

FOURTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGYA GREETING

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I have not just been appointed the Dean of the Medical School, but I must interrupt the session at this stage to ask Professor Di Perri to look closely at the Mangia Tower in Siena. He is not at the right angle to look at the tower, but if he looks very carefully he will see that it is slightly unusual this morning. We know it is being reconstructed but this tower is different. It is seven feet shorter, the clock is a little higher than the tower in Siena and this tower was not built in 1325, it was built in 1907. It is in fact the copy of the Siena Mangia Tower which graces the first red brick University in England, the University of Birmingham, and was inspired because our first Chancellor Joseph Camberlain came to the Siena exhibition in 1904 and saw the tower. He had a wonderful time in this town and he went back to Birmingham and said to the University architect: You must copy the Siena tower. So we thought and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham thought that it would be appropriate to give Professor Di Perri a colour photograph of the tower and the University book, which describes the tower. The Vice-Chancellor has written in the book presented to Professor Di Perri: "On the occasion of his Presidency of the 4th European Conference on Clinical Haemorrhology from Edward Marson, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Birmingham." I would like to present this to him on behalf of you all in a moment. Just as the Birmingham architects were inspired by the architecture of Siena at the end of last century, and so this week we are going to be inspired by the science of Siena, I thought it would be nice on behalf of us all as registrants to thank Professor Di Perri for all the hard work he has done to bring us here together this week. Thank you very much.