

**FIRST INTERNATIONAL AND EIGHTH EUROPEAN
CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY**
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FÄHRAEUS AWARD CEREMONY

LAUDATIO: Fåhraeus Awardee - Herbert Joel Meiselman

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Robin Fåhraeus (1888-1968) was Professor of Pathology at the University of Uppsala in Sweden. The reputation of Fåhraeus was established by his description of the Fåhraeus and Fåhraeus-Lindqvist effects and by his work on the erythrocyte sedimentation rate which, after 70 years, remains a routine test for monitoring patients with an acute-phase inflammatory response. The Fåhraeus medal, created in his memory, was awarded for the first time at the Second European Congress on Clinical Haemorheology in London in 1981. The award of the medal, together with a grant, has been made possible by donations from Laboratoires Hoechst (France). The key conditions of the award stipulate that:

1. The medal is awarded to the scientist who has made the most significant recent contribution to clinical haemorheology.
2. The award cannot be given twice to the same recipient.
3. The award is made by a scientific advisory panel, each member of which has one vote in a secret postal ballot.

Holders of the award have been Shu Chien (1981), John Dormandy (1983), Holger Schmid-Schönbein (1985), Jean-Francois Stoltz (1987), Tullio Di Perri (1989), John Stuart (1991), and now Herbert Meiselman (1993).

Herbert Meiselman was born and educated in Jamestown, New York. In 1962, he graduated in Chemical Engineering from Michigan Technological University and, in 1965, gained his Doctorate of Science in Chemical Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1966, he moved to California to take up a post-doctoral research fellowship in the Department of Engineering Science at California Institute of Technology, Pasadena. Since 1972, he has been Assistant-, Associate-, and then full Professor of Physiology and Biophysics at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

Since the time of his first rheological publication in 1967 (on the effect of dextran on blood rheology), Dr. Meiselman has been one of a select group of American engineers and physical scientists who pioneered studies of blood rheology using exact techniques. Over the years, he has been a leader in developing and then applying such techniques to the many clinical and physiological problems of blood rheology. He has published widely on the aggregation, electrophoretic mobility, shape change, deformability, viscoelasticity, and membrane mechanical properties of the human erythrocyte. He has made comparative rheological studies in several animal species, ranging from seals to swine. In man, his studies of clinical disorders have extended from the rheology of neonatal erythrocytes to cerebral blood flow in the elderly. His work has made important contributions to our understanding of erythrocyte aggregation and blood flow in atherosclerotic and diabetic vascular disease and of the cellular mechanisms causing loss of deformability of sickle cells. He was one of the first to recognise the influence of white cells on blood flow and contributed to the development of improved methods for the analysis of white cell rheology.

Because of his engineering background, Dr. Meiselman's work has been characterised by attention to detail and a desire to understand, as well as to describe, rheological phenomena. His work has therefore been instrumental in developing a rigorous scientific approach to clinical haemorheology. The wide range of rheological expertise now available in the Los Angeles department, together with the unique personality of its head, has attracted a long and international series of post-doctoral fellows and visiting scientists. Many are in this audience; each has a favourite Herb Meiselman story and many will be retold this week in Vienna.

Haemorheology is entering a new phase, marked by this 1st International Congress and by the founding this week of the new International Society of Haemorheology. At such a time, it is particularly appropriate that we have a Fåhraeus awardee of such calibre. In honouring Herb Meiselman with this award today, he in turn honours us by his scientific and personal contribution to our young society on this historic occasion.

It gives me great personal pleasure to introduce the seventh Fåhraeus awardee - Dr. H.J. Meiselman.



Herbert J. Meiselman
1993 Fåhraeus Medal Awardee