

Conference report

11th European Conference on Clinical Haemorheology

Rouen, France, 19–21 September 2000

The 11th European Conference on Clinical Haemorheology was held simultaneously and co-organized with the Congrès Français de Pathologie Vasculaire. This co-organization made our meeting possible thanks to the kindness and effectiveness of Prof. Hervé Levesque.

Under the Presidency of Prof. Gérard Potron (Reims, France), the scientific program was organized by Dr. Philippe Nguyen (Reims, France) and included 5 invited lectures:

- J. Shiyi (Riverside, California, USA) gave us an excellent lecture on the role of shear stress on endothelial cells, introducing the novel concept of mechanotransduction.
- Jean-François Stoltz (Nancy, France) emphasized the importance of blood vessel engineering for the future of industrial developments and the promise for vascular surgery.
- Kalman Toth (Pecs, Hungary) presented a review on the hemorheologic disorders in cardio-vascular diseases and stressed the importance of inflammation.
- Sandro Forconi (Siena, Italy) historically overviewed on clinical haemorheology and opened the field for future developments.
- Faraeus medal award winner G. Born (London, UK) elegantly lectured on the influence of catecholamines and LDL on endothelium.

Four symposia were presented during this meeting:

- J.-F. Brun (Montpellier, France) organized a symposium on the effect of physical exercise on haemorheological parameters with a special focus on intensive training and doping.
- The symposium organized by J.-L. Wautier (Paris, France) was focused on different aspects on cell activation related to thrombotic disorders.
- C. Le Dévéhat (Nevers, France) and G. Cloutier (Montreal, Canada) showed us new applications of ultrasonography in clinical haemorheology.
- The relationship between hemorheological and prothrombotic disorders associated with cancer was extensively discussed in the stimulating symposium organized by L. Heilman and G.F. von Tempelhoff (Germany).

Many communications gave us different aspects on leukocyte activation in relation with hemorheological conditions or pathological situations. The interactions leukocytes–platelets and leukocytes–endothelium indicate the central role of leukocyte activation in microcirculation flow and vessel diseases including the initiating process of atheroma. This field of investigation shows the close relationship linking microcirculation and vascular pathology.

The board meeting of the European Society of Clinical Haemorheology was a testimony of the dynamism and scientific quality of the participating teams. We regretted the absence of several teams who could not participate sometimes for budget restrictions. A new board was elected as follows:

President: Prof. Sandro Forconi (Italy),

President Honoris Causa: Prof. Jean-François Stoltz (France),

Vice-presidents: M.R. Hardeman (The Netherlands), P. Nguyễn (France), P. Riha (Czech Republic).

The next meeting will be organized in 2003 in Sofia by N. Antonova (Bulgaria) (to be confirmed).

New fields of investigation in Haemorheology and new research developments in different teams indicate profound mutations, which have been extensively discussed. It was suggested that our Society should contact the International Society for Clinical Haemorheology and the Societies of Microcirculation for a possible merging of activities. These new developments should be developed and promoted by the new board.

Prof. Gérard Potron

Dr. Philippe Nguyễn