

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by John F Martin, president of ESCI

I am sad to be giving up the presidency of ESCI. It has been one of the most fulfilling things that I have done over the last three years. Two of the great passions of my life are Europe and Medicine. In ESCI I found these two mixed with good science and excellent friendship. I recently attended a meeting of the Committee of the Commission in Brussels running Biomed II. We were told by the Commission that we, the network of scientists funded by the Commission, were in fact the living European Union. In a similar way, ESCI is a manifestation of European medicine and science that has been growing in strength and quality for the last thirty years. We have formed a lateral grouping across Europe that transcends nationality. The Society brings together doctors and scientists in a way that is more important than any national objective.

The geographical definition of Europe is expanding. The importance of Eastern Europe is recognised by the Society in holding the Annual Scientific Meeting in Cracow, Poland, in 1998. This will be an important event for the Society and for Eastern European medical science and I urge you all to plan now to come to Cracow, not so much out of a sense of duty to the Society, but knowing that you will get pleasure from the combination of scientific medical debate in the most beautiful Renaissance city in Europe.

The Society's finances are now relatively strong. During 1995 we renegotiated our contract with Blackwell Science, the publisher of our Journal. The new contract will give an improved income from the Journal in the future.

There has been a continuing improvement in the quality of the Journal and of the leadership of the Editor-in-Chief, Alan McGregor. With the move of the editorial office to Utrecht, there will be a modernisation of the image of the Journal. We look forward to further improvements in quality and leadership of Jo Marx, the new Editor-in-Chief.

I wish ESCI well over the next three years. The Annual Scientific Meeting will continue to be the main stay of the Society and I urge the continuation of the quality of science that we have seen presented. The meeting in Cambridge contained workshop of such a quality of science that each one would have stood on its own in a specialist society. The programme for Interlaken holds the promise for an equally good quality of science.

The leadership of the Society has been held in Northern Europe for many years. It is fitting therefore that a Southern European presidential candidate, Antonio Pontiroli, should be presented to the Annual Business Meeting in Interlaken. I hope that this will encourage further integration between Northern and Southern European science and medicine in the Society.

Perhaps the greatest pleasure being President is the interaction with the Council of ESCI. These men and women have become my friends. They are characters of great diversity from every corner of Europe and I have considered it a great privilege to chair the council meetings. I wish to thank them all, particularly the hardworking

secretary-treasurer. I wish ESCI well as it evolves to meet the future challenges of the only quality European multidisciplinary society.

MACK-FORSTER AWARD 1996

by Antonio E Pontiroli, councillor of ESCI

ESCI is proud to propose Paolo Golino as the winner of the 1996 Mack-Forster Award. Dr Golino's main research interests are related to the ischaemic coronary artery diseases, with particular regard to the pathophysiological mechanisms responsible for the conversion from chronic to acute coronary artery disease syndromes, including unstable angina, acute myocardial infarction and sudden cardiac death. Because of that, Dr Golino has been involved in studying the pathophysiology of platelet-vessel wall interactions, platelet-induced coronary vasoconstriction, intracoronary thrombus formation, as well as possible pharmacological interventions aimed at inhibiting these phenomena.

In 1987 Dr Golino published two papers in *Circulation* on the detrimental effects of acute hypercholesterolaemia (i.e. in the absence of atherosclerotic lesions) of the infarct size that followed experimental coronary occlusion and reperfusion, thus suggesting for the first time that hypercholesterolaemia might represent a risk factor for coronary artery disease besides its known atherogenic effect. It was also demonstrated that platelets, made hyperresponsive by the elevated plasma cholesterol levels, were the primary cause of this phenomenon, as they plugged myocardial microvessels during post-ischaemic reperfusion, thus blunting the beneficial effects of reperfusion.

Since 1988 Dr Golino has focused his research work on the factors responsible for the conversion from chronic to acute coronary artery disease syndromes, closely working with Dr James T Willerson at the University of Texas Medical School at Dallas. During this period Dr Golino demonstrated the important role of thromboxane A_2 and serotonin in mediating intracoronary platelet aggregation, coronary vasoconstriction and neointimal proliferation in animal models of coronary arterial stenosis superimposed to endothelial injury. The role played by thrombin as a mediator of intracoronary thrombus formation was also studied. In addition, the inhibitory role of endothelium-derived relaxing factor against intravascular thrombus formation was also studied in two other papers.



Paolo Golino

Dr Golino has also demonstrated that interventions aimed at interfering with thromboxane A_2 , serotonin and thrombin are important in enhancing the speed and the completeness of thrombolysis, as well as in preventing reocclusion following successful thrombolysis in several animal models of vascular thrombosis.

Recently the role of platelet activating factor and oxygen

free radicals as mediators of intravascular thrombus formation has been studied.

Based on these previous observations, the role of a platelet-derived substance, namely serotonin, as a potential mediator of coronary vasoconstriction in patients with coronary artery disease was investigated. It was found that serotonin caused a marked coronary vasoconstriction in patients with atherosclerotic coronary lesions, while it caused coronary vasodilation in patients with angiographically normal coronary arteries.

The importance of endogenous serotonin in affecting coronary tone was also studied in patients undergoing elective coronary angioplasty. It was found that serotonin is released in significant amounts in the coronary circulation during angioplasty and that this is associated with a significant coronary vasoconstriction that could be prevented by a serotonin receptor antagonist.

Finally, Dr Golino has recently studied the role of tissue factor exposure with the consequent activation of the extrinsic coagulation cascade in mediating intravascular thrombus formation. Dr Golino has also showed that oxygen-derived free radicals generated upon reperfusion of post-ischaemic hearts induce the expression of tissue factor in the coronary circulation, leading to a decrease in coronary blood flow during reperfusion.

The European Society for Clinical Investigation is honoured to present him the 30th Mack-Forster Award in Interlaken in April 1996.

EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF CLINICAL INVESTIGATION

by Alan M McGregor, Editor-in-Chief EJCI

In my editorial report for the March 1995 issue of the ESCI newsletter which commented on the progress of the Journal in 1994 I concentrated on three main areas which were of concern to me:

1. My desire to see papers published within four months of their acceptance, which had been my original commitment when we took over the Journal in 1991.
2. The need to ensure that high standards of refereeing and scientific editing were maintained.
3. The presentation of the Journal and particularly its cover.

In order to address these issues over the past year a number of initiatives have followed:

- a) So as to increase the speed with which manuscripts are dealt with by scientific editors we have increased the number of scientific editors in the fields in which the largest numbers of papers are submitted, so that we now have two scientific editors for the areas of lipids, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
- b) Editors are now being paid a fee to cover the costs of handling manuscripts.
- c) We are reducing time in the handling process by encouraging authors to submit their manuscripts on disk as well as in paper format and are using fax and E-mail communication between the central editorial office, scientific editors and referees.
- d) We have increased the number of pages per issue from 70 to 86 pages each month.
- e) As from January 1996, the Journal will be published with a new style cover.

In addition to these changes which have emanated from the Editorial Board a number of commitments to the Journal have been made during the past years by our publishers, Blackwells, which will include (i) a marketing

campaign to publicise the Journal and the Society in 1996, (ii) an increased injection of funding into the Society (by paying a larger percentage of the earnings from the Journal to the Society), which hopefully the Society will feel willing to invest, at least in part, in further improving the Journal, and (iii) the introduction of airmail postage of the Journal in Europe.

All of these changes occur against a background of continuing improvement in the performance of the Journal. To list but a few examples I would highlight the following:

The impact factor continues to rise, the number of full papers submitted in the past year has risen by 14.5% as compared with 1994, and not surprisingly the increase in page numbers, the rejection rate has also risen. Additionally too the number of rapid communications and reviews submitted has also continued to rise but most importantly using the assessment procedure adopted by referees and editors the quality of papers submitted to the Journal has also increased significantly. Hopefully, the benefits of a better and more efficient Journal are advantageous to the Society but much more importantly are seen as being valuable to authors who are considering submitting their work for publication. With the increasing success of the Journal has of necessity come an increase in the workload and this has fallen particularly on the shoulders of Yvonne Hanscombe, and as I have acknowledged each year the Society and the Journal itself owe an enormous debt of gratitude to her for the way in which she has responded to the growth and activity of the Journal.

The most important news for 1996 is that the present Editorial Board will complete its five year term of office on 31st July of this year. It is a great pleasure and source of huge reassurance to me that my successor as Editor-in-Chief will be Jo Marx. Jo will be known to everyone in the Society. He is a true European and has been a loyal and hardworking supporter of the Society and indeed of the Journal for more years than I can remember. His work as a council member and secretary-treasurer of the European Society and subsequently as a scientific editor has continued to demonstrate his commitment to European clinical science and to our Society and Journal and I am absolutely delighted that someone of his quality and commitment will take over the Journal. From 1st August 1996 all new manuscripts will be dealt with by Jo Marx in the editorial office in The Netherlands and we in London will continue only to deal with manuscripts that we received before that date and are already dealing with. We shall finally cease to function as an editorial office on 31st December 1996 and the whole editorial office will then formally reside with Jo Marx in The Netherlands. Information on the change of the editorial office, the dates of such a change and the address etc. for the new office will be carried in future issues of the Journal.

It has been a great pleasure over the past five years to have been associated with the Society as editor of its Journal. The Journal has prospered and this is a source of great pride. Any success must be attributed to those who have done the work and I am exceedingly grateful to the individuals who have served on the Editorial Board of the Journal over the past five years and particularly to Yvonne Hanscombe. It has been a privilege to be associated with individuals of such quality who have been prepared to work with me helping to build the Journal. Jo Marx is full of new and exciting ideas for the continuing development of the Journal and I am in no doubt that the Journal will be in excellent hands over the next five years. I look forward to following its continuing process as it strives to achieve my as yet unfulfilled ambition that it be the European competitor of the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

SUMMARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME 30TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Interlaken (Switzerland) 24th - 27th April 1996

Wednesday 24th April 1996

from 16.00 registration
 18.00 - 19.00 **ESCI Update Lecture**
 'The epithelial sodium channel: new insight in the genesis of hypertension'
B Rossier (Lausanne, Switzerland)
 'Sodium channels and cerebral pathophysiology'
J Garthwaite (Beckenham, UK)
 19.00 welcome reception

Thursday 25th April 1996

08.30 - 08.45 Opening ceremony of the 30th Annual Scientific Meeting
 T F Lüscher (Berne, Switzerland) & J F Martin (London, UK)
 08.45 - 09.30 **Merck, Sharp & Dohme Update Lecture**
 'The haematopoietic system as a target for gene therapy of congenital and acquired diseases'
C Bordignon (Milan, Italy)
 09.45 - 12.30 **Workshops (11.00 - 11.30 coffee break):**
 1: Gene therapy
 2: Cell biology of phagocytes
 3: Angiogenesis; mechanistic insights and disease
 6: Nitric oxide and hypertension
 10: Molecular pathology of the thyroid
 11: Hereditary cancer syndromes
 13: Mountain medicine
 09.00 - 13.00 **Satellite symposium Knoll:**
 Prevention of cardiovascular complications: ACE inhibitor, calcium antagonist and their combination
 12.30 - 14.00 Lunch and poster viewing
 14.00 - 17.30 **Workshops (16.00 - 16.30 tea break):**
 2: Cell biology of phagocytes
 3: Angiogenesis; mechanistic insights and disease
 4: Insulin resistance
 6: Nitric oxide and hypertension
 8: The sympathetic nervous system in clinical medicine
 11: Hereditary cancer syndromes
 13: Mountain medicine
 14.00 - 18.00 **Satellite symposium MSD:**
 Pharmacological treatment of atherosclerosis
 17.45 - 18.30 **Sandoz Lecture on Immunotherapy**
 'Strategies for immunotherapy of cancer'
C J Melief (Leiden, The Netherlands)
 18.30 end of Thursday's programme

Friday 26th April 1996

08.30 - 09.15 **Bristol-Myers Squibb Update Lecture**
 'Regulation of angiogenesis and epithelial tubulogenesis in vitro'
R Montesano (Geneva, Switzerland)
 09.30 - 12.30 **Workshops (10.45 - 11.15 coffee break):**
 2: Cell biology of phagocytes
 4: Insulin resistance
 5: Tetrahydrobiopterin and regulation of nitric oxide synthase
 9: Endothelin antagonism: from experimental results to clinical medicine

10: Molecular pathology of the thyroid
 11: Hereditary cancer syndromes
 08.30 - 13.00 **Satellite symposium Novo Nordisk:**
 Estrogens in human disease: from mechanisms to clinical application
 12.30 - 14.00 Lunch and poster viewing
 12.30 - 13.00 Annual Business Meeting ESCI (members only)
 14.00 - 14.45 **Lecture Mack-Forster Award 1996**
 'New insights into the pathophysiology of acute coronary syndromes'
P Golino (Naples, Italy)
 15.00 - 18.00 **Subspecialty poster sessions (16.15 - 16.45 tea break)**
 15.00 - 16.15 **I Chaired poster discussions** (at poster site)
 Cardiovascular Medicine Haematology/Oncology
 Diabetes/Metabolism/Lipids
 Nephrology/Hypertension
 Endocrinology Rheumatology/Immunology
 Gastroenterology/Liver
 16.45 - 18.00 **II Oral presentation of selected subspecialty posters and presentation of Bristol-Myers Squibb Poster Awards 1996**
 14.00 - 18.30 **Satellite symposium Bayer:**
 Calcium antagonists for endothelial and vascular protection: concepts and clinical implications
 18.00 end of Friday's programme
 20.00 official congress dinner

Saturday 27th April 1996

08.30 - 12.30 **Workshops (10.15 - 10.45 coffee break):**
 2: Cell biology of phagocytes
 7: Role of nitric oxide in chronic liver diseases
 9: Endothelin antagonism: from experimental results to clinical medicine
 12: Receptor imaging in clinical medicine
 12.30 - 14.00 Lunch and poster viewing
 14.00 - 17.00 **Workshops (15.15 - 15.45 coffee break):**
 2: Cell biology of phagocytes
 7: Role of nitric oxide in chronic liver diseases
 9: Endothelin antagonism: from experimental results to clinical medicine
 12: Receptor imaging in clinical medicine
 17.00 end of the meeting

congress venue

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EVALUATION OF MACK-FORSTER AWARD CANDIDATES

by Antonio E Pontiroli, councillor of ESCI

The Mack-Forster Award (MFA) is a rather unique prize, conferred to a person who, before the age of 45 years, has gained international reputation because of his scientific activity in one or several areas of biomedical research.

According to the rules of the MFA, the greatest attention should be paid to original papers in recognised international journals. Traditionally, the contribution of a scientist to science was evaluated by the number of his publications. Nowadays, there are two methods to evaluate the impact of a scientific paper (and of a scientist) in his field of research. One is the impact factor (IF) of the journal in which the paper is published, and a high IF indicates that a paper is of good quality since it was accepted by the referees and by the editorial board of a tough journal. The other method is the citation index (CI) that more accurately reflects the scientific impact of a given paper, whatever the journal in which the paper was published, with the possible drawback of a latency of years before an individual paper is fully recognised for its quality and validity.

This year there were eight excellent candidates for the 1996 MFA and the task of the Committee nominated by the ESCI Council was not easy. The main criteria employed was the IF of the journals in which candidates had published their papers. The IF of each candidate was expressed as the total IF (sum of IF of each paper), the mean IF (total IF divided by the number of publications), the IF/year (total IF divided by the number of years of scientific activity) and the IF of the ten best papers. Finally, to elucidate the personal contribution of the candidates, the percentage of papers in which the candidate was the first or second author was also considered. By most of these criteria the winner of the 1996 MFA was the one with the highest rank. A common trait of these eight candidates was that they began their scientific activity in the institutions where they graduated, then they moved abroad to more prestigious institutions, and eventually went back to the original institutions. Some of the candidates had already proven themselves able to continue high standard research when back home, some others had not yet reached a full scientific independence.

The candidates were also evaluated according to CI and the winner had by far the highest rank.

Thus it appears that by both criteria the winner of the 1996 MFA was the best candidate and this made the ESCI Council confident about the choice.

Certainly, the quality of candidates should not be judged only on the basis of the number of papers, their IF or CI. For the future, one could envisage at least two dangers for the scientific community: (1) that the IF of European journals is usually lower than that of American journals, and (2) even more important, that the IF of a paper depends on the number of scientists working in a given area; journals covering several areas of biomedical research have a higher IF than speciality journals and some specialities have a higher IF than others, and it is possible that in the future, scientists will choose their own speciality on the basis of IF. Probably, the time has come to adopt some corrective measures to make comparisons possible across different areas of biomedical research.

NEW COUNCILLORS 1996

The council would like to propose Antonio Pontiroli (Milan, Italy) to succeed John Martin (London, UK) as the new president of ESCI from April 1996. For vice-presidency, Gérard Friedlander (Paris, France) and Heinrich Schulte (Hamburg, Germany) are proposed.

Hereunder you will find the summarised curriculum vitae of the candidates nominated for councillorship. The councillors that will resign in 1996 are Laurence Galanti (Yvoir, Belgium), Christoph Gisinger (Vienna, Austria), Susanne Keiding (Aarhus, Denmark) and Thomas Lüscher (Berne, Switzerland). As usual, you can choose between the two candidates per country on the enclosed ballot paper. The ballot paper should be returned **immediately** to the Central Office of ESCI. You will find the exact instructions on the ballot paper. A simple majority vote will be decisive in each case.



Patrick Evrard

Patrick Evrard is 36 years old and graduated in 1984 in medicine at the Louvain University of Brussels. He began some clinical research in intensive care at the University of Geneva Switzerland (1988-1989), was registered as an internist in 1990 and got a license in intensive care medicine (1991) of the Louvain Medical School in Brussels. Thereafter, he obtained a post as intensivists at the Mont-Godinne Hospital, University of Louvain, in Yvoir. He received the certificate of the European College of Transplantation (1992-1993) and developed the programme of lung transplantation after his visit at the Washington University of St Louis. His present interest in clinical research concerns pulmonary hypertension and the pharmacologic interventions to prepare the patient for lung transplantation.



Olivier Gurne

Olivier Gurne is 35 years old and graduated in 1986 in medicine at the Catholic University of Louvain. He was research student from 1985 to 1986 and from 1986 to 1988 clinical research resident at the Laboratory of Cardiovascular Physiopathology at the Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory at this University. At this time he was involved in several studies related to left ventricular function and congestive heart failure, as well as in the SOLVD trial (Study of Left Ventricular Dysfunction). After his training in internal medicine and cardiology he was a fellow at the Cardiology Institute of Montreal. In 1992 he was registered as an internist and began to work as a cardiologist at the University Hospital of Mont-Godinne in Yvoir. He is presently working in the Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory, with special interest in the study of coronary bypass grafts, not only in term of graft patency but also in term of function (flow reserve, endothelial function). He is also involved in multicentre trials concerning heart failure and coronary angioplasty.

Michael Roden is 34 years old and graduated in medicine in 1986 at the University of Vienna. He started as a research fellow at the Department of Pharmacology with studies on intestinal electrolyte secretion and absorption of nutrients. Then he became resident at the Department of Internal Medicine I and III of the University Hospital of Vienna where his research was concentrated on both



Michael Roden

clinical and basic endocrinology, in particular on the regulation of hepatic glucose metabolism by peptide hormones and trace elements. In 1993 he got his certification in internal medicine and then joined the Department of Internal Medicine at Yale University School of Medicine supported by a grant of the Max Kade Foundation (1994-1995). There he focused his research on studies of glucose metabolism in humans by using noninvasive *in vivo* NMR spectroscopy in the group of Prof Gerald I Shulman. He was awarded the Friedrich Wewalka Prize of the Austrian Society for Gastroenterology (1992), the Theodor Körner Prize (1994) and a Research Award of the City of Vienna (1994).

Peter Valent is 33 years old and received his medical degree at the University of Vienna. He is the leader of a research group working in the field of experimental haematology at the University of Vienna. He became assistant professor in the year 1993. His main research interests include leukaemia research, clinical immunology, allergy research and especially the biology and pathophysiology of human mast cells and basophils. In the year 1995 Peter Valent was the winner of the Society's Mack-Forster Award.



Peter Valent

Kristian Bjørø is 39 years old and graduated from medical school at the University of Oslo in 1982. In 1986 he completed his medical thesis on prostanoids and angiotensin interactions in vascular tissue. From 1984 to 1988 he was a resident in clinical chemistry at the National Hospital in Oslo and worked as a consultant in clinical chemistry at the same place from 1989-1991. From 1992 he was a resident in gastroenterology/hepatology at the National Hospital in Oslo where at present he is working as a gastroenterologist/hepatologist. His research has focused on vascular physiology and for the last years also on hepatitis C infection including some studies on patients with primary hypogammaglobulinaemia and chronic hepatitis C infection. He is at present coordinator of the Nordic Liver Transplant Registry.



Kristian Bjørø

Albert Gjedde is 50 years old and received his medical degree from the University of Copenhagen in 1973 and his doctoral degree in medical physiology from the same university in 1983. He completed post-doctoral training in neuroscience research at the New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center in New York (1973-1976) and at the National Hospital in Copenhagen (1976-1979). He served as assistant (1979-1981) and later associate professor (1981-1986) of Medical Physiology at the University of Copenhagen. In 1986 Albert Gjedde became associate and in 1989 full professor of neurology and neurosurgery at the Montreal Neurological Institute of McGill University, heading its McConnell Brain Imaging Centre. In 1994 he accepted posts as MRC professor of brain research in Aarhus and head of the Positron Emission Tomography Centre at Aarhus General Hospital. Albert Gjedde is the author of



Albert Gjedde

more than 150 peer-reviewed papers and full-length reviews on the subjects of blood-brain transport and brain metabolism of glucose and oxygen, and dopaminergic neurotransmission and dopamine metabolism in brain, studied in living animals and humans by means of autoradiography and positron emission tomography. He is the recipient of a.o. the Gold Medal of the University of Copenhagen (1970), the American Cyanamid Corporation-Lederle Award (1972), the Dannin Foundation for Outstanding Research (1984) and the Christenson-Ceson Foundation Award for Excellence in Science (1995). Albert Gjedde believes that current medical research is undergoing change in two directions, one direction being subcellular molecular mechanisms, the other bodily functions specific to individual organs. ESCI plays an important role by supporting studies of the integration of organs into one well-functioning organism, and of the pathophysiological mechanisms which interfere with this integration. As a councillor of the Society, he would intend to help formulate and implement initiatives which serve research into body integration and pathophysiology.

Edouard Battegay is 39 years old. He studied medicine at the University of Basel, with brief stays in Lausanne and Montreal. After graduation in 1982 he spent his post-doctoral training at the Departments of Pathology and Internal Medicine of the University Hospital of Basel until board-certification in internal medicine. Subsequently, he stayed several years at the laboratory of Russell Ross, University of Washington in Seattle, in a major research programme dealing with chronic inflammation and atherosclerosis. There he characterised mechanisms by which growth factors and cytokines such as TGF- β , TNF- α and PDGF can affect connective tissue cell proliferation. Edouard Battegay is jointly appointed to the Departments of Research and Internal Medicine at the University Hospital of Basel as a senior investigator and chief medical resident since 1992. In 1992 he was awarded a five year 'SCORE' career development award by the Swiss National Science Foundation. His clinical interests focus on preventive cardiology, specifically programmes to improve risk factor awareness and risk factors in coronary heart disease. His laboratory research in cell and molecular biology deals with aspects of the endothelial response in angio- and atherogenesis. Edouard Battegay, together with Michael Pepper from Geneva, is the organiser of the workshop 'Angiogenesis; mechanistic insights and disease' at the forthcoming Annual Scientific Meeting of ESCI in Interlaken in April.



Edouard Battegay

Cornel Sieber is 36 years old and graduated from medical school at his native town Basel in 1984 and received his medical degree in 1985 at the same university. After a post-doctoral training from 1985-1986 at Sandoz Ltd working with the somatostatin analogue octreotide, he specialised in internal medicine in different departments at the University Hospital of Basel, interrupted by an internship at the Hammersmith Hospital in London in 1989 (Department of Geriatric Medicine and Cardiology). From 1990-1992 he worked for two years as a post-doc at the Liver Center and the Hepatic Hemodynamic Lab in the team of Prof Roberto Groszmann at the



Olivier Gurne

Yale University in the USA. After his return to Basel he subspecialised in gastroenterology until 1994. Since July 1994 he is the recipient of a SCORE career development grant for five years by the Swiss National Science Foundation. Apart from his research commitments he clinically works as a senior registrar at the Division of Gastroenterology at the University Hospital of Basel. Since 1995 he is also a faculty member (privatdozent). The research projects of his group (also funded by the Swiss National Science Founda-

tion) are focused on the pathophysiology of the haemodynamic changes in portal hypertension. To this aim, they mainly work with isolated splanchnic vessels of rats. These studies are paralleled by projects in humans using Doppler flowmetry to explore the splanchnic circulation noninvasively both in normal subjects and patients with portal hypertension. During the 30th Annual Scientific Meeting of ESCI in Interlaken they will organise the workshop 'Role of nitric oxide in chronic liver diseases', encompassing their research efforts.



Mike Horton

Mike Horton is 47 years old and is currently professor and head of the Bone and Mineral Centre at the University College London Medical School in London. He graduated in biochemistry and medicine from St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, University of London in 1973, carried out postgraduate research studies at the Department of Zoology, University College London (1976-1979) and on a Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Research Fellowship in Haematology at St Bartholomew's Hospital (1979-

1984). Prior to returning to University College in 1995 he was a principle scientist at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London (1985-1994). His current research activities focus on basic cell and molecular biology of bone, especially concerning the development and use of antagonists of adhesion receptors in clinical medicine. He is current president-elect of the British Bone and Tooth Society and is author of more than 150 articles in scientific journals and books in the field of bone biology, haematology and immunology.



Gareth Williams

Gareth Williams is 43 years old and currently professor of medicine (diabetes and endocrinology) at the University of Liverpool. He graduated in medicine from the University of Cambridge with a double First Class, did his junior medical posts in London and Geneva, and then began diabetes research with an MD on brittle diabetes at Guy's Hospital in London. He developed an interest in hypothalamic peptides while working at the Hammersmith Hospital, and currently runs a multidisciplinary research group

looking at the neuroendocrine aspects of obesity and diabetes and the role of vascular factors in diabetic complications. He is co-editor of the Textbook of Diabetes and Chronic Complications of Diabetes and has published over 150 full papers, reviews and chapters. He is actively encouraging links with Europe and organises an annual course in Medical French in Liverpool, as well as student exchanges with French Medical Schools.

FUTURE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

1996, 24th - 27th April

Interlaken, Switzerland

local organiser: Prof T F Lüscher (Berne, Switzerland)
(nb. programme summary in this newsletter!)

1997, 19th - 22nd March

Kiel, Germany

local organisers: Prof Dr U R Fölsch and Dr Chr Löser (Kiel, Germany)

1998, 16th - 19th April

Cracow, Poland

local organisers: Dr K Sladek, Dr R Gryglewski and Dr V Uracz (Cracow, Poland)

1999, 7th - 10th April

Milan, Italy

local organiser: Prof A E Pontiroli (Milan, Italy)

2000, 17th - 20th May

Aarhus, Denmark

local organiser: Dr S Keiding (Aarhus, Denmark)

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Society is open to any person, irrespective of age, who has accomplished meritorious original investigation in clinical or allied sciences. Membership of ESCI includes the following benefits:

- subscription to the European Journal of Clinical Investigation (please note that the membership fee of Dfl. 195.- is half the normal subscription price!).
- reduced registration fees during our Annual Scientific Meeting.
- preference at awarding travel grants to enable you or your colleagues to come to the Annual Scientific Meeting.
- possibility to apply for the yearly Mack-Forster Award for Clinical Research.

In addition, young scientists can apply for junior membership with a reduced membership fee. Eligibility:

- Any young scientist under the age of 30 can apply for junior membership of ESCI.
- Junior membership is for a maximum of three (3) years.
- Junior members receive the European Journal of Clinical Investigation and have the same financial benefits as full members.
- Junior members are not allowed to vote during the Annual Business Meeting and are not eligible to any office.
- Junior members can apply for full membership at any time.
- Junior members pay a membership fee which is about 40% lower than the full membership fee.
- If junior members do not fulfill the requirements for full membership within the period of three (3) years, their membership will be terminated.

Applications, both for full and junior membership can be sent to the Central Office. Application forms can be obtained from the Central Office.