

PROCEEDINGS - PART I

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF BIORHEOLOGY
NANCY, FRANCE, 18-23 JUNE 1989

POISEUILLE AWARD CEREMONY

INTRODUCTION

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President, The International Congress of Biorheology

It gives me great pleasure and pride to open this ceremony for the Poiseuille Gold Medal Award. Since 1966 the International Society of Biorheology presented the Poiseuille Gold Medal as its highest scientific distinction during its international congresses to a scientist, who has enriched and advanced the Science of Biorheology on the basis of research.

The medal was first presented in 1966 to Robin Fåhræus at Reykjavik during the First International Conference on Hemorheology. Since 1966, the Poiseuille Gold Medal has been presented to George W. Scott Blair in 1969, in Heidelberg, to Alfred L. Copley in 1972 in Lyon, to Syoten Oka in 1975 in Rehovot, to Maurice Joly in La Jolla in 1978, to Alex Silberberg in Tokyo in 1981, to Hellmut Hartert in 1983 in Baden-Baden and to Yuan-Cheng Fung in 1986 in Vancouver.

The story behind securing the ninth medal, presented today, is a long one. A saga worthy of Agatha Christie, you might say! It was actually manufactured in Connecticut (USA) in April before being sent over to France on May 31, when the saga begins.

To start with, it was misplaced at Roissy Airport. We had to find the name of the company in the United States responsible for it, the name of the airline company, the flight number, the registration number. . . Thanks to the help and kindness of Harry Goldsmith we received all the information we needed. But I really felt I had become a part of a Kafka novel! My secretary was later informed that the importation of gold into this country was forbidden and that the medal was going to be sent back to the manufacturer. It was only after ten days of steady insistence on our part that the French customs officers agreed that there was no problem! The medal was finally allowed to be sent to Nancy, where it arrived yesterday evening.

Ladies and Gentlemen - The prize winner this year, the ninth to join this illustrious company is Richard Skalak, Professor of Bioengineering, University of California, La Jolla, USA. My dear Professor Skalak, I congratulate you most warmly and wish you further success.

For this Ceremony, I have invited Professor Alex Silberberg to give the Laudatio and Professor Alfred L. Copley to present the Poiseulle Gold Medal to the new Awardee.