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*Open letter*

**TO ALL COLLEAGUES WORKING IN THE FIELD OF CLINICAL HAEMORHEOLOGY**

Dear colleagues,

In recent letters, discussions between societies have been proposed in order to avoid a division in the field of Clinical Haemorheology as well as to avoid future competitive conferences.

In this context it should be remembered that the 'division' in question was initiated by a small group, which brought an international society into being during the Vienna meeting in 1993, in order to 'replace' the traditional federative European Committee of Clinical Haemorheology (ECCH), which co-ordinated the European activities in Clinical Haemorheology starting with the first symposium in Nancy in 1979, where all the European societies or groups were represented.

Today, the European Society for Clinical Haemorheology (ESCH) represents 13 national European societies or groups with hundreds of members. The ESCH regards itself as the European chapter of a future federal international society and never ignored the scientific contributions of non-European countries. On the contrary, we strongly encouraged our colleagues and friends in countries e.g. Japan, China, America and others to found continental chapter societies, which then could join a future federal international society as partners of equal rights. The board of this new federal international society should be elected democratically, consisting of the representatives of the continental chapter societies as it is the common procedure all over the world.

The question is: who are the people, which are the groups hidden behind the present ISCH? The members of the Executive Committee do neither represent their national societies nor any other societies. Dr. Hardeman's so-called compromise (*Clin. Hemorheol* Vol. 15 (1), 1995) is an unsuitable attempt to support an 'international' board consisting of three Europeans and one American (who is no physician). In the future federal ISCH board, colleagues from all continental chapters must be included as representatives of their respective societies. It is inadequate simply to take over the present ISCH as an umbrella organisation and it cannot be accepted by the ESCH due to the above discussed reasons.

The board of the ESCH is open for discussions, which could take place at the Siena meeting. The ESCH has already offered a clear-cut solution of the current organisational problems, as documented in its letter of 07 February 1995 to HG. Meiselman, G. Nash and others:

1. *As discussed in a series of letters, there is no doubt that two competitive societies in the field of Clinical Haemorheology are not reasonable.*
2. *Since international conferences in a 2 years interval are unusual in other international societies, the next conference again will be a European one, namely the 10th European Conference on Clinical Haemorheology, organized by the ESCH and to be held in Lisbon, Portugal in 1997 under the*

*presidency of Prof. Martins e Silva. This location and date has already been discussed in Southampton as well as in Vienna and was meanwhile accepted by vote.*

3. *All colleagues working in the field of Clinical Haemorheology, including members of the current ISCH, are kindly asked to participate in the Lisbon conference in 1997 and to present papers and posters.*
4. *As already suggested by some presidents of national European societies and also listed in a letter of Dr. G. Nash to Prof. J.F. Stoltz dated June 22, 1994, the ESCH proposes the foundation of an international society for Clinical Haemorheology based on federal continental chapters. The board of this society then could organize international conferences in consultation with the continental chapters, i.e. the European Society for Clinical Haemorheology (ESCH), the Asian Society for Clinical Haemorheology, the American Society for Clinical Hemorheology etc. Overlapping with other conferences on Clinical Haemorheology could be avoided, the present controversy with all its trouble and all discussions could be ended.*

Prof. J. F. Stoltz, President, French Society

Prof. T. di Perri, President, Italian Society

Prof. A.M. Ehrly, President, German Society

Prof. J. Martins e Silva, President, Portuguese Society

(Presidents and Vice-presidents of the European Society for Clinical Haemorheology)