

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

*by Heinrich Schulte, President of ESCI*

With the end of the Annual Scientific Meeting in Brussels 2002 I started my turn as President of ESCI and this is going to be the first of a number of Editorials as President of our Society. First of all, I have to thank all my colleagues and the members of ESCI who voted for me to guide our Society through the next years. This is a personal honour for me and, being with the Society for so many years, I will dedicate my time to further develop the Society in a good scientific and human spirit.

Then I have to thank Lina Badimon for all what she has done for the Society being a Councillor for so many years, the Local Organizer of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held in Barcelona and developing the Society further during her presidentship for the last three years. I do hope very much that she will stay with us in the future.

Let me now tell some of the highlights of the Society within this year. We had a very good meeting with participants from all over the world in Brussels under the local presidentship of Patrick Evrard and his team. He managed on a high level what our Society stands for, i.e. the integration of basic scientists and clinicians in the whole of Europe in Life Sciences. Patrick organized a balanced meeting in the European capital.

The European Journal of Clinical Investigation has started with a new Editor-in-Chief and a new Editorial Board in Vienna. Walter H. Hörl, the new Editor-in-Chief of EJC, is a highly acknowledged scientist in his field and is a perfect candidate to succeed Jo Marx for the next years.

By adding many thanks one more time to Jo Marx for his dedication to ESCI I wish the new Editor-in-Chief Walter H. Hörl good luck with our Journal on behalf of the Council and all the members of ESCI. Personally I do feel our identity mark of ESCI very safe and secure in his hands. I am sure he will develop the strengths of this Journal further on a high scientific level.

ESCI, as a scientifically and financially healthy Society needs to meet some challenges in the future. As a European Society, it still has to integrate more of the Eastern European scientists (not only because many of them will be members of the European Communities soon), but also keep the flag up in the Southern European countries. The Annual Scientific Meetings in Toledo, Barcelona and Cracow have been organized by important personalities in their country and all of them were driven to success. However, we need the young generation of scientists in

these countries to meet at our Annual Scientific Meetings to represent the scientific spirit in all of Europe.

It is therefore a great pleasure for me to invite you for the next Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation to be held in Verona in April, 2003. Giovanni Ricevuti as President of the Local Organizing Committee together with Roberto Corrocher will present an outstanding program with the topic: "The Pathophysiology of Diseases: from bench to bedside". I hope you take the time to meet there, present your scientific work and help keeping up the good spirit of ESCI that I will work for in the future.

Please, do not hesitate to contact me about ESCI and personal matters.

As president I will be open for all constructive criticisms to our Society.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

### 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation

*by Jo Marx*



The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation will be in Utrecht, The Netherlands, 14 - 17 April, 2004.

**Local organizer:** Jo Marx

The University of Utrecht, founded in 1634, is the largest in The Netherlands. The faculties of biomedical sciences, including medicine, veterinary science, pharmacy, biology and biochemistry, are among the strongest in the world. In Utrecht, great science is made in an exciting environment. The city, with a history going back to Roman

times, has a beautiful old center with numerous monumental buildings and an abundance of all kinds of restaurants and cafés. Being in the heart of Holland, Utrecht can be easily reached by train, car or bicycle, and Schiphol Airport is just half an hour away.

The ESCI Annual Scientific Meeting will offer a mixture of fundamental biomedical and clinical science, where a multidisciplinary discussion of mechanisms of diseases will be stimulated. Scheduled topics are: vascular medicine, thrombosis and hemostasis, vaccine development, innate immunity, molecular oncology, multiple endocrine neoplasia. A forum will be offered where established and young investigators can discuss science of the highest possible quality in workshops, symposia, poster presentations, plenary sessions and keynote lectures.

*Information:*

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The Netherlands  
E-mail: j.marx@azu.nl

## THE ESCI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL SCIENCE 2002



**Dr. Hugh E. Montgomery**  
Winner of the 2002 ESCI Award for Excellence in Clinical Investigation

The choice of this year's winner of the ESCI Award for Excellence in Clinical Science was an easy one. According to the criteria, the Award is given to a scientist of less than 45 years of age, who has contributed science of outstanding quality and with obvious clinical implications. These tough criteria were easily met by this year's winner **Dr. Hugh Edward Montgomery**, senior lecturer at the Department of Cardiovascular Genetics at the Rayne Institute in London.

Dr. Montgomery's originality has been demonstrated by the way in which he has combined molecular biology, classical physiology and epidemiology into a new strategy for identifying causative relations between genes and function in humans. The initial strategy involves identification of candidate systems and target candidate genes that display a functionally important common polymorphism. Such individual genotypes are related to stretching of the phenotype under conditions such as exercise or sepsis. His rapidly growing group has used this strategy to explore several systems, the main achievement so far being the demonstration of a polymorphism in the ACE gene which appears to be related to the effects of physical training, the ability to perform strenuous exercise, and mortality associated with meningococcal sepsis. This

work demonstrated a new and unexpected function of the ACE gene. Publication has been in high-ranking journals, including two original papers in *Nature*. These studies showed the robustness of his general strategy, the use of which he is now extending into new areas.

Apart from his scientific contributions, Dr. Montgomery has also pursued his clinical training that has led to his specialization in Cardiology and Internal Medicine.

Altogether, Dr. Montgomery's achievements made him an obvious choice for the 2002 ESCI Award for Excellence in Clinical Science.

*Peter Ott*  
ESCI Councillor 1999–2002

## THE ESCI AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN CLINICAL SCIENCE 2003



**Dr. Raphael Scharfmann**  
Winner of the 2003 ESCI Award for Excellence in Clinical Investigation

Selecting the winner of this year's ESCI Award for Excellence in Clinical Science was rather difficult. Not because the candidates who applied for the prestigious award were not good enough but because of the impressive quality of the

scientific contributions of this year's applicants. After an intensive evaluation of each application the ESCI council members finally decided to give the ESCI Award for Excellence in Clinical Science for the year 2003 to the very innovative and exciting work of Dr. Raphael Scharfmann, Research Director at the INSERM U457, Hospital R. Debré in Paris.

**Raphael Scharfmann** was born in Paris in the year 1960. He studied medicine for five years and graduated with a PhD at the Hospital Necker Enfants Maladies Paris, France. After a three years post doctoral training at the Salk Institute in San Diego, California, USA, Raphael Scharfmann returned to Paris in 1992 where he became Research Associate at the INSERM Hospital R. Debré. In 1999 he was appointed to be Research Director of this institution where he built up a team with currently 14 co-workers. Right from the beginning of his career Dr. Scharfmann worked on pancreatic islet cells on which he has published more than 45 papers, mostly in highly prestigious journals like *Cell*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science-USA*, *Diabetes* and the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*. Recently, he became interested in the characterization of stem progenitor cells of the embryonic pancreas. Herein he has mainly focused on the mechanisms and the factors that actually initiate stem progenitor cell proliferation and differentiation in mature beta cells.

Dr. Scharfmann's recent results uncover unknown mechanisms of the mesenchymal-epithelial interactions for the proper development of the pancreas. A member

of the fibroblast growth factor family FGF10 was found to constitute a mesenchymal secreted factor that promotes proliferation of the pancreatic epithelium and to initiate expression of the homeobox protein PDX1. Importantly, the mesenchymal effects on epithelial cell proliferation were discovered to be due to activation of the mitogen-activated protein kinase pathway via the tyrosine kinase receptor of the FGF-receptor family FGFR2IIIb, whereas endocrine tissue development was repressed. The epithelial cells that proliferated in response to the FGFR2IIIb receptor agonist FGF7 were found to be endocrine pancreatic precursor cells that differentiated into endocrine cells after FGF7 removal. These studies indicate that an efficient proliferation of pancreatic progenitor cells can be achieved *in vitro* by exposure to FGF7, while these cells keep their availability to differentiate into endocrine cells upon FGF7 removal.

Altogether, Dr. Scharfmann's work represents some of the most exciting and most promising scientific achievements in the field of pancreas research that will contribute significantly to our understanding of the development and the pathogenesis of this complex organ and may lead to new developments in human treatments such as cell therapy for type 1 diabetes mellitus.

*Wolfgang F. Graier*  
ESCI councillor since 2002

## NEW COUNCILLORS 2003

From April 2003 both vice-presidents and one councillor will finish their offices for ESCI. They are: Olivier Gurné, Giovanni Ricevuti, and Peter Grant. So, new councillors must be chosen for Belgium, Italy, and the United Kingdom. The two vice-presidents should be replaced as well. ESCI members will find a ballot paper enclosed.

The curricula vitae of the candidates nominated for councillorship are listed below. As usual you can choose between the two candidates per country on the ballot paper. The ballot paper should be returned immediately to the Central Office of ESCI. Exact instructions can be found on the ballot paper. A simple majority vote is decisive in each case.

At the moment that the text for this Newsletter was due to go to the publisher no names of the 2<sup>nd</sup> candidates for Belgium and the United Kingdom were known. You can find their short CV's at the back of the ballot paper.

### Council candidate Belgium



**Peter Stärkel, MD, PhD**  
Department of Gastroenterology  
Cliniques Universitaires St. Luc  
Brussels  
Belgium

**Peter Stärkel** is 38 years old. He graduated as a medical doctor from the Université Catholique de Louvain in 1993. His post-graduate clinical training in-

cludes 3 years of general internal medicine and three years of gastroenterology at the Cliniques Universitaires St. Luc in Brussels. He also followed a one-year intensive course in liver pathology and liver transplantation at the Liver and Hepatobiliary Unit of the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Birmingham, UK. Since 2000 he is a senior hepatologist in the Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology at the Cliniques Universitaires St. Luc. His clinical interests focus on liver pathology, acute and chronic liver failure and medical aspects of liver transplantation. His clinical research work concentrates on treatment protocols in chronic viral hepatitis before and after liver transplantation and on the elaboration of new strategies for preventing hepatitis B reinfection of liver grafts.

After 3 years of basic research in the gastroenterology research laboratory of the Cliniques Universitaires St. Luc, Dr. Stärkel defended, in 2000, his PhD thesis on the molecular mechanisms of liver regeneration in the rat. In close relationship to his PhD thesis, he continues to investigate the role of cell cycle proteins and the proto-oncogenes in liver regeneration in various rat models. In collaboration with the liver research laboratories of the University of Birmingham, UK, he has extended his research interests to the role of transcription factors in human liver pathology and liver regeneration. Dr. Stärkel is the author and co-author of several international clinical and basic sciences papers in peer-reviewed journals. He is also implicated in the supervision of PhD students in the gastroenterology research laboratory of the Cliniques Universitaires St. Luc.

Dr. Stärkel is a member of the Belgian Society of Internal Medicine, of the Royal Belgian Society of Gastroenterology, of the Belgian Association for the Study of the Liver and of the European Society for Clinical Investigation.

### Council candidates Italy



**Piero Portincasa, MD, PhD, Internist**  
Section of Internal Medicine  
Dept. of Internal and Public Medicine  
(DIMIMP)  
University Medical School of Bari  
Bari  
Italy

**Piero Portincasa** is 46 years old. He graduated as medical doctor from the University Medical School of Bari, Italy, in 1981. His post-graduate clinical training includes 5 years of internal medicine at the same Medical School. His clinical interests focus on hepatobiliary disease (chronic hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, cholestasis and cholelithiasis) as well as on pathophysiology of gastrointestinal motility. From 2001, he has been appointed as Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the University Medical School of Bari.

After 2.5 years spent as research fellow at the Gastroenterology Unit (Prof. RH Dowling), Dept. of Medicine Guy's Hospital, University of London (1985-1987), from 1993 till 1995 Dr. Portincasa joined the Gastroenterology Department (Prof. GP vanBerge-Henegouwen), University Medi-

cal Center Utrecht, The Netherlands, and in 1995 he defended the PhD thesis on "Gallbladder and bile in health and disease. The role of motility, gallstones and bile lipid composition". He established contacts with several universities worldwide and joined scientific stages at the University Medical School of McMaster, Canada; Maastricht, NL; Budapest, HU; Tirana, AL; at the Open University, Milton Keynes, UK; Harvard, Boston, USA; Amsterdam, NL. He runs an established research group in Bari and continues to investigate the pathophysiology of gallstone disease and clinical chemistry of bile as well as the gastrointestinal motility and functional gastrointestinal diseases. His teaching activities include mobility programs of students within the Socrates-Erasmus EC project towards and from several European universities.

Piero Portincasa is author and co-author of several international clinical and basic science papers in peer-reviewed journals. He has research responsibilities in supervising PhD students at the University Medical School of Bari, Italy, and at the University of Utrecht, The Netherlands. He has received several grants and awards from the Italian Ministry of Public Education, the European Society of Clinical Investigation, the Italian Society of Gastroenterology and the Dutch Society of Gastroenterology. He is a reviewer for several international journals, and he is in the Editorial Boards of *Annals of Hepatology and Current Drug Therapy - Endocrinology and Metabolism*. He is a member of the Italian Society of Internal Medicine, the Italian Society of Gastroenterology, the European Association of Study of Liver Disease, the European Society for Clinical Investigation, the Dutch Society of Gastroenterology, the American Association Study of Liver Diseases, the American Gastroenterology Association, the British Society of Gastroenterology and he is in the Steering Committee of the Biliary Club and the Italian Group of Gastrointestinal Disease.



**Andrea Semplicini, MD, PhD**

Ditp. Di Medicina Clinica e Sperimentale  
Clinica Medica 4  
University of Padova Medical School  
Padova  
Italy

Andrea Semplicini was born in Venice in 1949 and graduated in Medicine at the nearby University of Padua. Soon

after his medical degree, he started his professional and academic career in the field of cardiovascular medicine. All of his clinical and research work involved the continuous shuttling from the clinical duties to the laboratory bench and from Italy to European and North American laboratories. He has been involved in basic research in human and animal hypertension and in the clinical pharmacology of antihypertensive drugs. He has studied the

pathophysiology of hypertension in animal models and in man. A particular interest was devoted to the sodium transport across the red cell membrane and in the kidney, to the effects of antihypertensive therapy on kidney function, on cerebral perfusion and on the risk factors of both acute and chronic cerebrovascular complications (stroke and dementia), to the continuous monitoring of blood pressure with invasive and non invasive techniques.

Most recently Andrea Semplicini has been studying the signal transduction of angiotensin II and insulin in cultured cell ex vivo and its effects on the regulation of calcium homeostasis and intracellular kinases. Part of his research work was developed in collaboration with other international institutions (INSERM, Hopital Necker, Paris, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Massachuset General Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Institut für Pharmakologie, Universitätsklinikum Essen, University of California, Davis). He has published over 200 papers in international journals and he has been an invited speaker in many international meetings.

His present position is Associate Professor of Emergency Medicine at the University of Padua Medical School and Vice-Director. Currently, Andrea Semplicini is a member of the Council of the Italian Society of Hypertension and of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Hypertension. He is a member of the European Society for Clinical Investigation.

**Council candidate for the United Kingdom**



**Andrew J Catto, MD, PhD**

Academic Unit of Molecular Vascular  
Medicine  
University of Leeds  
Centre for the Health of Older People  
Leeds General Infirmary  
Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust  
Leeds  
United Kingdom

Andrew Catto is born in 1965. He is an MRC Clinician Scientist and Senior Lecturer in the Academic Unit of Molecular Vascular Medicine, University of Leeds. His research interests include the haemostatic aspects of the molecular genetics of cerebrovascular disease. He has published widely in international peer-reviewed journals and contributed to important international stroke meetings.

Dr. Catto qualified in 1989 from the University of Leeds, obtaining a BSc (Hons) in 1986 in Medical Microbiology and a PhD in 1999.

Dr. Catto is also Honorary Consultant Physician with the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust where he works as consultant physician in elderly care. He has a subspeciality interest in diabetes in the elderly and venous thrombosis.

## 37<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING OF ESCI

Verona, Italy, 2 – 5 April 2003

by Giovanni Ricevuti and Roberto Corrocher, local organizing committee

Welcome to Verona!

Welcome to Italy, the “country of saints, poets, artists, heroes, sailors and scientists as well”. We invite you to join us to the 37th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Investigation that will be held in Verona from April 2nd to 5th 2003. Verona, inextricably linked to Romeo and Juliet, is a very old historical city situated in the north of Italy, close to Venice, in the heart of Europe. It is full of historical buildings, including the world famous “Arena di Verona”, with its equally famous opera season. This congress will stress “*The Pathophysiology of Diseases: from bench to bedside*” and is designed to act as a service for all interested scientists wishing to discuss specific topics at a very high level. At the beginning of the new millennium we invite you to collaborate with us in the success of an exciting and productive meeting with topics ranging from basic to clinical research. This meeting will allow you to acquire information and inputs relevant to your daily medical practice and research. The meeting will offer several plenary sessions, main and keynote lectures, symposia, workshops, debate sessions, “meet the expert” sessions, free oral communication, poster sessions, and joint symposia with other societies. Enjoy the interesting topics discussed, enjoy history, art and music too.

Strengthen old friendships and make new ones and above all enjoy the beauty of Italy!

### SUMMARY PRELIMINARY SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

#### ■ Wednesday 2 April 2003

15.00 – 19.00 **Registration**

19.00 – 21.00 **Welcome reception**

#### ■ Thursday 3 April 2003

8.15 – 8.45 **Opening Ceremony**

8.45 – 9.30 **Plenary Lecture**

Leukocyte adhesion antagonists: pre-clinical and clinical studies

*John Harlan (Seattle WA, USA)*

9.40 – 13.00 **Workshops**

11.00 – 11.15 *coffee break and poster viewing*

02 Antithrombotic therapy – selective Xa inhibitors

*W Kirch, D Pittrow (Dresden, Germany)*

03 Paraneoplastic syndromes and rare diseases

*I Hart (Liverpool, UK), L Lorusso (Saronno, Italy)*

04 Molecular and cellular biology of phagocytes

*G Berton (Verona, Italy), M Cassatella (Verona, Italy)*

06 Iron toxicity in iron overload diseases: chemical, biological and medical aspects

*A Pietrangelo (Modena, Italy), J Marx (Utrecht, The Netherlands)*

07 Insulin resistance

*A Pontiroli (Milano, Italy), M Muggeo (Verona, Italy)*

11 New trends in light microscopy

*I Freitas (Pavia, Italy), H Gundlach (Oberkochen, Germany)*

13 Role of dendritic cells in innate and adaptive immune responses

*P Ricciardi-Castagnoli (Milano, Italy)*

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch / poster viewing / exhibitions**

14.00 – 14.45 **Plenary lecture**

Role of NK cells in innate immunity  
*Alessandro Moretta (Genova, Italy)*

15.00 – 18.00 **Workshops and joint symposium**

16.15 – 16.30 *coffee break and poster viewing*

01 **SISA (Italian Society for the Study of Atherosclerosis) – ESCI workshop**

Atherosclerosis, inflammation and oxidized lipoproteins

*A Notarbartolo (Palermo, Italy), G Ricevuti (Pavia, Italy)*

03 Paraneoplastic syndromes and rare diseases

*I Hart (Liverpool, UK), L Lorusso (Saronno, Italy)*

04 Molecular and cellular biology of phagocytes

*G Berton (Verona, Italy), M Cassatella (Verona, Italy)*

06 Iron toxicity in iron overload diseases: chemical, biological and medical aspects

*A Pietrangelo (Modena, Italy), J Marx (Utrecht, The Netherlands)*

11 New trends in light microscopy

*I Freitas (Pavia, Italy), H Gundlach (Oberkochen, Germany)*

13 Role of dendritic cells in innate and adaptive immune responses

*P Ricciardi-Castagnoli (Milano, Italy)*

15 Venous thromboembolism: from diagnosis to treatment

*F Piovella (Pavia, Italy)*

#### ■ Friday 4 April 2003

8.15 **Plenary session**

8.30 – 9.30 **Plenary lecture**

New insights in the multiple myeloma  
*Franco Dammacco (Bari, Italy)*

- 9.40 – 13.00 **Workshops**  
 11.00 – 11.15 coffee break and poster viewing
- 03 Paraneoplastic syndromes and rare diseases  
*I Hart (Liverpool, UK), L Lorusso (Saronno, Italy)*
- 04 Molecular and cellular biology of phagocytes  
*G Berton (Verona, Italy), M Cassatella (Verona, Italy)*
- 06 Iron toxicity in iron overload diseases: chemical, biological and medical aspects  
*A Pietrangelo (Modena, Italy), J Marx (Utrecht, The Netherlands)*
- 08 **Italian Group for the Study of Apoptosis in Clinical Medicine – ESCI Workshop**  
 Apoptosis in clinical medicine  
*F Silvestris (Bari, Italy)*
- 11 Hyperhomocysteinemia: pathophysiology and clinical implications  
*R Corrocher (Verona, Italy)*
- 15 Venous thromboembolism: from diagnosis to treatment  
*F Piovella (Pavia, Italy)*
- 18 Non-alcohol fatty liver diseases (NAFLD) in Italy  
*C Loguercio (Naples, Italy)*

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch / poster viewing / exhibitions**

- 14.00 – 14.45 **Plenary lecture ESCI Award winner 2003**  
*Winner to be announced*
- 14.45 – 16.15 **Chaired subspecialty poster viewing and discussion at site**
- 16.30 – 18.00 **General oral session of selected posters followed by Poster Awards 2003**
- 15.00 – 18.00 **Joint symposia**  
 16.15 – 16.30 coffee break and poster viewing
- 09 **SIOT (Italian Society for Oxygen Ozone Therapy) – ESCI workshop**  
 Oxygen-ozone therapy: clinical and experimental studies  
*L Valdenassi (Pavia, Italy)*
- 19 **SFRR (Society for Free Radicals Research) – ESCI workshop**  
 Free radicals, oxidative stress and inflammation  
*A Tomasi (Modena, Italy), A Leaver (Edinburgh, UK)*

■ **Saturday 5 April 2003**

- 8.15 **Plenary session**
- 8.30 – 9.30 **Plenary lecture**  
 Atherosclerosis as an autoimmune disease  
*Yehuda Shoenfeld (Tel-Hashomer, Israel)*
- 9.40 – 13.00 **Workshops**  
 11.00 – 11.15 coffee break and poster viewing

- 03 Paraneoplastic syndromes and rare diseases  
*I Hart (Liverpool, UK), L Lorusso (Saronno, Italy)*
- 04 Molecular and cellular biology of phagocytes  
*G Berton (Verona, Italy), M Cassatella (Verona, Italy)*
- 05 Immunopharmacology: from laboratory bench to clinical practice  
*K Masek (Prague, Czech Republic), J Hadden (Tampa, USA)*
- 09 **SIOT (Italian Society for Oxygen Ozone Therapy) – ESCI workshop**  
 Oxygen-ozone therapy: clinical and experimental studies  
*L Valdenassi (Pavia, Italy)*
- 13 Evolving concepts in thermal medicine: current challenges and future solutions  
*S Bellometti (Abano Terme, Italy)*
- 17 Wound healing  
*P Pocek-Reading (Verona, Italy)*
- 19 Immunity and autoimmunity  
*C Lunardi (Verona, Italy), A Puccetti (Genova, Italy)*

13.00 – 14.00 **Lunch / poster viewing / exhibitions**

14.00 – 18.00 **Workshops and joint symposia**

- 16.00 – 16.15 coffee break and poster viewing
- 03 Paraneoplastic syndromes and rare diseases  
*I Hart (Liverpool, UK), L Lorusso (Saronno, Italy)*
- 04 Molecular and cellular biology of phagocytes  
*G Berton (Verona, Italy), M Cassatella (Verona, Italy)*
- 09 **SIOT (Italian Society for Oxygen Ozone Therapy) – ESCI workshop**  
 Oxygen-ozone therapy: clinical and experimental studies  
*L Valdenassi (Pavia, Italy)*
- 10 **SIMG (Italian College of General Practitioners) – ESCI workshop**  
 Guidelines and primary care: from EMB to daily practice around Europe  
*A Zaninelli (Brescia, Italy), G Ricevuti (Pavia, Italy)*
- 14 Evolving concepts in thermal medicine: current challenges and future solutions  
*S Bellometti (Abano Terme, Italy)*
- 16 Cerebrovascular complications of hypertension: actual and future developments  
*A Semplicini (Padova, Italy)*
- 19 Antiphospholipid syndrome (APS)  
*PL Meroni (Milano, Italy)*

18.00 **Final ceremony and conclusions**

## ■ Important addresses

### **Congress venue**

Polo Didattico 'Giorgio Zanotto'  
Via dell'Artigliere  
I-37100 Verona  
Italy

### **Local Organizing Committee**

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### **Honorary Presidents**

#### *F. Bertè, MD*

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#### *E. Ferrari, MD*

Dept. of Internal Medicine and Therapeutics  
University of Pavia – S. Margherita Hospital  
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### **Congress Secretariat**

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All information about the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of ESCI can be found on the ESCI website:  
<http://www.esci.eu.com/>

## **FUTURE ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS**

### **2004, 14 – 17 April**

Utrecht, The Netherlands  
Local organizer: Jo Marx  
(see announcement in this Newsletter)

### **2005, spring**

Greece  
Local organizer: George Chrousos

## **ADDRESS CENTRAL OFFICE ESCI**

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# ESCI

European Society for  
Clinical Investigation

37<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Scientific Meeting

## THE PATHOPHYSIOLOGY OF DISEASES: FROM BENCH TO BEDSIDE

Polo Didattico "Giorgio Zanotto"  
Verona, Italy  
2-5 April 2003

Joint Symposia with

- **SISA** Italian Society for the Study of the Atherosclerosis
- **SIMG** Italian College of the General Practitioner
- **SFRR** Society For Free Radical Research
- **SIOOT** Italian Society for the Oxygen Ozone Therapy
- Italian Group for the Study of Apoptosis in Clinical Medicine

Requested accreditation  
for the Continuing Medical  
Education (ECM)

#### LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

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