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HAIR TRANSPLANT *f*orum INTERNATIONAL

Barcelona: A Preview

by *Russell Knudsen, MD, Sydney, Australia*

The sun is getting higher in the sky as you wearily sip coffee in one of the cafes in the Puerta del Sol. You are in the centre of Spain, literally, as all distances in Spain are measured from here! You contemplate the day ahead of you in Madrid. A visit to the Prado gallery before lunch, a siesta to recuperate and later...tapas and beer or fino (dry sherry) in a bar before dinner, on to a restaurant, and later, it's off to one of the numerous nightclubs to socialise and dance the night away. When in Spain, do as the locals do — it's a nocturnal, vibrant existence, but what the heck, somebody has got to do it!

Thirty million tourists visit Spain each year, and it's easy to see why. Talk about regional differences... post-Franco there have been created twelve autonomias — autonomous regions — with their own governments, budgets, and cultural ministries. The separate kingdoms which made up the original Spanish state have reasserted themselves. This

regional diversity manifests itself in language, culture, artistic traditions, landscapes, and politics. The monuments span an extraordinary range — Roman, Moorish, the "Golden Age" of Renaissance imperialism, as well as the regions' very different twentieth-century developments. In Castile and Leon, confront the vast cathedrals and reconquista castles. In the northern mountains of Asturias and the Pyrenees, you find tiny Romanesque churches dotting the hillsides and villages. Andalucia has the great Moorish palaces and Mosques of Granada, Sevilla, and Cordoba.

Even the landscapes have enormous variety from the estuaries of Galicia to the high arid plains of Castile and the desert landscapes of Almeria. Not to mention that Spain is one of the most mountainous countries of Europe.

Highlights of any tour would be Barcelona (well, we are all going to be there, aren't we?), Madrid, Sevilla

(home of Flamenco), and Toledo — the capital of medieval Spain and stunningly preserved with synagogues, former mosques, and an amazing cathedral.

October is autumn (fall) and daily temperature highs should be around 21 Celsius (70 F). Sounds good, doesn't it? Take the time and we'll see you there. ■

Barcelona Update

by *Patrick Frechet, MD, Paris, France*

Dr. Ramon Vila-Rovira, our Spanish host and the recently elected First President of the Spanish Society of Hair Restoration Surgeons has finalized details for the live workshops at the Barcelona Meeting in October. We will have seven surgeries, covering most aspects of hair restoration (micrografts, megasessions, alopecia reductions, scalp lifts, flaps, Frechet flaps, and laser surgery).

Accommodations will be at the excellent Juan Carlos I Hotel, and the surgery will be conducted at a private hospital called the Centro Medico Teknon.

The call for abstracts has produced the best-ever response, and successful authors will be notified shortly.

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President's letter

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



I hope this presidential message find you, my colleagues, enjoying the warm weather of early summer. As we move into the summer season, the news from the presidential desk is bright for our Society. Progress continues to be made on the development of our Web site. We are now well underway with developing it and the final policies regarding membership benefits and indi-

vidual Web pages for the members. This is a very exciting move for our Society, and moves us side by side with the other "major league" societies.

The Barcelona meeting is in full orchestration at this point. We have been overwhelmed with a large number of high quality abstracts for scientific presentation. Not only has the number of abstracts this year surpassed all other meetings in quality and quantity, but the international representation of submissions has been more diverse than ever. Unfortunately, time is limited, so not all abstracts will be accepted. Certainly this meeting promises to be of the highest scientific quality.

For those who are considering joining ISHRS, let me recommend to you that you join now rather than wait until the meeting in Barcelona. Not only will you begin to enjoy the privileges of membership earlier, but you can become an official member following the membership meeting in Barcelona. The price will be the same now as if you join at the meeting, and you can begin to enjoy the benefits earlier and achieve full membership status sooner!

On behalf of the entire executive committee, I would like to wish you a wonderful summer season. May it be a prosperous and productive time for you. ■

ISHRS Web Site A Reality

Potential patients will have an opportunity to learn about surgical services and treatment options on the new ISHRS Web site. Scheduled to be operational the first week of June, the site (<http://www.ISHRS.org>) will also offer public information about the organization, as well as a private area for members only.

One of the most powerful features on our site will help patients select a surgeon to contact. Prospective patients will be able to search and find surgeons on the basis of criteria such as the surgeon's geographic location and medical procedures performed. The ISHRS will offer two services for surgeons who wish to be included in the search function.

The basic service allows members to display information about themselves, such as name, address, telephone, and e-mail numbers. The premium service will offer the opportunity to display an individualized "member page" (like your own mini Web site!), with a photograph, and information about services and experience. Please call Christina Achziger at

847-398-2700 to request a surgeon profile to establish your own page on the ISHRS Web site and obtain pricing information. Surgeon profiles promise to provide a great way to inform and attract prospective patients. Look for your profile form in the mail, or call for one today!

Our site will be continually growing, too. Future expansion plans call for a bulletin board where prospective patients can post questions and members can discuss issues confidentially. Members will

also be able to post research papers for comment and to review articles. We also will explore opportunities to use our Web site to generate revenues for the Society through advertisements and promotions.

The Cognitus Group LLC, a Chicago-based company that specializes in developing Web sites for associations and professional societies, will build and host our site on their secure server. Forum will keep you informed of new developments planned for our Web site. Visit our new site, and let us know your thoughts. We want your feedback! ■

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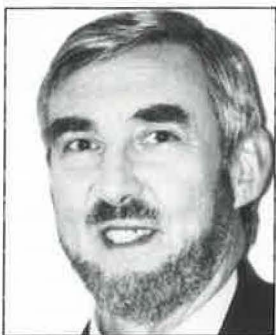
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Editor's notes

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



This edition of *Forum* again carries a number of interesting articles. We have papers on three new inventions from Drs. Greco, Hitzig,

and Pitchon, which may assist in our goal to plant hair more efficiently. I am pleased to see that more of our readers are taking up their pens (or word processors) and sharing their thoughts with other ISHRS members. We have two letters on the subject of finasteride and a very thought-provoking letter from William Lenihan of California on the ethics of transplanting men before the age of 30.

We start a new feature this month which hopefully will become regular, if enough material is forthcoming from our readers. Immediate Past President Bob Leonard has agreed to sub-edit a page which he has entitled "Medico Legal Matters." Dr. Leonard is Secretary of the State of Rhode Island Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline, and hopes to keep our readers abreast of past and recent cases of relevance to our specialty. He requests that anyone with an interesting medico-legal case or query should correspond with him. His fax and email address is given at the bottom of his page.

France is not only a country renowned for food, wine, and fashion, it is also a world leader in medical science. The surgeons Ambrose Pare and Jean Lorry, the scientist Pasteur, and in recent years, many of the techniques of cosmetic surgery have been pioneered in France. This month we are featuring three French doctors in our

Pioneer's Page. Each of these doctors has over 30 years experience in the field of hair restoration, although only one, Pierre Pouteaux, is well known to many of our members. In later editions, we hope to bring you some of the pioneers from Australia, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, and Japan, where, as in France, hair restoration has been flourishing without a lot of fuss, for over 30 years.

An increasing interest in hair surgery has been evident for some years, as seen by the proliferation of societies and scientific meetings dealing with the subject. Until recently, scientific research on the growth of hair and wool fibers has proceeded at a leisurely pace at universities and large research institutes. All this is about to change in the near future. Various hair research societies from around the world are convening at St. Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne, Australia, for a four-day meeting June 11-14. This will immediately precede the International Congress of Dermatology, which is to be held in Sydney 600 miles to the north.

There is an excellent program featuring international experts who will address recent advances in hair structure, follicle function in health and disease, hair follicle biology, and follicle function control. As if this is not enough, two other hair research meetings are on the drawing board. The First World Hair Research Congress is to be held in Seville, Spain, November 12-14, 1997, and the Second Congress is planned for Washington, DC, USA, November 5-8, 1998.

Alopecia Reductions

Almost every day I seem to be seeing patients who are exhibiting undesired sequelae of lateral or central scalp reductions. These result from the reductions being repeated until the thicker hair

reaches the center, and even fine, residual scarring proves difficult to conceal. Most patients have had one or more sessions of mini or micrografts to the scar in a futile attempt to conceal it and restore the scalp to some semblance of cosmetic normality.

The truth is that once the scalp has been re-arranged in this extreme manner, the new and abnormal hair direction is such that only a Frechet triple flap procedure will disguise the situation. This operation is fraught with difficulty for the inexperienced surgeon, however, and ideal results prove elusive even for the experienced operator.

In spite of the widespread trend to abandon alopecia reduction altogether, it still has its advocates. Bernard Cohen, Gerard Seery, and Martin Unger have all introduced modifications to address specific problems found in previous techniques. Marzola no longer reduces the crown. Martin Unger, while advocating crown reductions on almost all patients, never attempts to close the future thinning area, but leaves at least 4 cm for later grafting.

It remains to be seen whether these new "smart" procedures will salvage the reputation of Alopecia Reduction, or whether the era of the reduction has now passed. ■

CORRECTION:

An article about D. Bluford Stough, MD, which appeared in the March-April issue of the *Forum*, indicated that Norman Orentreich, MD, was retired. Dr. Orentreich has advised us that this is in error, and that he is still in active practice. The *Forum* regrets this error.