

# 10th European Symposium of Clinical Hemorheology: Opening Address

J.-F. Stoltz  
*President ESCH*

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

It is to me a great honour and pleasure to open this 10th European Symposium on Clinical Hemorheology in Lisbon today, on behalf of the European Society of Clinical Hemorheology. This is our first time in this prestigious city of Lisbon, where our Symposium will be chaired by Professor J. Martins e Silva. Let me, on behalf of us all, thank him for accepting to take on that burden at a time when clinical hemorheology development as well as economic circumstances are not that favourable. Our thanks and gratitude also goes to all members and staff of the Portuguese Society of Hemorheology who contributed to the organisation of this meeting.

Just in a few words, I would like to remind a few landmarks in the history of our European meetings. From the 1st Symposium in 1979 to the 7th held in Southampton, a European Coordination Committee, the ECCCH, composed of representatives from all national groups or societies was charged with ensuring the perennality of these meetings, and planned the organisation of venue of the next conference two years ahead. The creation four years ago in Vienna of an International society, created some problems. One can regret that, considering the enthusiasms and dedication that had led to the creation of the ECCCH. To continue the cycle of European conferences, a federation of European clinical hemorheology groups or societies was created, which now gathers 14 societies from East and West countries of Europe and more than 1000 members. That federation is continuing the aims of the ECCCH and it was so decided, in a 1996 meeting in Paris, to confirm Lisbon as the venue for the 10th Symposium under the chairmanship of Professor J. Martins e Silva, as planned in Southampton six years ago.

It was also decided, following a two-round consultation of all Advisory Board members of our society, that the next conference should keep its individuality and would be held in three years' time, so as not to clash with the ISH Conference. The Advisory Board also decided that the conference could be held in France. I can today propose Reims, where Professor G. Potron offered to handle the organisation, for which I want to thank him here.

In the course of our Congress, I will have the pleasure to present the Fahraeus award to its 9th recipient, Professor S. Witte, to whom I wish to express my heartfelt congratulations already.

The setting is in place, everything is ready for this 10th Symposium to be another scientific success. I hope you will also take the opportunity to tour this magnificent city full of history and in particular from the navigators who took part in the discovery of the New World.

Thank you and have a good stay in Lisbon.