

Welcome address by the Rector of the University of Siena

I am delighted to welcome the speakers and participants of the International Society of Ocular Oncology Meeting 2007 on behalf of the University of Siena.

I would like to thank in particular the Local Organizer, Doris Hadjistilianou, and the Honorary President, Jerry Shields, the teaching staff and students who have been involved in the scientific organization of the meeting, and all those who have contributed to making it possible.

Meetings like this represent important opportunities for comparison, growth and verification regarding our studies. They are also fundamental events for those committed to research in this field and those who assist patients with ocular tumours and related disorders on an everyday basis.

Interaction between researchers and those who work with patients in the sector is particularly useful, as it enables doctors to be ever better informed about prevention and early recognition of the symptoms of these diseases, as well as helping them to develop therapies for the treatment of ocular tumours. With the aid of research, doctors can also improve patients' quality of life and help families to deal with the situation better by providing them with all the relevant information and clarifications and working to publicise any innovations in the field.

Our aim – which we must never lose sight of – is the patients' total (physical and psychological) wellbeing, and this objective must be met by using all means at our disposal, through effective prevention, early recognition of symptoms and diagnosis, slowing down progression of the disease, using state of the art therapies or targeted surgery, increasing survival and improving quality of life.

I hope that events like this meeting can help to provide fundamental new information to be used in the treatment of these diseases.

I therefore welcome you all again on behalf of the local University community and wish you a successful meeting.

Silvano Focardi
Rector
University of Siena

Welcome address by Chair, Local Committee

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I am delighted and honoured to welcome you all to the **XIII Congress of the International Society of Ocular Oncology**

Two years ago the Programme Committee entrusted me with the organization of the congress and I accepted with enthusiasm and great commitment. This commitment and enthusiasm have followed me every day.

When we made the web site for the meeting, the invitation letter was signed by my mentor, Professor Frezzotti, and myself. Unfortunately, Prof. Frezzotti has recently passed away but my inner strength and the good will have not left me.

The 1st Frezzotti lecture is dedicated to Professor Frezzotti for his contributions to the field of Ocular and Orbital Oncology and will be presented by professor Jerry Shields.

I hope that by comparing our experiences and working together we will be able to achieve important goals in improving knowledge and management of Ocular Tumours.

I cannot, of course, neglect to mention the importance of prevention, whose role and importance alongside other more traditional areas of medicine and social health care is becoming increasingly better understood and valued.

In the last years of his career, this is what Professor Frezzotti was campaigning for to both Italian and International institutions: regulations regarding screening and observation procedures in order to make the early diagnosis which is so essential in the field of retinoblastoma.

The International Society of Ocular Oncology is growing and this means a growing interest in Ocular Tumors. The enormous amount of presentations and posters for this meeting is the challenge.

Maximum attention has been given to both the scientific but also the social part and therefore we ask for the collaboration of everybody to respect the schedule ;we are convinced that this will be a perfect opportunity to exchange science and practical experience.

I hope that this meeting will live up to your expectations - one thing is for certain that I have put all of my efforts and passion in to it.

I wish to thank the academic and local authorities which have made this event possible and the colleagues who have helped. The commitment of the staff of the Congress Office has been invaluable.

I hope that this meeting is memorable for its scientific contents and above all for the new collaborations and contacts which will blossom.

I wish you all a pleasant stay during this week of a unique interaction between **basic** and **clinical** research and **life**.

Doris Hadjistilianou
Chairman, ISOO 2007

