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HAIR TRANSPLANT forum INTERNATIONAL

International Meeting – Rome

by James Arnold, MD, Reporter at Large

The Italian Society for Hair Restoration hosted their third international meeting in early June. "International" truly described the faculty and attendees. In addition to 36 speakers from the Italian Society, the program included over 30 international speakers from throughout Europe, North and South America, and from such distant lands as Australia and Japan.

The ISHR annual meeting has expanded dramatically since their inception three years ago. This year, the expanded meeting included an instructional course for assistants organized effectively by Joe Greco plus an introductory course for surgeons arranged efficaciously by Ron Shapiro. Martin Unger played a pivotal role in helping to organize the scientific program. Joe Greco, Ron Shapiro, and Martin Unger received special recognition by the Society for their generous contributions.

The Rome meeting is held at the IDI, a hospital devoted to dermatology, plastic surgery, and scientific research. The facility is an excellent meeting site with a comfortable auditorium and modern surgical suites under the same roof. The program format has panel discussions or speakers addressing the conference in the auditorium while live surgery is performed in one of the operating rooms. Every 15-20 minutes, the live surgery is viewed by the audience on a large video screen. Two-way communications enables the surgeon to explain the sequential steps of his

procedure and allows the audience to ask specific questions. The six invited surgeons felt honored to demonstrate their techniques and the attendees indicated the live surgeries were an important part of their learning experience. Four of the surgeries involved hair transplantation. James Arnold demonstrated a contemporary micro and minigraft approach and Ron Shapiro showed his meticulous technique for a 1200-graft megasession, with grafts placed very close, i.e., 1 mm apart. Dr. Shapiro clearly demonstrated that one-four hair grafts can be placed quickly and easily into very small, non-dilated incisions. The key is to develop gentle insertion skills.

Dr. Carlos Uebel transplanted a patient using his original micrografting techniques. Of particular interest was Dr. Uebel's deft use of an #11 scalpel blade as his sole instrument in transplanting grafts. The #11 blade quickly cuts an incision followed immediately by an assistant introducing a graft as the tip of the blade is used to hold open the incision site. Dr. Uebel next uses the #11 blade tip to maneuver the graft down to the proper insertion depth, orients the graft in the proper direction and instantly cuts the next incision. This sequence is repeated remarkably fast, each cycle repeated within three to four seconds, enabling Dr. Uebel and four assistants to transplant 1,500 grafts in two hours.

Giuseppe Rosati, MD, used a small round trocar with a 3-sided sharp tip to cut "micro-star" incisions in his

transplant demonstration. The skin openings created by the trocar appear similar in shape to a 3-point Mercedes star. The openings are also dilated. The micro star openings accept "larger grafts" and the irregular shaped openings hold the grafts snugly. Also of interest, Dr. Rosati uses both microscopes and video magnification for graft dissection.

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President's letter

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



This will be the last Presidential Message that I will be writing in the *Forum*. At least, I have no immediate plans or expectations to be President

again for a considerable time! It has been an education for me, as well as a tremendous pleasure to serve as the President of our Society during the past year. We have accomplished much. The highlights include raising the member-

ship to over 900, spearheading a new and successful PR campaign with numerous national and international print references to our Society, initiation of an ISHRS Website, an expanded and more frequently appearing *Forum*, and funding for several timely research projects. There are more highlights, but I will spare you the details.

The executive board has debated intensely the issues of how involved we as a Society should become with regard to addressing ethical and practice issues that arise among the membership when they are presented to the Board. We feel strongly that while individual Board members have opinions regarding these

issues, it is not the role of the ISHRS to police members' behavior or establish policy on how hair restoration practices should be run. The Code of Ethics is clear, and represents the feelings of the charter and current members of the Board of Directors of the organization. I feel that our Society's strength is our educational emphasis on continuing quality improvement in hair restoration surgery and fostering continued collegiality among our international membership.

I thank you for the opportunity to have served as your President (1996-1997) and look forward to welcoming you to the 5th Annual Scientific Meeting in Barcelona. ■

Bald Men Lack Confidence—Proved at Last!

A study published in the *British Journal of Psychology* recently verified what hair transplant doctors have known for decades - that bald men suffer from lower levels of self-esteem than their well haired controls. Furthermore they are less likely to succeed in life according to researcher Dr. Pamela Wells and her co-workers. Young balding men are the worst affected, she says.

The study was conducted by stealth on 180 men of average age 36 under the guise of a survey on smoking habits. The men were divided into three groups, the bald, the balding and the well haired and their level of self confidence correlated with their hairiness. The baldies were found to suffer from more depression, were less sociable and felt less attractive than their well haired colleagues. The psychologists could not say for certain that it was these traits which made the balding men less likely to succeed but pointed out that they were hardly the ideal characteristics for success.

The psychologists said that bald men are handicapped by their negative impressions of themselves rather than other people's view of them.

The report also pointed to a study which found that the number of bald men in the American Congress was far short of what would be expected of a randomly selected group. The only notable bald President in the last 50 years was

Eisenhower who was famous for his wartime leadership and was not a politician in the usual mold. In Australia, a balding John Howard led his Liberal Party to power at the recent elections against a not-quite-as-bald Paul Keating. This was the first time in the 96-year history of the country that a bald leader had won a national election.

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Editor's notes

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



Internet Items

With the growth of interest in the Internet more and more items of potential interest to our members are

appearing. As I have no time to keep regular check on this activity I would be pleased to hear from any member who could report regularly to me about what they have found. Items of sufficient interest and the relevant Internet addresses will be reported in *Forum*.

Tokyo Meeting

ISHRS President-Elect Russell Knudsen was the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the Japanese Society of Hair Restoration Surgery in June. He enjoyed the trip very much indeed as the Japanese are extremely kind and gracious hosts. I had this pleasure last year and I can assure readers that one leaves Japan feeling quite overwhelmed by the experience. His report of the meeting is presented in this issue.

Rome Meeting

A great time is guaranteed when the Italians run a meeting and Rome 1997 was no exception. Jim Arnold presents his report of the meeting in this edition of *Forum* and O'Tar Norwood also has some comments about it in his regular column.

Keeping It in the Family

I have often heard obstetricians speak with pride of the pleasure it brings to deliver a young lady who was herself delivered some two or three decades earlier by the same acoucheur.

I have now been in the hair replacement business long enough that an analogous event occurs regularly in my practice. I have performed hair replacement surgery on over 40 father-son combinations and in three cases, two sons have received transplants. Recently I added a third son to one of these family groups while the proud father waited patiently outside the OR extolling the merits of his own 15-year-old transplant to my receptionist.

In one case I did a father-daughter duo and in another case the grandson had hair transplants some two years after his grandmother. On only one occasion was

the son done first and the father later deciding to have the procedure.

Brothers are a frequent combination and I have done all three brothers in a family (without the father) on three occasions. Identical twins are interesting in their low occurrence rate in my series. According to Australian statistics, identical twin males occur with a frequency of 1:800 yet I have had only 3 sets in 30 years and some 6,000 patients so they are very under-represented. If this applies to other branches of cosmetic surgery it would make an interesting study for some enterprising PhD student.

Husband and wife combinations have only occurred three times to my recollection. It is great to know that some patients are so happy that they not only recommend hair restoration surgery to others, but encourage their own nearest and dearest to have the procedure.

Barcelona Meeting

This is the last *Forum* before the big meeting in Spain and I hope as many as possible of our readers will be attending. Please come and introduce yourselves to me. It is great to be able to put a face to a correspondence. ■

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for your ISHRS Web site?**

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stop by the Website exhibit booth
in Barcelona.**