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HAIR TRANSPLANT *forum* INTERNATIONAL

Nashville '96

The 4th Annual Meeting of the I.S.H.R.S. was well attended and rewarding scientifically as well as socially. These meetings generate an excitement and magic which is difficult to duplicate at smaller meetings (although these certainly have their place, as there is usually more opportunity to meet the speakers and exchange information).

The organizers and Russell Knudsen in particular are to be commended for their foresight and planning. After the experience of three previous meetings, a single-streaming format was retried and worked very well.

In this issue of *Forum* there are reviews of the meeting by James Arnold and a number of scientific papers. These are papers which I received before Nashville. Other outstanding papers will be presented in the next two editions as they come to hand.

—Editor



President Bob Leonard and his wife Kathyne enjoyed the social festivities.



Wanda and Ed Norris and daughter Kim Overman

BARCELONA OCTOBER 15TH-18TH, 1997 BE THERE!

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President's letter

by James E. Vogel, MD, Baltimore, Maryland, USA

After a mind-expanding meeting in Nashville, I returned home to recap the events and realized how much there is to appreciate in this field. Our mutual interest in hair restoration surgery has truly developed into a specialty in and of itself. Of all professional medical societies of which I am aware, our Society is the most diverse. It is this diversity that is our strength and to some extent, our potential weakness.

Our professionally-mixed nature provides us with a wide range of creative thinkers contributing to the field. From technique to technology, the new ideas



and concepts that were presented in Nashville (as well as over the past several years) have been nothing short of an explosion. Just think of what we have accomplished as a Society and a specialty in the past five years. Three major textbooks on hair restoration, new concepts in ergonomic hair transplantation, new tools and techniques for stretching scalp and rotating flaps of hair bearing scalp, laser research and application, new concepts emphasizing economy of donor harvest, and finally the acknowledgement that hair loss is progressive. Last, but certainly not least, is the formation of our great professional Society, ISHRS! As mentioned in my Presidential Address, we represent the largest group of professionals in hair restoration surgery world wide. Our membership is over 800.

As previously mentioned, however, our size and diversity are also our potential shortcoming. As in any large family, there will be cousins and uncles who are not exactly our "favorites," or those of whom

we are not the most proud. We all have them. Yet, as family, they automatically receive some extra tolerance and respect. By the same token, they automatically owe the same to the family. As my first Presidential Message, let me leave you with this thought: As a member of the ISHRS family, and as a professional in your community representing yourself as a member of the new hair restoration surgical specialty, accept a role. This may be a new role for some, and maintenance of an old role for others. This role is one of mutual respect and tolerance for your colleague, a willingness to assist your colleague when in need, and developing a philosophy of doing unto your colleagues (in ads and consultations) as you would want done to you...especially when the chips are down. We all live in glass houses.

We all have great hopes and expectations for the coming 12 months. Let's work together to make this a reality. Committee assignments and a new membership drive are on the way! ■



WORLD CONGRESS ON HAIR RESTORATION SURGERY

AND

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HAIR RESTORATION SURGERY

January 18-20, 1997
Rancho Mirage, California

The ASHRS will conduct a World Congress that will be the largest gathering of hair restoration surgeons in the world.

There will be a special GLOBAL FORUM which will be represented by over 20 COUNTRIES who are actively performing hair restoration surgery.

A Surgical Assistant's Program will also be offered.

For more information on the meeting contact either Co-Chairmen:

Dr. Martin Unger
(416) 964-8888

or

Dr. Bluford Stough
(501) 624-0673

editor's notes

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

In September, 1996, I joined the growing band of pilgrims who journey to San Antonio, Texas, to pay homage at the office of Bobby Limmer.



Micro- and minigrafts have been around for 70 years, if you count the Japanese experience. Some of us were using them in the mid-70's to improve the frontal graft hairline. We were held back by the time-consuming nature of the work, compared to our plug surgery. It took Wayne Bradshaw in Perth, Australia, to awaken the 80's bunch of hair transplanters to the true value of the small graft when planted in large numbers.

Bob Limmer has taken this to an extra dimension, with all his grafts prepared under binocular dissecting microscopes. He has a large office with several operating rooms, a staff of 9 capable assistants, and still manages to charge the lowest fees in North America, if not the world!

In this edition, he tells us how he does it. Visitors leave his office full of enthusiasm, but when faced with the practical realities of total microscopic dissection and the necessary staffing, "chicken out," and settle for a compromise situation (e.g., microscopy for front micrografts and standard minigrafts elsewhere). Others, like David Seager, are full converts. There is no doubt that there is less damage to donor follicles when the follicular units are prepared with the microscope, although the 20% wastage factor mentioned by some devotees will need further confirmation. A

transected follicle does not necessarily result in no growth, but there is no doubt that the microscopically dissected grafts look absolutely marvelous.

On the other hand, it is amazing how skillful some assistants become with even naked eye dissection. I recall watching the Moser assistants in 1994, and last month watched Jim Arnold's team in action. They all work quite rapidly, but the degree of precision in their graft preparation is astounding. I would be surprised if the damage rate was even as high as 5%, as Jim's ability with the multi-blade knife is equally legendary.

Of course, the spate of reported poor growth in micrografts may be only partly due to poor graft preparation and the majority may be due to rough handling – the "H" or Human factor – which Joe Greco discussed last month. More work needs to be done on this.

Many roads lead to Rome, but we should all review our techniques, and if not satisfied with our present standard of graft preparation, take steps to improve. Bob, Jim, David, and the Mosers all have excellent videos available, so there is no excuse for poor grafts. ■

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