

PONTRESINA/ST. MORITZ, SWITZERLAND
JUNE 28 – JULY 1, 2009

The 15th Conference of the European Society for Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation (ESCHM) was held for the first time in Switzerland and was organised by Prof. Dr. med. Walter Reinhart from Chur, Switzerland. Although it was primarily a European Conference, scientists from all over the world – America, Africa, Asia and Australia gathered in the beautiful Engadine Valley. Close to 100 participants attended and submitted more than 110 abstracts, which resulted in 3 days of intensive scientific exchange, in two parallel sessions most of the time. All abstracts had been published in a special issue of *Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation* (Clin. Hemorheol. Microcirc. 42 (2009) 149-238) and were available during the conference.

Plenary lectures were held by well-known experts in the field. Prof. Sandro Forconi (Siena) began with a lecture on “Jean Louis Marie Poiseuille and the pathophysiology of microcirculation – 180 years after”. Prof. Gerard Nash (Birmingham, UK) gave a brilliant overview about “Hemorheological factors influencing the adhesion of blood cells to the wall of vessels in inflammation and thrombosis”. Prof. Herb Meiselman (Los Angeles) asked the question: “Erythrocyte aggregation: Why and why bother?” The plenary lecture of Prof. Shu Chien (San Diego) on “Novel genomic and fluorescence approaches for hemorheology and microcirculation research” showed the way for future research in the field. Prof. Tomaso Gori (Mainz)

gave a lecture on endothelial functions: “Translating theory into human practice”. And finally Prof. Peter Bärtsch (Heidelberg) had been invited to give a special lecture on “Mechanisms and limits of acclimatisation to hypoxia”, which alluded to the high altitude of the conference venue. A highlight was the Fahraeus Award lecture: Prof. Mike Rampling (London) held the Laudatio for the 2009 Fahraeus Award winner Prof. Friedrich Jung (Germany), who then gave a comprehensive overview over his scientific work in his Fahraeus Award Lecture.

The topics of the 12 symposia were: “Interactions of blood cells with surfaces” (Chairmen: Jung, Franke), “Exercise and Hemorheology” (Connes, Brun), “Red blood cell adhesion in human pathology” (Wautier, Nash), “Comparative evaluation of instruments for measuring red blood cell aggregation and deformability” (Meiselman, Baskurt; a joint effort of several members of the International Society for Clinical Hemorheology testing simultaneously different instruments), “Interrelationship between endothelial wall and blood under normal and pathological conditions” (Caimi, Colantuoni; Italian Society of Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation), “Ultrasound on the way to microcirculation” (Jung, Clevvert; German Society of Clinical Microcirculation and Hemorheology), “Methodology – new developments in Hemorheology” (Hardeman, Shin), “Red cell aggregation, Hemorheology and cerebral circulation” (Antonova, Baskurt; Bulgarian



Figure 1:
Participants of the gala dinner at Diavolezza (2970 m above sea level).

Society of Biorheology), “Hemorheology for the support of cardiovascular diagnostics” (Bogar, Toth; Hungarian Society of Hemorheology), “Rheology and coagulation” (von Tempelhoff, Pindur), “Comparative Hemorheology” (Baskurt, Meiselman), and “Role of activation molecular signaling pathways in erythrocyte rheologic properties” (Saldanha, Tichomirova).

Four sessions of free communications entitled “Heart and Veins”, “Clinical Hemorheology”, “Endothelium and Platelets”, and “Red cells” covered a broad spectrum of clinical hemorheology and microcirculation. And finally 27 posters were presented throughout the conference and were discussed during a special poster session.

The level of the scientific presentations matched the altitude of the conference venue (1700m). This level was even topped during the evening programs: In the first evening the participants enjoyed the beautiful panoramic view from the restaurant at Muottas Muragl overlooking St. Moritz and the famous lakes of the Engadine Valley. For dinner a tasty typical Swiss cheese Fondue was served. An Alphorn Trio entertained the crowd and allowed those who wished to try to play a tune by themselves, which was, however, of variable success. The gala dinner was held at the Diavolezza (2970 m), which was reached by cable car. A spectacular view on glaciers and the famous mountains such as Piz Palü and Piz Bernina during the dinner with Swiss folk music and speeches made it an unforgettable event.

This conference was a full success. Everybody seemed to enjoy these days of scientific communication, friendship, and beautiful scenery. During the advisory committee meeting Prof. Nadia Antonova (Bulgaria), was elected as the new and first female president of the European Society of Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation. Furthermore it was decided that the next meeting in 2011 will be a Joint Meeting with the International Society for Clinical Hemorheology (ISCH) and International Society of Biorheology (ISB) and will be held in Munich, Germany.

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Figure 2 (above):
Prof. Friedrich Jung (left)
receives the Fahraeus Medal
2009 from Prof. Mike
Rampling.

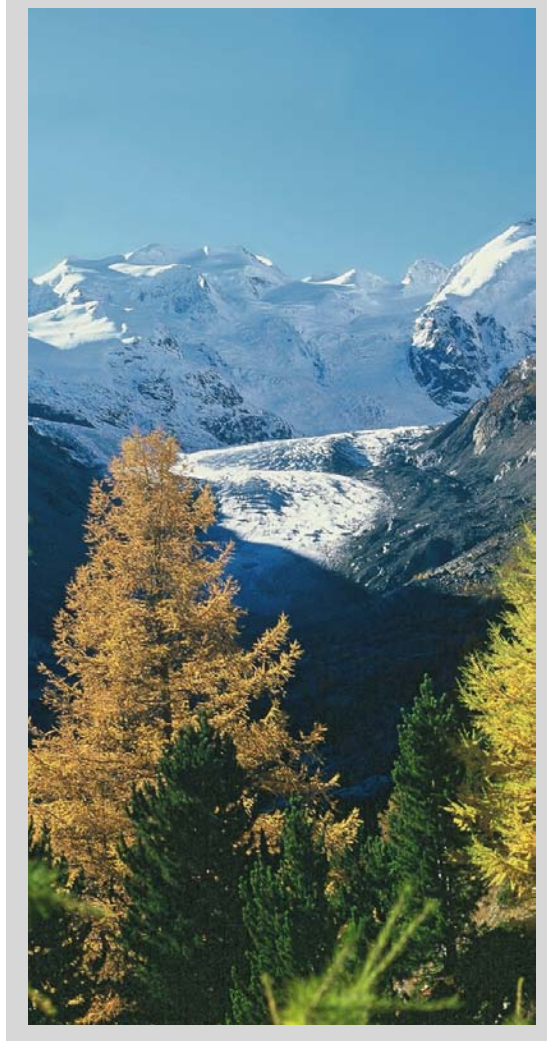


Figure 3:
Morteratsch glacier near
Pontresina.