

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### FOUNDING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL HAEMORHEOLOGY

The First International and Eighth European Conference on Clinical Haemorheology, held in Vienna from 5th to 8th July 1993, was also the occasion of the official founding of the International Society for Clinical Haemorheology. The members of the International Advisory Board of the International Conference were invited to express their opinion in advance of the meeting, and by an overwhelming majority, supported the formation of such a society. At a meeting of the International Advisory Board at the International Conference on July 7th, this decision was confirmed and the Society was duly considered to have been formed.

In advance of the Conference, nominations were requested from the members of the International Advisory Board for office holders, and the most frequently nominated persons stood as candidates for election to the posts of President, Secretary and Treasurer. Defying rules of probability, Professor Edzard Ernst and Professor Herb Meiselman obtained equal votes for President in a ballot of attendees at the International Conference, and a compromise was reached, whereby Professor Ernst was elected President and Professor Meiselman was elected Vice-President. Because of the pattern of nominations, this result also caused Dr. Gerard Nash to be elected Secretary and Professor Michel Boisseau to be elected Treasurer of the new Society.

As the founding Executive Committee, we are now commissioned to devise a constitution for the Society that meets the approval of the International Advisory Board. We aim then to speedily approach all those working in the field of Clinical Haemorheology and invite them to join the new organisation. The Society's aim will be to support the growth of the scientific discipline of Clinical Haemorheology, and to act as a focus for international efforts to improve the understanding of the role of haemorheological phenomena in physiological and pathological processes.

We hope that the readership of this journal will join us in this enterprise and become members of the new Society. It is also an opportune moment to publish the decision of the International Advisory Board that the Second International Conference on Clinical Haemorheology will be held in conjunction with the Ninth International Congress of Biorheology in Big Sky, Montana, USA in July 1995. The Third International Conference will be held in Lisbon, Portugal in 1997. We cordially invite you to join us at these Conferences, and continue the successful tradition of the previous International and European Conferences on Clinical Haemorheology.

E. Ernst  
H.J. Meiselman  
G.B. Nash  
M.R. Boisseau

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### FOUNDING OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL HAEMORHEOLOGY

Since 1979 the former European conferences on clinical haemorheology organised by elected representatives of various European societies and groups (ECCH) have led to a remarkable growth of our scientific field in Europe and in other continents as well. By the decision to create an international society based on individual membership at the Vienna meeting 1993, the tradition of European conferences of Clinical Haemorheology was abandoned. Additionally a vote at the Southampton meeting 1991 to organize the following European conference in Lisbon 1995 was neglected in favour of a meeting in the USA 1995. It was planned to hold the meeting in the USA in conjunction with an International Congress on Biorheology. Both decisions were made against the expressed resolution of major European national societies.

To maintain the tradition of the ECCH meetings, the presidents of the national societies of France, Italy and Germany, namely Prof. Stoltz, Prof. Di Perri, and Prof. Ehrly, met in Frankfurt Sept. 9, 1993 and decided to found THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL HAEMORHEOLOGY (Federation of European Societies and Groups) (ESCH). This newly founded society is an institutional organisation of national societies or groups. Each member of a national European society or group is automatically a member of the newly founded ESCH. Thus, an additional membership fee for the ESCH can be avoided for members of the respective societies. Special modalities will be established to allow individual membership for scientists from countries in which no such a society or group exists. Each national European society will elect members to join and represent the European Advisory Board. The delegates representing their national society or group will depend on the number of members of each respective society. The journal 'Clinical Hemorheology' will be the official journal of this society.

In the foundation period the three above listed national societies have appointed Prof. J.F. Stoltz (France) as President, Prof. T. Di Perri (Italy) and Prof. J. Martins e Silva (Portugal) as Vice-Presidents and Prof. G. Potron (France ) as Secretary. The other members of the board will be nominated by their national societies. The ESCH will provide for the growth of Clinical Haemorheology as a scientific and clinical discipline as well. The ESCH will maintain the successful tradition of the former ECCH and its conferences, which will take place every two years in a European country. The ESCH can later be a chapter of an (institutional) International Society for Clinical Haemorheology including chapters from Asia, the USA etc.. Future international conferences will then be arranged by continental societies in a longer then a two years interval.

Meanwhile two further national European societies or groups agreed to join the ESCH. Others are kindly invited to join the ESCH to strengthen our scientific activities. THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL HAEMORHEOLOGY wants to be a reliable partner for colleagues and friends in and outside Europe, which are kindly asked to participate in future European Conferences on Clinical Haemorheology.

J.F. Stoltz  
T. Di Perri  
J. Martins e Silva  
G. Potron  
A.M. Ehrly