

## Preface

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The 15th conference of the European Society for Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation (ESCHM) is a thing of the past. It had been held for the first time in Switzerland, in Pontresina/St. Moritz from 28 June to 1 July 2009. Although it was a European Conference, scientists from all five continents – America, Africa, Australia, Asia and Europe gathered in the beautiful Engadine Valley. More than 110 abstracts had been submitted (for program and abstracts see *Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation* **42** (2009), 149–238), which resulted in three days of intense scientific exchange. Plenary lectures were given by Prof. Sandro Forconi (Siena, Italy), Prof. Gerard Nash (Birmingham, UK) Prof. Herb Meiselman (Los Angeles, USA), Prof. Shu Chien (San Diego, USA), Prof. Tomaso Gori (Mainz, Germany), and Prof. Peter Bärtsch (Heidelberg, Germany). A highlight was the Fahraeus Award lecture by Prof. Friedrich Jung (Germany). Twelve symposia covered the following topics: Interactions of blood cells with surfaces, exercise and hemorheology, red blood cell adhesion in human pathology, comparative evaluation of instruments for measuring red blood cell aggregation and deformability, interrelationship between endothelial wall and blood under normal and pathological conditions (Italian Society of Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation), ultrasound on the way to microcirculation (German Society of Clinical Microcirculation and Hemorheology), methodology – new developments in hemorheology, red cell aggregation, hemorheology and cerebral circulation (Bulgarian Society of Biorheology), hemorheology for the support of cardiovascular diagnostics (Hungarian Society of Hemorheology), rheology and coagulation, comparative hemorheology and role of activation molecular signalling pathways in erythrocyte rheologic properties. In addition there were four sessions of free communications and an exhibition with 27 posters.

The \$ level of the scientific presentations matched the altitude of the conference venue (1700 m). This level was even topped during the gala dinner at Diavolezza (2970 m above sea level), 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.

Although the attendance was not overwhelming quantitatively, it was so qualitatively. Most opinion leaders and active researchers in the field of hemorheology came to Pontresina and met with younger scientists and students. The conference was a full success and united those who are active in hemorheological research. Everybody seemed to enjoy these days of scientific communication, friendship and beautiful scenery. At the Pontresina conference it was decided that the next meeting in 2011 shall be a joint meeting with the International Society for Clinical Hemorheology (ISCH) and the International Society of Biorheology (ISB).

It was also decided by the editors-in-chief that a special issue of *Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation* should be dedicated to work presented in Pontresina, Switzerland. It is our great pleasure that so



Participants of the 15th conference of the European Society for Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation (ESCHM) at Diavolezza (2970 m) in Switzerland (courtesy of R. Christy, Australia).

many authors have now contributed to this issue. May the reading of these articles warm up memories in those who attended this interesting conference and give those who missed it the chance to keep up with advancements made in Clinical Hemorheology.

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