

SIXTH EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON CLINICAL HEMORHEOLOGY
Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 15-17 June 1989

ADDRESS OF THE CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN AT THE BANQUET
IN KLOSTER EBERBACH, 16 June 1989

A.M. Ehrly, Conference Chairman

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is part of the tradition that the Chairman of the Conference interrupts the more agreeable side of the evening of the Banquet and takes the floor. But don't worry: I will not sing!

It gives me immense pleasure to have you here this evening in this former monastery, built by the Cisterstenser monks who lived here. The Cisterstenser monks were famous for their motto: Ora et Labora, Pray and Work. They were absolute Stoics, who had turned their backs on all pleasures of life, with one exception, their love for wine. Tonight the tables have been turned and we have this banquet in what used to be a dormitorium - dormitory in modern English. I sincerely hope that you enjoyed the wine tasting stroll through the extensive building complex.

As hemorheologists you know very well that the intake of fluids, such as wine, leads to a form of endogenous hemodilution, which could probably easily be demonstrated by a controlled study in healthy volunteers. This might be a bit of a problem to obtain clear-cut results, since the extent of hemodilution even in this case depends on the pretherapeutic extent of dehydration, body weight and, of course, the individual tolerance ratio to alcohol. An even greater difficulty would be to perform a double-blind study. In this connection please note that double vision is not the same as double blindness.

Ladies and Gentlemen, if you would care to close your eyes for a few, brief moments, you might transport yourself back to the times when this monastery was still in use before being secularized. You will see the monks lined up, and then the prior in front, explaining to them over and over again the meaning of the traditional rules. I can imagine, myself being one of these monks who has not shown the necessary degree of respect towards his elders, the grand old pioneers of hemorheology, by pressing the younger generation too much to the forefront. I feel, I have sinned and want to cover my head with ash (symbolically speaking, of course, I hope nobody gets too carried away and actually brings me some) and confess to never wanting to do this again.

I was walking around before dinner among tonight's guests and suddenly had the feeling that Sean Connery was here in person again, just as a few years ago, when the film "The Name of the Rose" was shot here. But taking a second look in my not too drunken state, I convinced myself that it was not Sean Connery, but Herb Meiselman from Los Angeles. I think, the resemblance is quite astonishing and he is an excellent actor too. I apologize Herb, but even clinicians sometimes find it difficult to see clearly. I remember one particular physician's unfortunate experience. An obviously elderly man came in complaining of pains in the chest. After careful investigation the doctor said: With your constitution you will live to be at least eighty. The patient then answered back: But doctor, recently I had my eighty-sixth birthday!

Before reaching the second and more important part of my talk, I would like to express my personal gratitude first of all to the little group of very dedicated persons who made it possible for this Conference to take place. As I pointed out yesterday morning, the financial support of a few pharmaceutical companies was essential to perform our duties. Apart from other pharmaceutical companies, I would like to give special mention to the Great Three, namely, in alphabetical order Abbott, Hoechst and

Lipha. I would like to thank especially Mr. Reusch from the Abbott Company, Dr. Szendey from Hoechst Company and Mr. Praetorius and Mr. Bremeyer from Lipha Company. May I ask Mr Reusch to please stand up. This is the man to whom we are greatly indebted for this outstanding evening event. A round of applause, please!

Now Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a great honor and a special pleasure to come to the second part of my talk, which I shall try to handle more briefly, but which is in fact more substantial. The Board of the German Society of Clinical Microcirculation and Hemorheology had decided to confer Honorary Membership in our Society to three pioneers in clinical hemorheology, our colleagues Copley, Dintenfass and Hartert. They all accepted this honor and I now have the great pleasure to hand them the certificate of membership.

I think, Ladies and Gentlemen, that there is hardly any need to introduce either Prof. Copley, or Prof. Dintenfass or Prof. Hartert. So I shall restrict myself to a few short statements. Prof. Copley is a senior researcher, who already began his tremendously fruitful work at a time, when I was still a youth. But he is not only a great scientist, and to recapitulate his scientific contributions would be a bit like bringing classics to Athens. What is perhaps less known is that he is also a successful painter under the name L. Alcopley. What certainly none of us knew until tonight is that Al Copley is also a recognized pianist. I have here a jazz concert prospectus, announcing Al Copley from the United States, playing the piano at the Burg Dreieichenhain, which we visited last evening. I would like to read the announcement to you in the English translation: Al Copley, USA, the most exciting Blues and Boogie-Woogie piano player of the decade, Co-Founder of the 'Room Full of Blues' Band and pianist for the fabulous Thunder Birds, Carlos Santana, The Blues Brothers, Muddy Water... An exploding volcano on the piano. No responsibility accepted for program change, Burg Dreieichenhain. Dear Al, you never mentioned this third career of



DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR KLINISCHE MIKROZIRKULATION
UND HÄMORHEOLOGIE E.V. (DGKMII)

U R K U N D E

Die Deutsche Gesellschaft für Klinische Mikrozirkulation
und Hämorheologie e.V. (DGKMII)
verleiht
anlässlich des 6. Europäischen Kongresses
für Klinische Hämorheologie in Frankfurt am Main

für außergewöhnliche wissenschaftliche Leistungen
auf dem Gebiet der klinischen Hämorheologie die

EHRENMITGLIEDSCHAFT

Frankfurt, den 16. Juni 1989

Albrecht M. Ehrly
Vorsitzender

Certificate presented to Alfred L. Copley,
Leo Dintenfass and Hellmut H. Hartert with
their corresponding name on it.

yours to us! I am very happy to give you the original invitation, announcing the jazz concert which took place on Friday, 14 August 1987, together with the Certificate of Honorary Membership, which I will read both in German and in the English translation.

'The German Society for Clinical Microcirculation and Hemorheology Inc. awards, on the occasion of the 6. European Conference for Clinical Hemorheology, the Honorary Membership for extraordinary scientific attainments in the field of Clinical Hemorheology to Prof. Dr. Alfred L. Copley.' Congratulations!



The above photo shows A. M. Ehrly (right) with A. L. Copley

The second recipient of Honorary Membership is Leopold Dintenfass. Leo Dintenfass has also become a legend. Sometimes,



The above photo shows A. M. Ehrly (right) with L. Dintenfass

when tossing and turning about in my bed unable to reach the comfort of deep sleep, I have terrible visions of the fat volumes, written by you, which I have been forced to plough my way through. Of course, we must not be allowed to forget that your dedication in the domain of research and literature was an essential factor in promoting our science of hemorheology and clinical hemorheology. Since, so far, word of a piano career or such like has not reached me, I turned my thoughts to a much more practical

object. This might serve as a remembrance of this day - apart from the Certificate of Honorary Membership. So I tried to put myself in your place sitting in front of a computer, which suddenly decides to go on strike, and then your typewriter going on a strike of solidarity. Now, what would you do? I know that this would be a terrible plight, since you are planning to write books also in the future. So I thought, an antique ink pot would be just the right thing for you, which in German, of course translates to Dintenfass.

I am very pleased to hand this inkpot, this Dintenfass to Dr. Dintenfass, together with the Certificate of Membership.

'The German Society for Clinical Microcirculation and Hemorheology Inc. awards, on the occasion of the 6. European Conference for Clinical Hemorheology, the Honorary Membership for extraordinary scientific attainments in the field of Clinical Hemorheology to Prof. Dr. Leopold Dintenfass.' Congratulations!

The third man we would like to honor is a true clinician. This may explain why he has not written as many books as Dintenfass and does not play the piano, but has done a lot of work from the very beginnings of our science. He is very modest, not the kind of person who makes himself the center of attraction, which is why he is perhaps not as well known as others. Nevertheless, he started hemorheologic experiments with the thrombelastograph at a time, when I was still a student. Hellmut has done a lot of work on the relationship between blood coagulation and viscosity. The solutions he found are very elegant. One might add that he is also sensitive to the artistic side of things. His comment on the logo our Society uses for its letterhead is quite characteristic. Hellmut wrote me: 'Enclosed you will find your new emblem in reverse, as you will see if you hold it up to the light. Arterial blood flow on the left hand side, and return blood flow on the right, the former slightly lower, and the latter slightly higher. Perhaps this graphical constellation corresponds better to habitual modes of perception: upward movement from the left hand instead of 'against the stream'.

Greetings galore, yours Hellmut!' So your proposal, dear Hellmut, was accepted and realized for the very first time on the occasion of this Certificate. Now, the world is quite in order again: Blood is streaming from the left handside to the right handside.

'The German Society for Clinical Microcirculation and Hemorheology Inc. awards, on the occasion of the 6. European Conference for Clinical Hemorheology, the Honorary Membership for extraordinary scientific attainments in the field of Clinical Hemorheology to Prof. Dr. Hellmut H. Hartert.' Congratulations!



The above photo shows A. M. Ehrly (right) with H. H. Hartert

Ladies and Gentlemen, dear Guests. I apologize for this interruption. Enjoy this evening, enjoy the wines, enjoy life!