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SEVENTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY
Southampton, United Kingdom, 16-19 July 1991

WELCOME ADDRESS

Stuart Roath
Chairman of the Conference

It gives me great pleasure to welcome colleagues from worldwide to the Seventh European Conference on Clinical Hemorheology at the University of Southampton. As chairman of the Royal Society of Medicine's Forum for Clinical Haemorheology, the host organization, I am personally honoured to preside over this event. The fact that gives me the most pleasure is the scientific quality of the presented papers; this above all assures that Clinical Hemorheology is a flourishing discipline attracting good medical and basic scientists who are inspired to work in this field. This augurs well for the future of the field and leads to consideration of the organization of Clinical Hemorheology as a Society and particularly whether the time is not right for the creation of an International Society and for there to be a permanent secretariat which would co-ordinate events between the biannual meetings. Such a group would be derived from the present national societies which would retain their identities and might have a special relationship with this journal as well as publishing a more informal bulletin or a combined publication. Your thoughts and advice would be welcomed on this topic.

As in previous conferences the Fåhræus Prize for distinguished contributions to Hemorheology will be presented. As always we are grateful to Hoechst AG for supporting this award and for the encouragement they always give to this European meeting and to research in this discipline. We will also be presenting the Young Investigator's Award and are pleased to announce that this will be sponsored by Carrimed U.K. Major sponsorship for this meeting has also been provided by Bayer U.K. and Daiichi International (U.K.).

It falls to me to congratulate the organizers of the scientific symposia which demonstrate the breadth of clinical areas where hemorheology is involved. Some of these would make mini-conferences of their own, such is their importance, and I look forward to reading their published reports as I do those of the plenary speakers. Far more good free communications were offered than we could accomodate in the time given and some have been added to the poster sessions though the majority of these were sent as such.

Finally I must thank the organizing committees - the European group which gave excellent advice based on previous meetings - the local group helping me here in Southampton - but most of all to the U.K. committee which organized the programme and the secretariat of the Royal Society of Medicine which has provided a base for our activities and printed the programme as well as financially underwriting the event.