

Preface

Dear Participants:

A warm welcome to all of you. This 15th Conference of the European Society for Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation (ESCHM) is the first one to be held in Switzerland. Although it is primarily an European Conference, scientists from all over the world – America, Africa, Asia, and Australia – join us and make this Conference a global event. This is important, because the future of clinical hemorheology depends on such a close collaboration and communication between all scientist engaged in the field. It is thus encouraging to know that the next Conference in 2011 will be a joint meeting with the International Society for Clinical Hemorheology (ISCH) and the International Society of Biorheology (ISB).

For this Conference in Pontresina/Switzerland, more than 110 abstracts from 24 countries have been submitted. The work will be presented as distinguished plenary lectures, as part of 12 symposia, as free communications or as posters. A special highlight will be the Fahraeus Award Lecture 2009 to be given by the president of the ESCHM, Prof. Friedrich Jung. The program and abstracts are published in this issue of “*Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation*”. I thank all who have made this possible, from the organizers of Schlegel Health World to the publisher IOS Press.

Pontresina/St. Moritz is an extraordinary Conference venue for us. For a long time it seemed impossible to organize and finance the Conference in this world-famous and sometimes glamorous vacation area. Now we are very happy and fortunate that we will meet in this most beautiful place, surrounded by snow covered mountains, exchanging our experience and planning new experiments. The Conference in Pontresina is at an altitude of 1800 m (5900 ft) and the conference dinner at 3000 m (9800 ft) above sea level. Never have we met at such a high level before. We hope that this also sets the level for our work.

I hope that these days in Pontresina will be enjoyable and unforgettable for everyone.

Thank you for being part of this scientific event.



Walter H. Reinhart, MD
President of the 15th ESCHM Conference