-of-the-way places, unusual cases, your theories on alopecia and hair replacement techniques.

In fact, anything that might interest our readers. Please send a photograph of yourself with your copy so that we can add a face to your article.

Send your submissions to me at Suite 203, 34 Queens Road, Melbourne, Australia 3004; or via fax at 61-3-9866-3596 or E-mail at hairman@werple.net.au.