Welcome to Prague

Welcome to the Home of Czech Dermatology!

Congress President Prof. Jana Hercogová, Honorary President Prof. Vladimír Resl and Vice-President Prof. Jaroslav Strejček, hosts of the 11th EADV Congress, welcome you to Prague.

Prague, capital of the Czech Republic, is an amazing and incredibly beautiful city, replete with architectural wonders as well as artistic treasures. The Congress is held in the newly reconstructed Congress Centre Prague, which combines the convenience of its city centre location with a stunning panoramic view over Prague.

International Meetings in Prague
At the beginning of 20th century, Prague was a city of international dermatology meetings. June 1889 saw the 1st Congress of the German Dermatological Society in Prague (two months before the first international congress in Paris), organised by F. Pick. In 1934, the IIIrd Meeting of Slavic Dermatologists was organised by F. Šamberger (Fig 1, Page 7).

However, during the occupation by the Soviet army, no international dermatological meetings were held in our country. At this time, there were only meetings with “international participation”. These were meetings in which some colleagues from the Eastern block participated and only rarely did colleagues from Western countries visit. The only exception was the IInd Dermatological Symposium “De Structura et Functione Stratorum Epidermis S. D. Barrierae” held in Brno, capital of Moravia.

The Velvet revolution (17 November 1989) brought sunshine to our lives, both personal and professional. Since then each of us has been trying hard to enter Europe again, even though we never really left it. Individuals started their own private practice (nowadays about 90% of all 700 dermatologists are private doctors). Everybody was focused with enthusiasm on new possibilities, new equipment, and new drugs that had not been available until that time. Hardly anyone was interested in what colleagues were doing, regular meetings of the Czech Dermatological Society did not continue.
Welcome to the 11th Congress of the EADV which is being held in Prague this week. We have all been looking forward to this event for some time. I know that you will be enchanted with Prague, an incredibly beautiful city of charm and culture. Jana Hercogová and her team have laid on a superb scientific and cultural programme that will make your visit unforgettable!

Earlier this year, I launched a membership drive under the theme ‘Dermatologists and Venereologists from across Europe come together’. Our vision is to develop the EADV to its full potential, advance quality patient care and provide continuing medical education and advocacy on behalf of both the speciality and our patients.

As we meet in Prague now, it is worth remembering that for many years, Europe and its medical specialities remained politically and culturally divided. The collapse of the Berlin wall in 1989 soon led to the ‘spontaneous’ liberation of Prague and the Czech Republic as well as other countries. Within a short time, the potential to unite Europe was there, and the EADV is working hard to encourage and support our ‘Eastern European’ colleagues in developing our speciality. From now on, we do not need to differentiate between Western and Eastern Europe - we are all one Europe working in harmony and keen to help each other.

This has indeed been quite a year for Dermatology. The Opening Ceremony of the EADV House in Brussels was attended by over 150 dermatologists and their spouses. We now have the capacity to make Brussels the very hub of European Dermatovenereology and develop the EADV as the premier Dermatovenereology association. We are also developing ever-closer links and co-operation with the UEMS, ESDR and EDF. At the same time, the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD) has also moved into brand new larger headquarters in the Chicago area. These openings clearly show the growth and development of our speciality in America and Europe.

The 20th World Congress of Dermatology held in Paris in the first week of July was an outstanding success. The attendance appeared to be an all time record, with some 11,000 dermatologists attending, representing 126 countries. The cool, windy, and at times, wet weather, undoubtedly helped to swell attendance at all the scientific sessions in the Palais des Congrès! Who will ever forget the ‘feast’ in Montmartre in which the delegates took over the entire village of Montmartre for the evening. The rain let up and an excellent time was had by all. A special thank you goes to Jean Revuz, Congress President; Jean-Paul Ortonne, Secretary General; Louis Dubertret, Vice President and the Société Française de Dermatologie (President: Michel le Maitre) who worked tirelessly together to produce such an outstanding success.

As I conclude my Presidency of the EADV here at the Prague Congress, I am heartily encouraged to see that the EADV is going forward in such a positive manner.

Our Congresses become ever larger and more successful, the first Spring Symposium awaits us in Malta next Spring; the JEADV steadily increases its impact factor and more of you appreciate what the EADV offers and stands for.

To all of you who have helped me in my term of office and have helped the EADV, a very special thank you.

Professor Martin M. Black
President 2000-2002
EADV Members to Elect President at OGM

In the last edition of EADV News we announced the Call for Nominations for President-Elect. As a result of the nomination process, the EADV is now very privileged to have two of the leading figures in European Dermato-venereology going forward for election as President-Elect at the OGM in Prague.

The successful candidate will take up office at the end of the 11th Congress in Prague when Jean-Hilaire Saurat becomes EADV President.

Dr. Johannes Ring

Statement of Intent

Dermato-venereology in Europe is facing increasing problems such as growing economic pressure with trends to “gatekeeper” medicine and against specialists, increasing competition from neighbouring specialties, heterogeneity in education and training in different European countries and a poor financial situation in Eastern Europe.

EADV is the society where the tremendous work at different levels should be co-ordinated in close co-operation with national and other European societies, specialty groups and lay organisations.

Dermato-venereology must not become a “consultant specialty”!

In the future, the EADV should focus - not only on education, with increasingly well-attended and informative congresses in the excellent tradition of the past - but also on:

- Harmonisation and improvement of education and training (in co-operation with UEMS)
- Supporting exchange programmes for residents and postdocs
- Supporting research (maybe via a foundation)
- Further improving our journal (JEADV)
- Lobby work for our specialty in Brussels (here our new house will be very helpful).

In order to achieve these goals, the structure of the EADV will need continuous evolution, for example through the introduction of committees and task forces for various general and very specific topics.

Our specialty will survive and grow in strength only if we join all forces from all parts of Europe, from all our subspecialties and from all levels of dermatological competence in practice, research, industry and university teaching.

Therefore, we need many more members who are willing to actively participate in the daily work of our Academy for a strong European Dermato-venereology!

Prof. Torello Lotti

Statement of Intent

Where is the EADV now?

The primary role of the EADV is to promote advances in the practice of dermatology and venereology throughout Europe. It does this by providing CME at the highest academic level. This is a result of the untiring efforts of its members, who generously share their knowledge in various educational activities such as its annual congress and its journal.

Where do we need to go in the future?

- Harmonise and optimise educational activities and the practice of dermato-venereology throughout Europe.
- Transcend geographic bounders to give a stronger identity to European dermato-venereology.

How can we get there?

- Allow European dermato-venereologists to critically evaluate their clinical practice and to participate in the democratic development of dermato-venereology.
- Use EADV funds to improve and harmonise scholarship programmes that involve young physicians from all European countries.
- Embrace evolving technology including telemedicine to connect colleagues and provide better service to patients.
- Encourage members to participate in EADV activities and share their special knowledge and skills with their colleagues.

We encourage all members to attend the OGM. Ordinary and Honorary Members are entitled to vote and will receive their voting cards at the entry to the OGM room. Please come early to avoid congestion and delay!

The OGM will be held on Friday, 4 October, 2nd Floor, Forum Hall. Registration from 12:00 -13:00, OGM from 13:00 -14:00.

The EADV strongly disapproves of canvassing for candidates. Members should disregard any such canvassing and vote for the candidate that they feel will best represent the ideals of the EADV.
20th World Congress
of Dermatology

For the first time since Berlin in 1987, Europe played host to the World Congress of Dermatology in July, in Paris. The largest dermatology gathering ever held, the 20th edition united some 11,000 dermatologists and venereologists from around the world. For EADV members who were unable to participate, Prof. Jean-Paul Ortonne, Secretary General of the Congress, and future Editor of the JEADV, provides a short overview of just some of the scientific revelations.

One of our initiatives for Paris, a new development for the World Congress, was a ‘What’s New’ track within the Scientific Programme. The idea was to offer delegates an executive overview of new developments in the profession within the shortest possible time. Each session was 2 hours over 4 days, so in a total of 8 hours congress attendees were able to hear something new about all manner of disciplines.

I cannot possibly do justice to the extensive five-day programme in a short newsletter review but would like to share with you some of the new findings that were revealed in Paris and which I feel to be of particular interest.

Atopic dermatitis
Extensive discussion took place about atopic dermatitis and why it is increasing in developed, industrialised countries. The IGN theory attributes this to the fact that babies in developed countries are “over protected” from infection through modern care and hygiene and therefore do not develop a sophisticated immune system.

Psoriasis
New treatments (biologics) for psoriasis was another key finding presented. These new treatments, which focus on blocking the immune system, are administered intravenously or intra-muscularly. Preliminary results from this new approach show high tolerance and induce long remission.

Skin cancer
New developments in topical immuno suppressants ( tacrolimus and pimecrolimus) now provide an alternative to topical steroids. Imiquimod has been available for a number of years for treating warts, but it now appears that this modifies epidermis and is highly efficient in treating pre-cancerous and cancerous lesions of the skin. So for the first time we heard that cream is available to treat skin cancer.

Angiomas
In his plenary session on Antiangiogenic Strategies, Dr. P. Carmeliet provided us with fascinating insight into angiomas, how they occur and how to treat them. His explanations also presented us with a clearer understanding of the use of various genes and protein in the genesis of new blood vessels.

Research Fellowships in Berlin
The Center of Experimental and Applied Cutaneous Physiology (CCP), Department of Dermatology and Allergy, University Hospital Charité, Humboldt University of Berlin invites applications for 2 research fellowship positions for the duration of two years. The candidates will have the possibility of working in an international team of research scientists on skin and hair physiology. The Center is embedded in the Department of Dermatology and has a high number of national and international collaborations. The successful applications will join a group of scientists with basic research on skin and hair physiology as well as skin penetration and signalling pathways. The successful candidates are expected to start as of 1 January 2003.

Interested candidates should send their CV and a statement of research interest, by no later than 31 October 2002, to Prof. Dr. Ulrike Blume-Peytavi / Prof. Dr. Jurgen Landemann, CCP, Dept. of Dermatology, university Medical Center Charité, Humboldt university of Berlin, Schumannstr. 20/21, D-10117 Berlin, Germany.

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Dermatology Globe

The UEMS Section of Dermatology & Venereology and the EADV House

Dr. Hendrik J. Hulsebosch, President of the UEMS Section of Dermatology & Venereology reviews new collaboration and initiatives between the EADV and the European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS).

In acquiring the EADV House in Brussels, the Academy was taking the first step towards realising a dream - to establish a Home for European Dermatology - by inviting other European dermato-venereology organisations to make use of it in addition to the EADV. The UEMS Section of Dermatology and Venereology (Section DV) was one of the organisations that was approached. We were told that we were especially welcome because the roots of the EADV can be found in the UEMS Section DV. In fact a group of enthusiast delegates of the UEMS Section DV founded the Academy in 1987. Their names can be found in the list of founding members of the EADV. After the establishment of the EADV, however, a distance grew up between our two organisations and we went our separate ways. Now, our paths are once again converging and the UEMS Section DV has gladly accepted the invitation to make use of the EADV House.

Central location, central communication

The excellent meeting facilities at the EADV House, together with its central location, are also very attractive allowing sub-groups of the Section DV and the European Board to meet in comfort, in the heart of Europe. Furthermore, the EADV will soon install a database system that could also be used for the membership administration of other societies. From our part, we could help to build this up-to-date, central database with the contacts of the national dermatology societies. Last but not least, co-operation on the World Wide Web is an exciting possibility with the linking of web-sites and up-to-date information. Collaboration between the EADV and the UEMS Section and the European Board of DV in the EADV House offers many interesting prospects.

EADV News would like to thank Hendrik J. Hulsebosch for his contribution.

A permanent address

In early April, the EADV President, Prof. Martin Black and I met to discuss the various facilities that the EADV House might offer our Section DV and its European Board (of which the EADV, ESDR and EDF are also members). Thanks to this EADV initiative, we are now delighted to have a permanent address for the Section and the European Board, independent of changes in the position of our honorary secretary. Not only does this facilitate contact, it also provides a home to our ever-increasing volume of archives.

Young Dermatologist Travel Awards - 2003

The International Society of Dermatology will award 10 Travel Awards to young dermatologists who are presenting papers at the ISD Regional Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, 12-15 July 2003. The meeting is co-sponsored by the Thai Society of Cosmetic Dermatology and Surgery.

The Travel Awards are designed to help young dermatologists become leaders in the field of dermatology and foster the global exchange of knowledge. Dermatologists under the age of 35 years who are dermatology residents, dermatology fellows, or dermatology junior faculty members are eligible. Each recipient will receive a $1,000 (US) award to help defray costs of travel.

Abstracts and applications must be submitted by 31 January 2003. For further information visit www.intsocdermatol.org or contact the ISD at 1-847-330-9830, info@intsocdermatol.org.

Young Dermatologist Scholarships

The International Society of Dermatology will award 10 Scholarships to attend the ISD IX International Congress of Dermatology, which will be held in Beijing (China), 19-22 May 2004.

The ISD Scholarships provide total financial support (travel expenses, hotel accommodation and registration fee) to dermatologists/venereologists under the age of 35, appointed by their national dermatology society to attend the educational activities of the International Congress of Dermatology. Priority will be given to candidates from developing countries for six of the 10 scholarships.

To enter the competition, interested candidates should submit a CV (1 page maximum) and a letter of endorsement from the President or Secretary-General of the candidate’s national dermatologic society. For further information visit www.intsocdermatol.org or contact the ISD at 1-847-330-9830, info@intsocdermatol.org.
So in 1995 our university department, which belongs to the Charles University, one of the oldest universities in Europe, decided to found a new tradition. Since then, we have been organising the “Prague Dermatological Meeting” every year. In 1998, we celebrated the 650th anniversary of Charles University and were delighted to organise the 4th Prague Dermatological Meeting (Fig. 2) as a joint meeting with the International Society of Dermatology (50 out of 302 participants were foreigners from 11 countries).

And now, the greatest opportunity for us: the EADV Congress in Prague!

Czech Dermatology and Europe

The Czech Society of Dermatology and Venereology was founded in Brno at the Department of Dermatology of the University Hospital on 30 December 1922 by V. Janovský (first president), A. Trýb (chair in Brno), F. Šamberger (chair in Prague) and V. Reinsberg (chair in Bratislava).

Czech dermatology has a long-lasting tradition, its roots go back to the 19th century. The first department of dermatology, located in the General Hospital in Prague (Fig. 3), was devoted to "luetic diseases" and was opened in 1847 under the chairmanship of J. Valter in Prague.

In October 1883, Charles University was divided into two parts - a Czech part and a German one. The first chair of the Czech part was V. Weiss (first dean of the Czech University), replaced by the founder of Czech dermatology school, V. Janovský (Fig 4). Janovský was a member of 17 international dermatological societies and a member of the "Société Internationale de Dermatologie et Syphilidologie" committee. He was also the first president of the Czechoslovak Society of Dermatology and a rector of Charles University. He published the first Czech textbook of dermatology and venereology (4 volumes) and described acanthosis nigricans in 1890 (one year before Pollizer).

The first chair of the German part, the leading dermatology department of the German speaking countries, was F. Pick (he founded "Archiv fur Dermatologie und Syphilis" in 1869 together with H. Auspitz from Vienna).

So, the history of Czech dermatology was influenced by German and Austrian dermatology, as we belonged to the same Empire, and by Slovak dermatology as well. Since 1 January 1993 our Czechoslovakia has been divided into two parts, the Czech Republic

Landmarks in the History of Czech Dermatology

1847 1st department of dermatology opened in Prague’s General Hospital
1862 Society of Czech Medical Doctors founded
1883 Charles University divided in two (Czech & German)
1922 The Czech Society of Dermatology & Venereology was founded
1934 3rd Meeting of Slavic Dermatologists in Prague
1989 The Velvet Revolution opened doors for Czech dermatology
1993 Czechoslovakia becomes Czech Republic & Slovak Republic
1995 1st Prague Dermatological Meeting
1998 650th Anniversary of Charles University
2002 11th EADV Congress in Prague
80th Anniversary of Czech Society of Dermatology & Venereology
and the Slovak Republic (but we still share the same dermatological journal).

On the other hand, dermatology in the Czech Republic has also influenced European dermatology. Some brilliant Czech colleagues were responsible for some ‘first’ observations in dermatology. J. E. Purkyne (1787 - 1869) described sweat gland in human and skin grooves, thus founding dactyloscopy, and introduced Canadian balsam in histology. Purkyne also founded “Spolek lékaru ceských” (Society of Czech Medical Doctors) in 1862. To this day, all medical associations still belong to this central organisation. J. Wolf developed the original stripping method for the study of skin surface morphology, and J. Král discovered urocanic acid in human sweat. Three Czech colleagues gave names to some disorders: Hermanský and Pudlák described a type of albinism and Bednár published on the storiform neurofibromas of the skin. F. Král was a founder of veterinary dermatology. Many more famous dermatologists were born in the Czech Republic. To cite just some: K. Rokitanský, pathologist was born in Hradec Králové, internist J. Škoda in Pilsen, F. von Hebra was born in Brno and H. Auspitz was born in Mikulov.

In 90 days time, Czech Dermatology will celebrate its 80th anniversary! What better way to celebrate this historical event than to host international dermatological colleagues in our country!

Enjoy Prague with us, despite the fact that the Gods sent us floods 6 weeks ago!

Yours,
Prof. Jana Hercogová, MD
President - 11th EADV Congress
Prof. Vladimír Resl, MD
Honorary President - 11th EADV Congress
Prof. Jaroslav Strejček, MD
Vice-President - 11th EADV Congress

Mozart loved Prague and Prague loved and still loves Mozart: a strong, reciprocal love. The enthusiasm for the symphony K504 in D (PRAGUE) and THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO (17 January 1787) earned him 1000 florins and the commission to write an opera for the following season.

When he returned to Vienna Mozart immediately contacted Lorenzo da Ponte, the author of the libretto for FIGARO and together they excogitated the enticing subject of the licentious seducer Don Giovanni Tenorio, a popular old story, practically a myth that had tempted many other artists, including Molière and Goldoni.

On 1 October of that same year, 1787, Mozart returned to Prague with most of the score already written; he wanted to adapt it to the singers (most were Italian - Luigi Bassi was Don Giovanni and Felice Ponzani was Leporello) and help them enter into their parts. The première, at the Nationaltheater on 29 October 1787, was a triumph; supposedly in the audience there was even Giacomo Casanova, the mythical seducer in person. The complete title of the opera (K 527) was DON GIOVANNI OR THE RAKE PUNISHED.

A year later DON GIOVANNI was performed in Vienna, but with some changes that led to talk about the “Viennese edition”. The Emperor judged the opera “too strong for the Viennese” and it appeared to be abandoned for a period, only to return to favour with force in the 19th century and it has been continuously presented, often triumphantly, since then. Since its very first staging this opera has been talked about and instigated an almost infinite number of comments, including observations by Kierkegaard, Goethe, Flaubert, and Lamartine.

It has been said, presumably according to Stendhal, that Mozart composed the music of the ouverture the night before the opening performance assisted by his wife, who had prepared him a punch that made him sleepy and who then helped keep him awake by telling funny stories. In any case, the next day that page of magnificent music was miraculously ready!

EADV News would like to thank Prof. Emiliano Panconesi for this contribution.
As European dermatovenereologists meet in Prague for the 11th EADV Annual Congress, Prof. Emiliano Panconesi pays tribute to the great Franz Kafka, born in Prague on 3 July 1883.

“Gregor Samsa, upon awaking one morning after a night of agitated dreams, found himself transformed, there in his bed, into an enormous, disgusting insect”. This is perhaps the most significant sentence in literature that can be extended to represent both Self and Body Image in our dermatology patients carried to the extreme of the course and total diffusion of an affection.

It was not by chance that this sentence opens and seems to contain and conclude the entire magnificent story, DIE VERWANDLUNG (METAMORPHOSIS), written by one of the most famous writers of our times, Franz Kafka of Prague. The experienced dermatologist who reflects will find in this story an exasperating globalised combination of fragments of the emotional, existential, illusionary and dysmorphophobic perceptions, sensations, and self-observations of certain (and not few) patients.

Metamorphosis

The dermatology patient, in fact, often feels more or less transformed into a sort of intolerable metamorphosis. As the story unfolds the descriptive art of the young Franz Kafka continues to provide other details of specific interest to us: “a slight itching on the upper part of his belly... and the point that itched was completely covered with little white spots, that he didn’t know what to think of; he tried to touch it with a leg, but pulled it back because at the first contact he was invaded by a chill.” He tries to respond to his mother who urged him to get up, but he hears his own voice mixed with a “painful, uncontrollable chirp that left the words understandable only at the beginning, because they then became so confounded by an echo that it was doubtful that they could be understood.” He feels himself, and then sees himself, “unbelievably large” - an observation/sensation/feeling not uncommon in our patients - and covered with a sort of “little insect-like legs that moved constantly in all directions and that, furthermore, he was unable to command...” He tries to move, but hits against the bed and feels “acute pain”. He tries to stay calm, at any cost. His back has become hard... He hears the arrival of his superior, the managing agent, who saw that he had not arrived at work on time. He jumps out of bed, and hits his head... and refuses to open the door. From the rug, where he is lying, he listens to the other: he hears his sister crying and the solicitations of the manager, but he remains closed in and yells that he isn’t well... that he will go out later... There beyond the wall Gregor’s voice sounds like that of an animal to the manager. Gregor sees a sticky substance oozing from one of his little legs. He manages to turn the key with his mouth and notices that a sort of brown liquid comes out...

Though the window he sees, with the increasing morning light, the dark grey wall of a sanatorium (a place that Kafka knew so well and was to continue to frequent because of his tuberculosis) and through the open doorway of the house he sees the landing and the stairs, inaccessible. Without passing through the doorway, (he promises) that he will go, just as soon as he can, to his difficult job (travelling salesman); his mother sees him and runs off yelling for help... and the manager, whom Gregor had managed to reach, flees down the stairs; his father tries to push Gregor away, forcefully with the help of a stick. Gregor has difficulty in backing off, the door of the room has become too narrow for him and he scrapes his side leaving “ugly marks” on the door. His father’s last blow pushes him, bleeding, into the bedroom, and the door is closed with a stick. (How many times have we wondered if the relatives of an uncontrollable or indecent patient act like that?).
Franz Kafka and Medicine

So much for the first chapter. In the second and third chapters, after a sleep that was practically a swoon, the poor “creature” awakes in the dark lying on the floor and, rather than seeing it, he has the sensation that on his left side there is already a long scar (that couldn’t have formed in such a short time!) that pulls his skin painfully. Everything seems to be stabilising without further evolution or provisions: a sensation that could seem to refer to that experienced by a patient, dermatological or other, who closes himself into the reality of a disease that envelops him. The story continues, but we will not tell you any more; we invite you to read or re-read it for yourself.

A Country Doctor

Another important quotation, of the many possible, comes from the story A COUNTRY DOCTOR (EIN LANDARZT, written between 1914 and 1917). Far from being a sketch-like description based on memories (Kafka’s uncle Siegfried Löwy was a country doctor in Moravia), this story is shorter than THE METAMORPHOSIS, but it is equally amazing and hallucinating.

The protagonist, who has to make an urgent house-call in the midst of thick sleet, manages with difficulty to find horses for his carriage and has to leave his young maid, Rose, with the unreliable man who has lent him the horses. Strangely, when he arrives just a few kilometres away there is no sleet and the farmhouse is enveloped in moonlight. The air in the bedroom is sickly, the young patient, thin and enveloped in moonlight. The air in the room is no sleet and the farmhouse is surrounded by the boy’s family (“no-one moves a finger…”). It ends with “once one has answered a false alarm (but there was nothing at the beginning to make him realise that it was false!) … at the night bell… there is no remedy.”

Linguistic precision is never lost in the horrific Gothic atmosphere; the descriptions are fully detailed and perfect. One is reminded of the comments of illustrious critics about this great writer. His works do not resemble those of anyone else: he was neither an impressionist nor an expressionist. He could be defined as a visionary realist, and the two stories cited suggest precisely such.

Franz Kafka - the man, his life

Franz Kafka was born in Prague on 3 July 1883, in the building Zum Turm on the Altstädtler Ring at the corner of Maiselgasse and Karfengasse on the edge of the Prague ghetto (Josefov). His family comprised his father Hermann, a merchant of mercery and hardware, his mother, Julie Löwy, and three sisters, all younger than Franz. His favourite was Ottla, born in 1892. Franz Kafka completed all his studies in Prague, first at the Fleischmarkt elementary school, then the Staats-Gymnasium (1893-1901) at the Kinsky Palace and finally at the Deutsche Universität (1901-1906) where he studied first chemistry, then German language and literature, and finally law, taking his degree in law.

On 23 October 1902 he met Max Brod, who was to be his great life-long friend, at a lecture by Brod on Schopenhauer and Nietzsche. He wrote the first draft of his first story DESCRIPTION OF A BATTLE (BESCHREIBUNG EINES KAMPFES) in 1904-1905. In 1907 he was hired as an auxiliary by the Prague General Insurance company and in 1908 he went to work for the Bohemian Kingdom’s Institute for Accident Insurance. Also, in quick summary: his first love experience was while he was in the Zuckmantel (Schlesien) sanatorium, he travelled to Italy, Lugano, Paris and Berlin, read Flaubert, one of his favourite writers, and he was very interested in Yiddish culture and psycho-analysis.

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To familiarise you with the 11th EADV Congress and so that you enjoy it all the more, Congress President Prof. Jana Hercogová introduces some of the highlights.

As you know, EADV Congresses have reached the highest scientific and academic level. Nevertheless, we would like to convince you that even in the year of the World Congress in Europe, 'our' EADV Congress in Prague will be, I do believe, even better. Why?

More than Skin-Deep

'More than Skin-Deep' is the main theme of the Congress. According to the Oxford Dictionary, skin-deep is "(adj. of a wound, or of an emotion, an impression, a quality, etc.) superficial, not deep or lasting". Our intention is to make the Congress very definitely "more than skin-deep" in all its aspects - scientifically, educationally, and socially. So, we will try to engage your emotions and your senses, focusing all the time on quality, and experiences, which will last forever and we will leave the "wounds" to those specialised in healing wounds. We will try to reach to the very depths of your brain (reviewing scientific subjects with great attention and from all angles, including global perspectives) and of your soul (showing you the diverseness and richness of our culture and hospitality).

Let’s first have a look at some of the main characteristics of this Congress.

EADV Goes East

This is the first EADV Congress to take place in a county in the former 'Soviet block'. Until 1999, the EADV was largely a western oriented dermatological society. At that time, a key decision was taken during the 8th EADV Congress in Amsterdam when the Academy decided to 'go East'. Prague was selected as the venue for today's congress winning over Riga and Malta. It was the first victory.

The decision to organise the EADV Congress in Prague might be considered by some western Europeans as a bit of a risk. Few of you have already visited our country. You are not familiar with our standards and worry that possibly things will not operate here as in western cities. I understand therefore that, for some, coming to Prague is a bit of an adventure. Let me reassure you however. The more I travel all over the world, the more I see that our country is no different from other European (EU) countries. I can honestly tell you that we share similar problems - nothing worse. So I invite you to see for yourself during the course of this Congress!

Extraordinary Numbers

Much of the attention of the dermatology profession has been on Paris and the World Congress earlier this year. However, as Prof. Olafsson wrote, in a very nice letter to me, "everybody knows Paris and will come to Prague". Naturally, I have always been convinced of this, as I personally think that very few cities in the world are comparable to Prague.

But the 'gods' have not been with us - never has flooding in Prague reached such strength as in August and the most romantic parts of Prague by Vltava river (Kampa island) have been destroyed. Rest assured, however, this natural disaster will have no affect on our great event.

Back to the numbers, they are amazing! Registrations have been received from all over the world. By August, 3,000 participants had registered, 119 sessions (including 14 satellite symposia), 618 lectures (25 under the patronage of sister societies) and 998 posters had been announced. The number of accepted abstracts for the JEADV Supplement will be 20 % higher than in Munich.

Hundreds of dermatologists from Eastern European countries will have the chance, some of them for the first time, to be an important part of our scientific community. Many sister societies have decided to organise scientific meetings, general meetings or board meetings during the Congress. Their number is unbelievable - 33 dermatological and four patients' societies. Some editors of the journals will also meet in Prague.

Respecting Traditions

Tradition is priceless. In our Prague Congress you will again find the outstanding value which has been built by my predecessors - the previous EADV Congress Presidents. All traditional sessions and items of the congress programme, to which you are accustomed, will be repeated. We want to continue the tradition started by the first Congress President, Prof. Panconesi, who published a Book of Proceedings. This was the case...
last year as well. We believe it is of great interest for all of you to get a comprehensive book on the congress, not only abstracts. Furthermore, the publication of the abstracts in the JEADV (with its 0.981 impact factor) is of enormous benefit to those presenting.

What’s New?
Whilst respecting traditions, and the most successful elements of previous congresses, we have also introduced some new aspects to the 11th EADV Congress. First let’s look at what’s new in the scientific programme.

Posters in coffee breaks
For the first time, poster discussions will take place during the coffee breaks. This has obvious advantages. Dermatovenereologists presenting posters will be able to speak to their colleagues in front of the posters, and delegates will always be able to discuss poster data with its presenter (beside the poster) at the stated poster presentation time.

One theme, one room
A specific scientific topic will always be presented in the same room (number of topics and presentations permitting). This way, participants interested in following all sessions relative to a particular theme, such as venereology, will easily find the room and not have to move all over the congress centre.

Well-managed scheduling
Following the advice of previous Congress Presidents, we have tried, wherever possible, to avoid having one speaker scheduled to speak during concurrent sessions. We believe that all participants will benefit from this.

Evaluation forms
To provide valuable feedback, which will help guide subsequent Congress Presidents and planning for future EADV events, we would kindly ask all participants to evaluate the Congress via the evaluation forms we will provide.

We also have some new and exciting features with regard to publication activities.

New books
In addition to the Book of Proceedings, one issue of the International Journal of Immunopathology and Pharmacology will be entirely devoted to the Congress and two new books will be launched in Prague - Millennium Dermatologicum and International Dermatology: An Approach to Human Mobile Population (see page 13).

As for the social programme, we will bring you a taste of some of the art and music for which Prague is famous.

Prepared with passion
The Opening Ceremony will take place in the Congress Centre, starting with a welcome cocktail and followed by a reception. We hope you will enjoy this programme ‘prepared with passion’ for you, our guests!

Exclusive visit
On Thursday, 3 October, we invite you into the heart of the Charles University, the oldest university north of the Alps, open exclusively for you. During our Awards Ceremony, you will enjoy a unique chance to see the splendid interior, not generally open to the public or available for commercial events. It is a great pleasure for me, a Vice-Dean of the Medical School of the Charles University, to invite you to our Alma Mater.

Under the patronage of the Rector Magnificus, the Charles University Medals will be presented to three international colleagues who have supported the development of Charles University departments. Furthermore, in recognition of the 11th EADV Congress, the greatest event in the history of Czech dermatology, the Czech Society of Dermatology and Venereology will award prominent international colleagues with Honorary membership. A concert and cocktail reception will follow the Awards Ceremony.

Finally, something new for the dermatology community.

International Reach
Not only will Prague host the leading European dermatology event, effectively we will host a truly international gathering, a world congress. For in addition to the participation of many important European societies such as the UEMS, ESDR and EDF, there is also the participation of American, (AAD), Brazilian (BSD) and international societies (IACD), including the greatest international dermatological society - the International Society of Dermatology. Here, the ISD will hold the first meeting of the International Council of Dermatological Societies where all Presidents and Secretary-Generals of all National Dermatological Societies are welcome.

Dear colleagues, welcome to Prague!

Yours,

Prof. Jana Hercogová, MD
Congress President EADV 2002
Call for Action

On the occasion of the 11th EADV Congress in Prague, Prof. Vladimír Resl, MD would like to open discussion on "dermatology politics" around the topics laid out in the memorandum below.

Prof. Vladimír Resl, MD
- Honorary President of the 11th Congress EADV Prague 2002
- President Czech Society of Dermatology and Venereology
- Department of Dermatology and Venereology, Charles University Pilsen

MEMORANDUM

All representatives and participants of the 11th EADV Congress in Prague are asked to support the following Declaration, which could be partly or as a whole, the Conclusion of the Congress. We should discuss and implement the following paragraphs in our meetings and seminars.

The participants of EADV Congress in Prague came to the conclusion that the discipline of Dermatology and Venereology has come under political and economical pressure in recent years in all European countries. There is much in common across all countries but the greatest impact is felt in developing countries, where shrinking budgets are decreasing dermatology care and quality standards.

That is why we are advising Government Representatives, Ministers of Health, Hospital Directors, Representatives of Political Parties and all guests of the Congress about the following facts:

1) Dermatology and Venereology diseases make life miserable, are often life threatening and eventually lead to death. The enhancement of cure procedures depends directly on well-funded research.

2) Dermatology and Venereology is a basic Medicine Discipline and shouldn’t be confused with others disciplines, largely because of complex and specific diagnostic Procedures.

3) The Subdisciplines of Dermatology and Venereology such as Andrology, Phlebology, Mycology, Histopathology, Allergology, Immunology, Pediatric Dermatology, Dermatology Surgery, Aesthetic Medicine and Cosmetology etc., some of them complex, are an integral part of Dermatology and Venereology Medicine Discipline and should be treated as such.

4) For steady and solid progress of our scientific field, there must be basic and applications research maintained in every country of Europe. Major developments are expected in areas such as Allergology, Immunology, Genetics.

5) Key findings should be compiled to enhance advanced professional education in every country. Obviously the EADV is the major professional educator, together with the main national trade societies. EADV has a rich silo of professional knowledge, common problems and statistics and is more than willing to share them with professional partners all over the EU.

6) Undesirable tendencies are dividing Dermatologists into two categories - the practical and facultative (tendency to use different expensive therapy).

7) The decreasing number of Dermatologists is untimely, as is the reduction of hospital beds. The sick have to be treated by family physicians with less professional dermatology experience.

8) It would be wrong to mix up Dermatology and Cosmetology (Dermatology is not Cosmetology). Cosmetology is a part of Dermatology: it is a discipline with a complex research of its own and with positive results as it expands into areas of many pathology states (for example acne, or rosacea). It is improving the quality of life and works in field of disease prevention as well (for example photoprotection from tumors, emollientia for atopic dermatitis).

9) Recently we have come across diseases which are the direct result of "alternative medicine" practices and/or "irrational medicine" which we strongly oppose. In some cases, this kind of medicine is being supported by National Governments.
**Book Review**

Celebrating the unique position of dermatology in medical science, 2 new books will be launched during the 11th EADV Congress.

**Millennium Dermatologicum. European Handbook of Dermatological Societies**

**Why a book on Dermatovenereological Societies in Europe?**

Dermatology is continuously influenced by and dependent on changes of technology, economy and social behaviours. Cooperation between clinicians, basic scientists and researchers is the pre-requisite for the future progress in our specialty. Only Medical Societies are able to provide a face-to-face forum for the correct exchange of scientific information and can give their members the chance to grow in an ethical context. It is essential for dermatovenereologists to regain their authority and professional autonomy. This is the main aim and scope of Medical Societies and ultimately in the best interest of patients and of the scientific community, which in turn will properly influence Governments and Health Care Systems. We should therefore know more about the life of our Societies in Europe.

Through this book, we plan to inform all dermatovenereologists about the life and activities of National and International Societies active in our field in Europe. In informing all dermatovenereologists, we aim to open a road towards cooperation and medical accreditation programmes provided by Medical Societies active in the field of dermatovenereology in Europe.

Finally, in this book you will find information about the roots of Dermatology in Europe, the role of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV) in harmonising European Dermatology, information on the main European Societies and National Societies actively involved in our field and the role of the International Society of Dermatology (ISD) in connecting European Dermatology with the rest of the world. Also included are lists of the officers in Dermatological Societies and the main pharmaceutical companies active in our field.

We hope that this book will help dermatovenereologists to find their roots and to work together bearing in mind the special place dermatology has in medical science.

Orders can be made at the Prague Academy booth No. 21c on the second floor of the Congress Centre.

**International Dermatology: An Approach To Human Mobile Population**

This book is the first book of the ISD Publishing House Series. The first textbook dedicated to dermatovenereological problems of the human mobile population and to ethnic dermatology, it looks primarily at the transcultural approach towards individuals belonging to different geographical areas, to different religions and social attitudes. Special emphasis has been given to women and children affected by dermatovenereological disorders in developing countries, thanks to the special attention of the Maria M. Duran Committee of the ISD.


Orders can be made at the ISD booth No. 19a on the second floor of the Congress Centre.

The Maria M. Duran Committee, devoted to women and children, was created in memory of Prof. Duran by the ISD Executive Committee. The Committee has decided to honour the most prominent women in dermatology with the Medal of Maria M. Duran. The following leading women will be awarded during the 11th EADV Congress:

- Dr. Luna Azulay Abulafia (Brazil)
- Prof. Boni E. Elewski (USA)
- Prof. Stefania Jablonska (Poland)
- Prof. Darina Jarcušková (Slovak Republic)
- Prof. Anna Fadrhoncová (Czech Republic)
- Prof. Anna Kobza-Black (United Kingdom)
- Dr. Nerella Petrini (Italy)
- Prof. Diane Roseeuw (Belgium)
- Dr. Luitgard Wiest (Germany)
On August 13, 1912 Franz met and fell in love with Felice Bauer (although, as we will see, he later described her as ugly) and they became formally engaged in 1914 in Berlin. He wrote THE SENTENCE (also published as THE JUDGMENT in English) in a single night in 1912 and it was later published dedicated to Felice. The first meeting with her was studiously noted in his diary (TAGENBÜCHER), with even a title for the paragraph: FRAULEIN FELICE BAUER. “When I arrived at Brod’s [at 1 Schanlengasse] on August 13th, she was sitting at the table, although I thought she was a servant. I wasn’t at all curious to know who she was, but I settled in immediately. A bony, empty face that showed open emptiness. Free neck. Wrinkled blouse. She seemed dressed like a housewife, although, as I saw later, she wasn’t. (I appeared foreign to her because I observed her from so close up...). Blonde, fairly straight hair, not attractive, strong chin. While I was sitting down I looked at her attentively for the first time, and when I was seated I already had an unshakable judgement (I like her so much it makes me sigh.)."

It was to be a long-lasting love affair, albeit bizarre and strangely conducted, mostly by correspondence, without frequent meetings and they never lived together. In May 1914 they became engaged in Berlin, but in July Franz broke the engagement. In 1915 in Bodenbach he revived the relationship and was with her in Marienbad in 1916; they got engaged again in 1917... a total of 5 years of correspondence with incredibly few and brief times together.

After a pause he began writing again in 1917, in his sister’s small house on the Alchimistengasse in Prague. That same year he experienced a severe hemoptysis, that confirmed the diagnosis of tuberculosis of the lungs. He lived with Ottla in Zörau. In 1918 he learned Hebrew. In 1919 he had an affair with Julie Wohryzek and they planned to marry. He wrote the LETTER TO [HIS] FATHER and went to Murano (Italy) for a cure. Then, that same year, in 1919, in Prague, he met Milena, with whom he had another strange love affair (this time passionate but, again, prevalently epistolary); they met because she wanted to translate his stories into Czech. She lived in Vienna with her torturing husband, and as had happened with Felice he was terrified of living with, or even nearby, someone outside his own family.

In 1920 he was hospitalised in the Matliary Sanatorium where he first met (1921-22) the then 21 year-old medical student Robert Klopstock. In 1923 at Müritz on the Baltic Sea coast he met Dora Dymant: they moved to Berlin and even planned to go to Palestine.

In 1924 at the Wiener Wald Sanatorium in Ortmann (Austria) he was diagnosed with tuberculosis of the larynx. A brief stay in the clinic of Dr. Hayek in Vienna was followed by an atrocious period of his illness in the Kierling Sanatorium in Klosterneuburg (Austria) when he could not talk; he communicated with Dora and Klopstock by writing on pieces of paper. He wrote to his parents not to come to see him. At noon on 3 June he died with Klopstock at his side. Klopstock had moved aside to prepare another morphine injection for Franz, who continually asked for more, and Franz said, “Don’t go away.” Klopstock reassured him, saying: “I’m not going away.” and Franz replied, “But, I’m going.” Those were his last words. [Twenty years before in Badenweiler Anton Cechov had said: "Ich sterbe." (= I’m dying.)] Franz Kafka was buried on Wednesday, 11 June 1924 in the Jewish cemetery of Strachnitz.

Mind and body

Notwithstanding the torture of the relapses of that terrible albeit common chronic infectious disease of the times, Franz Kafka thought about the indivisible mind-body relationship (psychosomatics). In one of his many letters to Max Brod, written in Zürau in 1917, he wrote: “the room is excellent, airy, quiet and in a house that enjoys practically total tranquillity; there is an abundance of everything that I am supposed to eat, except that my lips are convulsively opposed, but this always happens to me after a change and liberty, especially liberty.

Of course there is the wound, of which the lung lesion is only a symbol... today my attitude towards tuberculosis is that of a child towards the folds of his mother’s skirt, that he grasps. If I got the disease from my mother, that concords even better and with
her infinite care, all much less than her comprehension. My mother would have done me this service also. I try continually to explain the disease to myself because I certainly didn’t ask for it. Sometimes I have the impression that my brain and my lungs have reached an agreement without my knowing about it. “This can’t go on,” the brain said, and five years later the lungs declared their agreement to help.

In other letters, I cite some to Milena, the psychosomatic idea is emphasised and literaturized: “…these negotiations between the brain and the lungs, that have taken place without my knowledge, must have been horrible.” And also: “I am mentally sick, the lung disease is only an overflow of the mental disease.”

— Emiliano Panconesi

Genomics & Genetics

Vital discoveries were presented by Dr. J. Weissenbach in The Human Genome Project & its Impact in Dermatology. On going research into genetic disorders and pharmaco-genomics, together with epidemiological studies, have clearly revealed that each individual has his/her own genetic pattern. Whilst some drugs will work for one genomic pattern, the same treatment will not function well with a different pattern. These major findings mean that we can now start to customise our treatments according to individual genomic patterns.

We have all known for a while that the human skin is susceptible to exposure from the sun but have had no clear understanding of the molecular or genetic basis for this susceptibility. However, in Paris we learnt that genetic reasons have been identified which will now allow us to evaluate each individual’s susceptibility and therefore prescribe suitable prevention.

At each congress or symposium we attend, we learn something new in our ever-developing and complex specialty. I look forward to sharing more new discoveries with you during our own EADV Congress in Prague.

EADV News would like to thank Prof. Jean-Paul Ortonne for his contribution.
A century after the death of Moriz Kaposi, European dermatology is in the process of creating, if not re-creating, the cosmopolitan world of Kaposi’s time in a new Europe, politically and medically. Members of EADV pay tribute to this distinguished dermatologist.

Great men and great women deserve to be remembered, in history, in general and in their own spheres of influence. Medicine has always emphasised its own history since the time of antiquity. Hippocrates of Kos, Aulus Cornelius Celsus of Rome, Galenos of Pergamon, Avicenna, Maimonides, Vesalius, Harvey, Morgagni, Auenbrugger, Laënnec, to mention but a few, have all been hailed over time and have enlivened the ambitions of doctors and students alike.

In dermatology, it was Robert Willan (1757-1812) who was ‘elected’ to be the Dermatologist of the Millennium in 1999. Jean-Louis Alibert (1768-1837) was addressed as hero of the first great school in the Hôpital Saint-Louis, in 2001, at the bicentennial of his Directorship, and it is Moriz Kaposi (1837-1902), the Judeo-Austro-Hungarian, who is in focus this year. AIDS and Kaposi sarcoma offer additional justification.

Kaposi was born Moriz Kohn on 23 October 1837 (24 Tishri 5598) into a Jewish family in Kaposvár, Southern Hungary, son of Salomon Kohn and Rosa, née Krauss. He attended a Hungarian elementary school and received the first four years of secondary schooling in a Gymnasium in his native city. Then he moved to Pozsony (Pressburg, Bratislava) to complete the remaining four years of education in the German Gymnasium. Thereafter, Kohn went to Vienna where he enrolled in the Medical School of Vienna University in 1856 and from which he graduated as a Doctor of Medicine on 13 December 1861, as Doctor of Surgery on 14 April 1862, and as Master of Obstetrics on 12 July 1866. He worked in several departments of the Vienna general (University) Hospital, became ‘dozent’ out of the 2nd chair (syphilology) Prof. Carl Ludwig Sigmund’s and eventually joined Hebra’s department (1st chair). In February 1869 he married Hebra’s daughter Martha. Sometime before his marriage, Kohn must have changed his denomination from Judaism to Roman Catholicism, because in the marriage certificate of 6 February 1869, he is listed as such.

In 1869, we find the first paper on lupus erythematosus still under the name of Kohn. In 1872, now as Kaposi, he published a much more detailed treatise on lupus erythematosus. In the same year, his first observations on ‘idiopathic multiple pigmented sarcoma of the skin’ (eponymously called Kaposi’s sarcoma) appeared in print. Papers on erythema multiforme, rhinoscleroma, the mycoses, and other subjects were to follow as well as ‘Kaposi’s varicelliform eruption’ (the superinfection of eczematous areas with herpes virus). This was not the subject of a separate publication but is mentioned in his textbook from the third edition onwards. The textbook of Hebra’s first appeared in co-authorship (Hebra-Kaposi) and finally just under the name of Kaposi. In 1875, he was appointed Professor of Dermatology.
In 1871, Kaposi formally and officially changed his name from Kohn to Kaposi, a fact he made public in footnotes both in medical journals and in the Hebra-Kaposi textbook of Dermatology. Permission for the change of name was granted by decree on 8 November 1871. ‘Kaposi’ obviously was selected in reverence for his native city and the river ‘Kapos’.

Ferdinand von Hebra died on 5 August 1880 and Kaposi took over his father-in-law’s department. (Fig. 1). He successfully competed with other famous pupils of Hebra, namely, Hans von Hebra, his brother-in-law, Heinrich Auspitz and Filipp Josef Pick, who was later to become head of the Department of Dermatology in Prague and co-founder of the German Society of Dermatology (1889).

Kaposi hosted the Second International Congress of Dermatology in Vienna in 1892 and served as its President. In Paris in 1889, at the first of these meetings, he was one of the Vice-Presidents and in London in 1896 he was one of the Foreign Secretaries. Again, in Paris in 1900 he served as one of the Honorary Presidents (together with Jonathan Hutchinson). A special festschrift was edited on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his appointment as Professor of Dermatology. The festschrift appeared as a special supple-

mentary volume (Ergänzungsband) of the Archiv für Dermatologie und Syphilis. His oeuvre consisted of more than one hundred publications.

Successively, many honours were bestowed upon Kaposi. He became a member of the Imperial Order of (Emperor) Leopold; he was appointed ‘Hofrat’, officer of the Légion d’Honneur and elected member of many other national and international scientific societies.

Kaposi was a polyglot, being fluent in Hungarian, German, French and English. At international congresses he was sought as a speaker, but he was also a sharp critic, feared for his caustic remarks. He was well integrated into the Viennese society of the time and was a friend of many artists, such as the famous painter Makart, who was also his patient and who did a portrait of his wife, and the sculptor Kundmann, who created the statue crowning the Kaposi tomb, for which Kaposi’s wife Martha served as model. (Fig. 2). Kaposi and Martha Hebra had five children, three sons and two daughters. There is no name-carrying descendant in the direct line.

The 3rd International Conference of the Mor Kaposi Research Foundation was held in Budapest 12 April 2002 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the death of Moriz Kaposi. A special visit took place to his Birthplace in Kaposvar. (Figs. 3 and 4)

Kaposi may be remembered as a dermatologist of international renown, combining a variety of traditions in his personal profile: Jewish educational erudition, Hungarian vivacity and Austrian cosmopolitanism of the late fin-de-siècle together with the spirited atmosphere of culture offered by Vienna at the time - music, medicine, literature, Brahms, Billroth, Freud, Mahler - a world in its evening glow which he epitomized. One century later, European dermatology is under way to create, if not re-create the cosmopolitan world of then in a new Europe, politically and medically.

Zlata Praha, - das goldene Prag, in the very heart of the continent could not be a better venue to stimulate us all in this effort.

EADV News would like to thank the authors: Martin M. Black, MD, Karl Holubar, MD FRCP and Stella Fatovic-Ferencic, MD PhD

References

Highlights of the first Spring Symposium include a reception at the President’s Palace, a world-renowned faculty, contributions from nurses and patient support groups, simultaneous translation, a History of Medicine pre-meeting and sponsorship from the European Union. Joe Pace, Symposium Chairman reports.

New Venue
Preparations for the Malta Symposium are in full swing. The venue has been changed to the Intercontinental Hotel Malta just down the road from the Hilton that remains a favoured conference hotel. The new venue also boasts an ice rink, a bowling alley, a cinema complex and a Health Club that will be available to registrants staying at the hotel.

Social Programme
The Opening Ceremony will be staged in the world famous St John’s Cathedral in Valetta, ‘the city built by gentlemen for gentlemen’, and home to the famous Caravaggio Beheading of St John. A reception at the President’s Palace, kindly offered for the occasion by H E Prof Guido de Marco, Patron of the Symposium, follows.
A masked Carnival Party is being organised on Saturday night to close the Symposium.

**Supporting Dermatology**
Mindful of our responsibilities to those less fortunate than ourselves, the Organising Committee hopes to organise a Charity event on Friday night (28 February) with proceeds going to the Tanzania project. This will be held in conjunction with the Rotary Club Malta. In addition registrants with limited budgets will find special rates at good hotels within walking distance of the main venue.

**Outstanding Faculty**
On the academic side, all lecturers have accepted the Organising Committee’s invitation which for the first time, according to EADV policy, does not include complimentary registration. The Faculty is a veritable ‘Who’s Who’ of excellence and includes the newly elected ILDS President, Robin Marks who will be coming all the way from Australia. The programme has CME recognition by the AAD and will also include contributions by Dermatology nurses and patients Support Groups. Translation English/French will be available for some sessions outside the main programme to encourage participation from French speaking Mediterranean countries.

**Additional Meetings**
A large number of sister societies are joining us and will have their own meeting on 1 March. These include the Mediterranean Association of Dermatology (AMED). Besides Europe and the Mediterranean countries, the US, Latin America, and Australasia are providing a good number of enquiries. The History of Medicine pre-meeting is being held on 26 February at Fort St Angelo, the bulwark of Malta’s defences in the Great Siege of 1565 and now sovereign territory of the Order of Malta.

**EU Support**
The Exhibition Hall is also filling steadily and another first is the obtaining of a sponsorship from the European Union (EU) that strongly approves this event as a fine opportunity for scientific exchange at the highest level between the inhabitants of Europe and those of neighbouring countries.

Use our Conference airlines AirMalta and Emirates Airlines for very special treatment and bring your colleagues with you for Malta 2003 - a meeting you will never forget.


Closing date for Abstract Submission - 31 October 2002
Update from the Secretary General

The Academy continues to grow in membership and is having an increasing impact on the practice of dermatology in Europe. This year we expect our membership numbers to exceed 2000, an increase of over 30% on the numbers of two years ago, and the highest number to date. Our membership is vital to our existence, and as we grow we can justifiably state that we are representative of all strands of European dermatology and venereology. This unique status helps us to achieve our goals of high standards of dermatology and venereology throughout Europe, and provide the best quality of care to our patients. All European countries are now represented in our membership, and international members come from countries as far apart as Argentina and Australia, Chile and Canada. We are proud that our international colleagues join the EADV and welcome their input.

Expanding Membership

However, EADV membership is still only a small percentage of the total number of dermatologists and venereologists in Europe. We want to make our Academy more accessible and meaningful to practitioners in all parts of Europe, and with this objective we recently introduced the category of Affiliated membership. Members of Societies affiliated to the EADV are eligible to apply for EADV (affiliated) membership at less than 50% of the ordinary membership fee. Organisations such as the Lithuanian Society for Dermatovenereology, the Polish Association of Dermatology and Venereology, the Scottish Dermatology Society, the Hungarian Dermatological Society, the European Task Force on Atopic Dermatitis are either affiliated or in the process of becoming affiliated to the EADV. I think you will agree that the interest shown by these important national organisations in our Academy is a strong indication of its increasing relevance in the new European community we live in.

Access to Education

As we make our membership more accessible, so also are we increasing the accessibility of our educational events. An additional annual meeting, the Spring Symposium, was introduced to facilitate practitioners in parts of Europe in which Congresses had not been held. Thus, Malta (2003) and Budapest (2004) will deliver the highest quality Dermatovenereology Spring Symposia to practitioners in Southern and Eastern Europe respectively over a two day period in a more intimate, interactive environment than the larger Congress venue. I do hope that many of you will travel to these wonderful venues to support our outreach policy and partake in what promises to be a new departure in Dermatovenereology educational events.

At the Heart of Dermatovenerology

The EADV Board realises that we still have a lot to achieve to make the kind of impact the EADV should have on our speciality. With the extraordinary rich talents and wide diversity of cultural attributes of European Dermatovenereology our Academy has the potential to become the most dynamic vibrant organisation in our speciality - not only in Europe, but worldwide! We are working hard to ensure that the EADV provides valuable information and meaningful services to its members, delivered efficiently by a democratic organisation in which all members have a voice. Help us to move forward on this road by encouraging your colleagues to join the EADV and to come to our educational events and see for themselves.

As Secretary-General, I would welcome your views on the Academy and its relevance to your practice. Tell us what you would like from the EADV to make your membership more worthwhile.  

Frank C. Powell
Secretary General

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1st EADV Spring Symposium
Malta
27 February - 1 March 2003

12th EADV Congress
Barcelona, Spain
15 - 18 October 2003

2nd EADV Spring Symposium
Budapest, Hungary
30 April - 1 May 2004

13th EADV Congress
Florence, Italy
17 - 21 November 2004

14th EADV Congress
London, United Kingdom
12 - 15 October 2005

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Deadline for early-bird registration: 28 June 2003
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Notification of acceptance of free communications: June 2003