

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIORHEOLOGY

WELCOME ADDRESS

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On behalf of the Rector of the University of Freiburg I would like to welcome you all to the Fifth International Congress of Biorheology here in Baden-Baden. All previous congresses have been held in university cities. Baden-Baden on first sight would appear to be an exception. True, the city has no university itself, however, the ties between Baden-Baden and the University of Freiburg are close; your chairman is a member of the Medical Faculty in Freiburg. The City Hospital in Baden-Baden has also been integrated into the clinical teaching program of the University of Freiburg. The heads of departments at the City Hospital are teachers of the Faculty of Medicine and regular visits are paid by professional staff of the university. Baden-Baden is far from being foreign ground.

It gives us great pleasure that our country and especially Baden-Baden has been chosen for the Congress. The city has always had an international character. In the 19th century it was renowned as a spa for the French high society. It has also been the meeting place of many famous names of literature, music and art, for example, Turgenjew, our colleague Otto Flake, Thomas Mann and Brahms, to mention only a few. In more recent times foreign politicians have been encountered here and the meetings of the International Olympic Committee have been associated with the city. Baden-Baden has a tradition for important meetings.

The present meeting on biorheology deals with a relatively young science, nevertheless one of great promise. The area combines many different branches of medicine and also of the exact natural sciences making interdisciplinary discussion possible. As a physician it is a pleasure to see that your Society enables physicians, involved with hematology, cardiology, respiratory diseases and nephrology, to discover common problems and allow them to be discussed under the aspects of biorheology.

The increasing use of technical materials in medicine, and in replacement medicine alone poses many problems and the Society provides the framework for the discussion on how to solve these problems. Since occlusive vascular diseases and peripheral perfusion disorders demonstrate repeatedly the limits of present therapy, the investigation of biorheological problems takes on a very practical importance.

The possibility of influencing the disturbed microcirculation would appear to be much more promising than an attempt to correct

morphological changes in the larger vessels.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend a special welcome to Professor Hartert and to congratulate him personally on receiving the Poiseuille Gold Medal Award. It gives me great pleasure to see that his continuing broad scientific studies have received the accolade they deserve. I remember with pride that I had the opportunity of studying under him in Heidelberg in 1955.

The presentation of an award from a scientific society is a means of honoring scientific achievement beyond the borders of the area directly involved. It also allows recognition in the non-scientific world.

Finally, I would like to wish all participants an enjoyable and constructive time and the Congress every success.