Celebrating Landmarks: EADV Comes of Age

The official opening of the new EADV headquarters in Brussels on a bright day in April provided an ideal occasion to review the Academy’s past achievements while looking ahead to future directions for growth.

Sunlight is not a quality typically associated with Brussels, where rain falls with crushing frequency all year round. So it augured well for the official Opening Ceremony of the EADV House that light literally poured in through elegant 101 year-old Art Nouveau window frames to bathe the 150 or more members and guests gathered inside.

Facing a crowd which rose higher and higher along a graceful spiral staircase from the packed atrium floor, current EADV President Professor Martin Black set the tone for the day by welcoming guests for a “day of relaxation and of meeting friends, old and new.”

Europe is indeed clearly coming together as a potent force to strengthen Dermato-venereology and to ultimately make better provision for our patients’ needs.”

Acknowledging representatives and guests from the UEMS, the ESDR, the EDF and many sister societies, including nursing and pharmaceutical organisations, from all corners of Europe, Prof. Black remarked: “This gathering is a symbol of Europe coming together as a potent force to strengthen Dermato-venereology.”

Attendees travelled from such distant lands as Belarus and the Ukraine to be present at the House inauguration. “I feel very proud today.”

>>> continued on page 6
Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Spring edition of EADV News. The first few months of this year have been very busy.

The previous owner finally left the EADV House at the end of February, taking all of the residual furnishings. An exceptionally hectic few weeks followed for our full-time staff, Els and Tanja, arranging decoration and new fittings to replace the old. However, all the hard work was definitely worthwhile, as all who gathered at the official Opening on Saturday 27 April will vouch for. We now have a truly splendid home for our Academy and European Dermatology, of which we can all be proud.

In February, I attended the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) Annual Meeting in New Orleans. Although attendance at the meeting was somewhat lower than usual, it was still an excellent educational event. I was delighted to be appointed by the International Affairs Committee of the AAD as interim International Observer of the AAD Board of Directors. This is the first time that an International Representative has sat in on Board meetings. The idea is to have a voting member in the future and to rotate between member continents. Hopefully, this will be approved when the statute changes are presented to AAD’s membership later in year.

At all of the meetings I was made very welcome by both the outgoing President Ronald Wheeland, the incoming President Fred Castrow II and all the other members of the Board. I am very conscious that this is a responsible interim position, as International Fellows (this is going to be the new term for non-resident Fellows!) of the AAD constitute more than 20% of the total membership. If any of you would like me to communicate issues of concern or development to the Board, please e-mail me at martin.black@kcl.ac.uk. I look forward to hearing from you.

Once again, through the generosity of Galderma, we hosted our annual EADV President’s Reception during the AAD Meeting. We counted about 300 international guests during the evening at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans. The evening was convivial and gracious, and a good time was had by all. I also attended the AAD President’s dinner as guest of Ronald Wheeland. Note the American Indian Silver bolo, one of the many benefits of living in Santa Fe (see the picture of AAD President Ron Wheeland and me).

I recently returned from a short but memorable visit to Hungary and Budapest, as a guest of the Hungarian Dermatological Society for the 3rd International Meeting of the Mor Kaposi Centennial Conference. This year, the Conference had added poignancy, because it marked the Centenary of Kaposi’s death (1837-1902). A day excursion to his birthplace in Kaposvar was one of the many highlights.

Finally, back to EADV affairs. I am delighted to be working closely with Nikki Walker and Robin Lokerman of GIC Management and Els to develop important communication structures for our Academy. In the near future, we expect to install an iMIS association-specific data retrieval system and will be launching a new, greatly expanded web site. I can assure you that the EADV aims to be in the forefront of developing technology.

Sincerely yours,

Professor Martin M Black
President 2000-2002
Focus on the Future

During its most recent meeting, the EADV Board of Directors enjoyed a strategic ‘Focus Session’ on the future profile of EADV congresses.

Building on the strategic planning session held in Malta in the spring of 2001, during which Vision and Mission statements were developed for the Academy, the EADV Board met in Brussels to identify future strategies for the EADV congresses.

On the agenda were such topics as: what aspects of congress organisation could be centralised, now that EADV has its own infrastructure in Brussels and is investing in technology and full-time staff; what were the strengths and weaknesses of the event; what should be done to broaden the scope of congress programmes; who should EADV be targeting as attendees and many more.

Everyone agreed that the strong local input, involvement and personal commitment of the congress president and the local organising teams in the planning of the EADV congresses has always been key to the success of these events. This local strength has given each congress a unique flavour and ensured variety. At the same time, Board members recognised that many pre-congress activities are duplicated from congress to congress, imposing an additional burden and cost upon local organisers and the EADV itself.

Responses to a survey distributed before the ‘Focus Session’ showed that individual Board members felt that the new central EADV infrastructure could best enhance the work of local organisers with regard to financial oversight, event marketing, secondary programme management (Book of abstracts, proceedings, evaluations, CME), sponsors and exhibitors and registration of delegates.

The high level of participant satisfaction, excellent industry support and the diversity of the programme were identified as the key strengths of the congresses. However, the Board agreed that improvements could be made through more consistent quality of content, a greater focus on hands-on (practical) sessions, more developed poster sessions and a stronger exhibition.

Not only is the EADV Congress the key revenue source of the association, it is also a primary activity where dermato-venereologists from across Europe can meet and network. The Board felt that the event could further serve as a platform to advocate the role of dermato-venereologists in healthcare today, by having a focus on ethics, involving patient and nurse support groups and by inviting the media to the event. The vital role of research and CME was also discussed.

A full report of the ‘Focus Session’ will be produced with concrete action steps to guide the Executive Committee, Congress Task Force and Local Organising Committees.

Members of the Board enjoy passionate discussions during the Focus Session, Friday 26 April, Brussels

(1) Jean-Hilaire Saurat, President-Elect
(2) Michael Hornstein and Harald Gollnick (Germany)
(3) Erwin Tschachler (Austria)
(4) Giorgio Landi (Italy)
(5) Christian Thestrup-Pedersen (Denmark) and Ole Christensen (Norway)
As part of the Academy’s on-going relationships with other societies, EADV News will periodically bring you up-to-date with news, views or activities from their world.

In this edition we profile the new President of the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) and provide some background into the activities of the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR).

American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)
The EADV and AAD have maintained a close relationship of reciprocal exchange since we first granted scholarships (in 1995) to three American or Canadian fellows selected annually by AAD to attend our Congress. As you will see from the President’s Letter (page 2), EADV participates actively in the AAD Annual Meeting with a promotional exhibition stand and President’s Reception.

Castrow as AAD President
Fred F. Castrow II assumed the presidency of the AAD in March for a one-year term. Dr. Castrow is a former Secretary-Treasurer, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, and member of AAD’s Board of Directors. In addition, he is a Past President of the Houston Dermatological Society and Past President of the American Society for Dermatologic Surgery. He also served as the President of the Houston Academy of Medicine and is a former President of the Harris County Medical Society. Author of more than 26 publications, he has also served as AAD Board of Directors’ Liaison to the Journal of the AAD.

At the time of his election, Dr. Castrow commented: “In this time of managed care, dermatologists must maintain the highest quality of services for our patients. By working with our colleagues, our patients, and most importantly, the AAD, dermatologists can exercise greater influence and mobilise our energies and interests to ensure continued quality patient care.”

The AAD was founded in 1938 and now unites more than 13,000 dermatologists from around the globe. Further information can be found by visiting the AAD website at: www.aad.org.

European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR)
Our cooperation with ESDR has recently been intensified, consisting, at present, of two key initiatives of support. Last year the EADV Board decided to grant 10 scholarships, worth €1,000 each, to the ESDR with which to send young dermatologists, still in training, to participate in a European dermatology congress of their choice. The ESDR has just thanked EADV for its generosity, giving us of the names of the ten candidates from seven countries who benefited from our support by attending the ESDR congress in Stockholm in September 2001: Mr. Siebenhaar and Dr. Ghoreschi (Germany), Dr Farkas (Hungary), Dr Cardinali (Italy), Dr Petrov (Macedonia), Ms Kölgen (Netherlands), Dr Spiewak and Dr Zalewska (Poland) and Dr Fearfield and Dr Kelsell (United Kingdom).

Additionally, the ESDR has accepted our offer of a second office in the EADV House (their principal office being in Geneva).

Fellowships in the USA
The Division of Dermatology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison has two one-year fellowship positions available for 1 July 2002 - 30 June 2003. Applicants should be MD’s or MD/PhD’s. Prior training in dermatology is desirable but not mandatory. The fellowship will focus on cutaneous oncology with a mixture of clinical and research responsibilities. It is possible, although not guaranteed, that they might be extendable into a second year of fellowship pending...
Future negotiations between our two Societies could result in the sharing of an annual congress.

To ensure that our members are aware of the role and major strategies of the ESDR, EADV News invited their President, Leena Bruckner-Tuderman, to share some background information and views of the opportunities and challenges facing dermatology today.

Thoughts about European Dermatology Research

By Leena Bruckner-Tuderman, President, ESDR

The mission of the ESDR - promotion of scientific research in skin biology, skin diseases and allied subjects - as defined in 1970 is still very valid today. We consider research to be of critical importance for the future of high quality dermatology. Therefore, the goals of the ESDR’s activities are to promote all aspects of dermatological research and to distribute relevant information to ESDR members, other societies and the public sector.

Challenges and Current Priorities

In a rapidly changing world, the needs and the character of dermatological research develop and change. Therefore, the ESDR also faces new challenges. Currently, the number of physician-scientists is declining and dermatological research has a shortage of scientists with experience in clinical and molecular pathology of the skin. Also, not all aspects of dermatological research (e.g. clinical, epidemiological, pharmacological fields…) or all geographic regions in Europe are strongly represented in the ESDR. To meet these challenges, the ESDR Board has defined four major current priorities: the recruitment of more young scientists, especially MDs with dermatology training into experimental research; the promotion of clinical research (including epidemiology, pharmacology…); the broadening and diversification of our membership to represent as many European regions as possible and cooperation with other dermatological Societies to promote dermatology as a strong medical speciality.

European Dermatology and 'Political' Activities: ESDR’s Point of View

A major ‘political’ goal of all European dermatological societies is to maintain dermatology as a strong and independent medical specialty, with solid clinical know-how, high quality research and education in all aspects of dermatology. From the ESDR’s point of view, it is essential to recognise the interdependence of clinical and molecular dermatology in this context. Dermatological research obviously profits from clinical dermatology, and vice versa. Novel, biologically valid diagnostic tests and therapies can only be developed with the knowledge and methods of modern experimental research. Therefore, cooperation is pivotal.

In order to strengthen dermatology’s position in European medicine, the dermatological societies should coordinate their “political” activities and maintain and develop their partnerships. Each independent society, with a defined mission, follows its own particular goals. Together these partners form a strong front which represents a broad spectrum of dermatology in clinics, research and education. It will be necessary to adapt strategies to changing needs in the field of medicine, but transparency of the goals and actions will provide the societies with wide acceptance and support of European dermatologists, thereby strengthening the societies in their pursuit of the “political” agenda.

The ESDR was established in Amsterdam in 1970. Almost all of the 800 members come from European countries, and some countries on the African continent, the USA and Asia. Further information can be found by visiting the ESDR web site at: www.esdr.org

EADV News would like to thank Leena Bruckner-Tuderman for her contribution.
remarked Dr. Yves Dinet, member of the EADV board and representative of Belgium. "Not many medical fields have a genuine European Society - and now our Society has a real home."

Immediately following Professor Black's welcome address, Founding Member and the first President of EADV, Professor Emiliano Panconesi of Florence, reminded the assembly of the august tradition that they shared in by providing a whistle stop tour of European scientific academies and medical landmarks, from the era of the Medicis to today. He likened "this beautiful seat of the EADV with the palatial residence of the Medici's Accademia del Cimento (one of the first and most glorious of all scientific academies)." Prof. Panconesi went on to unveil the official EADV plaque declaring: "I am honoured to formally inaugurate this Home of European Dermatology."

Taking Stock of the Past
Many of the Founding Members of EADV who were present felt an emotional surge at seeing their then-distant dreams realised. Prof. John Stratigos of Greece explained the original vision for the Academy: "Our aim was to get everyone involved in dermatology from across Europe together to create both a social and scientific mix. EADV has since completely surpassed our vision in terms of structure, organisation and scientific activities. I'm very happy today."

Fellow Founding Member Dr. Josée Reiffers-Mettelock from Luxembourg reinforced Prof. Black’s special thanks to Hans Rothenborg, who, as the First Secretary-General, provided EADV with "such a stable framework and
Significant Landmarks in the Life of EADV

The official Opening Ceremony of the EADV House in Brussels on Saturday 27 April was clearly a major landmark in the history and development of the Academy. EADV News looks back at some other major stepping stones since its foundation fifteen years earlier.

1987  **EADV is founded**

21 founding members realise years of work and planning when they sign the statutes in Luxembourg.

1989  **1st EADV Congress is held in Florence, Italy**

Under the leadership of Prof. Emiliano Panconesi, the Founding President of the EADV.

1992  **The Journal of the EADV is founded**

Dr Torello Lotti and Dr Derek Freedman serve as editors for Dermatology and Venereology respectively.

1995  **EADV’s Congresses become annual events**

Based on the success of prior congresses, which had been held every two years, the Brussels Congress started the annual tradition.

1997  **EADV grants its first Scholarship**

Complimentary registration and accommodation, and an award of $750, are granted annually to three North American fellows selected by AAD to attend the EADV Congress.

1999  **EADV web site is launched**

In keeping with advancing technology, EADV launches its first web presence.

1999  **EADV sponsors international training**

The first grant of $10,000 is awarded to the International Foundation for Dermatology (IFD) to support training for African health workers.

2001  **EADV House purchased, Brussels**

A home for European dermato-venereology is found under the financial expertise of Treasurer, Diane Roseeuw.

**Spring Symposia programme launched**

The Executive Board approves new annual reach-out programme. The first will be held in Malta, 2003.

**1st full-time staff member employed.**

The second step towards greater organisation and infrastructure for the Academy - first a headquarters and now permanent staff.

2002  **Official inauguration of EADV House**

Members and friends of the Academy from across Eastern and Western Europe are invited to the opening of the official headquarters of the EADV in Brussels.
set of statutes, still very much in active use today”. She acknowledged that his energy and drive had been essential at the outset and was hopeful that the new generation of members would continue the EADV traditions with the same commitment and dedication.

Reflecting on the development of the Academy Prof. Torello Lotti, Dermatology Editor of JEADV added, “It’s wonderful to see how it’s grown into an umbrella for dermatological activities in Europe. This building is now their home.”

Stylish & Practical
Nearly everyone agreed that the acquisition of the EADV House, designed just over a century ago by the noted Art Noveau architect Ernest Blérot, was a good idea. “It’s a beautiful and practical building, ideal for small meetings,” noted long-time member Dr. George Reuter. “It’s splendidly situated, with a great view overlooking ponds. The committee room is marvellous - we look forward to meeting there,” confirmed Scientific Committee Chairman Prof. John Hawk.

Past EADV Treasurer Prof. Diane Roseeuw looked at over thirty properties before recommending that the Academy invest in the purchase of the house. “This one was simply the most convenient, with a very good central location within Brussels and great natural light - that’s important in a rainy country like Belgium. Additionally, the property value will certainly increase in the future,” she continued. “Like this house, I hope that our society will still be standing 100 years from now,” she remarked.

The choice of Brussels, set in the heart of Europe and home to a large number of international associations and non-governmental organisations, plus the European Union institutions, also seemed like a logical decision to many. “Ours is the best organised speciality encompassing all of Europe - what better place than the Capital of Europe for its house?” volunteered Dr. Jacques Debois, Belgian Observer to the EADV Board.

A Solid Foundation
Some of the attendees used the inauguration celebration as an opportunity to review the core values behind EADV’s success. Dr. Alexander Stratigos from Greece surmised that “EADV’s biggest strengths are its diversity, uniting dermatologists from all over Europe, and its promotion of best medical and scientific practices; through this we can further strengthen patient care and therefore science.”

It’s wonderful to see how the Academy has grown into an umbrella for dermatological activities in Europe

Like this House, I hope that our society will still be standing 100 years from now

EADV Treasurer Jacques Delescluse (left) with Hans Rothenborg (far right) and Christian Thestrup-Pedersen (right) and their spouses.
Doctors and scientists alike benefit from EADV membership, agreed Dr. Balbir Bhogal from the United Kingdom. Integration is the chief benefit, leading to more scientific discussions.

EADV’s philanthropic activities also earned mention. Prof. Terence Ryan, Chairman of the International Foundation of Dermatology which runs the Regional Dermatology Training Centre in Moshi, Tanzania (see EADV News, No. 2), asserted the influential role that the Academy plays in the developing world. “Organisations like EADV help with training all over the world by providing scholarships and grants. Problems encountered in Africa (caused by poverty, AIDS, etc.) can be of great use to practitioners in Europe - many are of a different dimension but are still of relevance to medicine and society in Europe,” he explained.

Future Expansion

Future membership growth areas for EADV interested several of the inauguration attendees. As major international institutions such as the EU and NATO slowly begin to admit countries from Eastern and Central Europe, so too ought medical associations like EADV open their doors, reasoned some delegates. Major obstacles, such as weak currencies and unfamiliarity with the English language, promise tough challenges ahead, asserted Dr. Aleksey Mikhheyev, General Secretary of the Ukrainian Association of Dermatologists and Venereologists. “Currently there is a change of standards away from the historically important Russian model - we would now like to adopt European standards,” said Dr. Mikhheyev.

An expanded EADV would be welcome, suggested EADV member Dr. J. D. Van der Endt from the Netherlands. For him, the international crowd at the Opening Ceremony was “evidence of a growing society, with people from all over the world in attendance.”

A Final Word

The debut of the EADV House represents an unmistakable marker in the history of the Academy. Said incoming President Prof. Jean-Hilaire Saurat about the event: “A new era has begun. It’s an emotional experience to see the opening of the House, like a dream. The task now is to fill and use it. As President-Elect, I will have to find the best way, but I’m confident that this will be an easy task.”

EADV’s biggest strengths are its diversity, uniting dermatologists from all over Europe, and its promotion of best medical and scientific practices.
Expanding EADV Membership

Invite a Colleague to Join EADV

As the Academy 'comes of age' embracing the numerous opportunities facing dermatovenereology in the 21st century, and continues to establish itself as a major driving force in scientific support and development in this specialty, now is the time to invite colleagues to join our ever increasing network.

As a member you fully understand all the benefits of our unique pan-European forum. You will have gathered from the President’s Letter, the Update from the Secretary General and from the atmosphere and feelings of those present at the official Opening of the EADV House, that the EADV is on the brink of even greater expansion and benefits to members.

It’s not too late to join and profit from the annual Congress in Prague! Physicians joining now benefit from the substantial member reduction of €150 off the full registration fee to the Prague Congress (2-6 October). In addition to this world-class exchange of scientific information, research, best medical practices and peer interaction, new members will also receive 6 editions annually of the Academy’s Journal (JEADV) - including all the back-dated editions published since 1 January 2002.

To benefit from all of this, membership applications must be received at the EADV House by 31 August.

If you would like to invite a colleague to profit from membership, why not send him or her a copy of this newsletter. Alternatively contact Els Vanpee or Tanja Seppälä at the EADV House (office@eadv.be, tel: 32-2-650 0090) with the full contact details of your colleague and they will send a Membership Brochure on your behalf.

Beyond Western Europe

EADV is proud to announce affiliations with select societies

Continuing to strengthen links with dermatovenereology within Eastern and Central Europe is one of the Board’s recent initiatives. The Executive Committee recently met with representatives from various countries in Prague. Having examined applications from a number of societies, the Board approved Affiliated Society Membership for the following organisations:

- Lithuanian Society for Dermatovenereology
- Polish Association of Dermatology and Venereology
- European Task Force on Atopic Dermatitis

This now entitles individual members of these societies to apply for membership within the EADV under the new ‘Affiliate’ member category for an annual fee of €50. Affiliated members will receive the JEADV and are entitled to register for EADV congresses at the reduced membership rate. If you would like to find out more about ‘Affiliate’ membership, contact Tanja Seppälä (Administrative Assistant) at the EADV House for further details.
EADV to Elect New President

All members are invited to participate in the election process.

Nominations

As a member of EADV you are responsible for electing your President, who will guide the development and activities of the Academy during his/her two-year term. The next election will take place in October at the OGM in Prague. At this time, we will elect a President-Elect who will take up office after the Prague Congress and become President in 2004 at the Congress in Florence.

Members are invited to nominate an individual they deem worthy of this distinguished position. Completed nomination forms must be received by the Secretary-General by 30 June 2002. The Nomination Form (herewith) should be used if you wish to put forward a candidate (additional copies available from the Administrative Office). Remember you must have the consent of the candidate, and a short Curriculum Vitae (300 words) and Statement of Intent (200 words) should accompany the proposal. All nominations must be approved by the EADV Board.

Voting

We encourage everybody to attend the OGM and vote in person. If you cannot attend, you can be represented by another member - but you must use the standard EADV Proxy Form (herewith) fully completed for your vote to be valid. This Proxy Form must be received in the EADV house by 30 August 2002. A valid Proxy Form will entitle the person you nominate to have an extra vote. Remember, no member can have more than two proxy votes - so check with the person concerned before you nominate them.

Please return the completed Nomination Form, Curriculum Vitae and Statement of Intent, to be received by 30 June 2002 to: Frank C. Powell, EADV Secretary General, EADV House, Avenue General de Gaulle 38, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium. Fax:+32-2-650 0098.

Please return the completed Proxy Form to: Frank C. Powell, EADV Secretary General, EADV House, Avenue General de Gaulle 38, B-1050 Brussels, Belgium, fax:+32-2-650 0098 to be received by 30 August 2002.
I am sure that you, like me, are looking forward to the summer and spending time with family and friends. There have been some important developments in the EADV that I would like to inform you about.

New Staff
Meet our second full-time staff member. Tanja Seppälä joined us on 1 December 2001 as an Administrative Assistant. If you have any queries regarding your membership, why not contact Tanja at the House, by e-mail: tanja@eadv.be or phone: +32-2-650 0090, fax: +32-2-650 0098.

Focus Sessions
Analysing the further development of our congresses has also been on our agenda recently. The Board met in Brussels, the day preceding the official Opening of the EADV House, for an in-depth ‘Focus Session’ dedicated to looking at improvements and new elements for future congresses (see page 3). The format of a ‘Focus Session’ was successfully used during the Board meeting in Malta last year. Some of the recommendations from that session have already been implemented and others are in the process of being formulated.

Service to Members
As we develop our infrastructure and our administrative staff grows, we hope to increase our services to members. These could include patient information brochures on specific diseases in different languages, access to a Directory of Dermatologists throughout Europe for referral basis, and possibly ‘teaching slide collections’, as well as monthly cassette audio updates similar to the AAD “Dialogues in Dermatology”. We are also finalising plans for a new generation web presence for EADV which will offer many additional member-only benefits on-line.

Future Congresses & Symposia
At the same meeting, the Board approved two new venues for future EADV events. The Congress in 2005 will be held at the ExCel Conference & Exhibition Centre, London, UK under the presidency of Prof. Martin Black, and Budapest, Hungary was chosen as host destination for the second Spring Symposium, to be held in 2004.

Beyond Western Europe
The EADV continues to develop and strengthen links with Central and Eastern European countries. Affiliated Society Membership for Polish and Lithuanian societies were approved at the board meeting in Brussels (see page 10).

With our 11th Congress coming up in Prague (2-6 October) and bids for Symposia received from Riga, Latvia and Budapest, Hungary it is clear that the EADV is no longer a Western Europe oriented organisation, but an Academy representing Dermatology and Venereology colleagues throughout the entire European continent.

See you in Prague!

Dr. Frank C. Powell
Secretary General