

## Medical Editors



José Güell



Ioannis Pallikaris



Clive Peckar



Paul Rosen

## International Editorial Board

**Emanuel Rosen**  
Chairman  
ESCRS Publications Committee



- Noel Alpíns AUSTRALIA  
Bekir Aslan TURKEY  
Bill Aylward UK  
Peter Barry IRELAND  
Roberto Bellucci ITALY  
Hiroko Bissen-Miyajima JAPAN  
John Chang CHINA  
Joseph Colin FRANCE  
Alaa El Danasoury SAUDI ARABIA  
Oliver Findl AUSTRIA  
I Howard Fine USA  
Jack Holladay USA  
Vikentia Katsanevaki GREECE  
Thomas Kohnen GERMANY  
Anastasios Konstas GREECE  
Dennis Lam HONG KONG  
Boris Malyugin RUSSIA  
Marguerite McDonald USA  
Cyres Mehta INDIA  
Thomas Neuhann GERMANY  
Gisbert Richard GERMANY  
Robert Stegmann SOUTH AFRICA  
Ulf Stenevi SWEDEN  
Emrullah Tasindi TURKEY  
Marie-Jose Tassignon BELGIUM  
Manfred Tetz GERMANY  
Carlo Enrico Traverso ITALY  
Roberto Zaldivar ARGENTINA

Zsolt Biro MD, PhD



Editorial February

## Guest Editorial

# Hungarian ophthalmologists welcome ESCRS Winter Meeting to Budapest

In February 2010, for the first time in its history, the ESCRS will hold its Winter Meeting in Budapest, Hungary, together with the Hungarian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (SHIOL). On behalf of the local organisers and the Board of the SHIOL, I would like to welcome friends and colleagues from Europe and around the world.

The Hungarian Ophthalmological Society is more than 100 years old and the SHIOL celebrated its 20th birthday in 2008. It is a great honour for all Hungarian ophthalmologists to host the 14th ESCRS Winter Meeting in our capital, Budapest.

Hungarian ophthalmology can be proud of the achievements of some of its internationally acclaimed members. Just to mention a few of them, we may remember Janos Fabini, who already in 1840 performed extracapsular cataract surgeries in 70 per cent of his cases, and in 1823 wrote the university textbook in Latin on ophthalmology "Doctrina de Morbus Oculorum", which was later translated into Hungarian, German and Dutch.

Vilmos Schulek at the end of the 19th century was dealing with "protective spectacles against ultraviolet radiation" and for his achievements he was awarded the Great Gold Medal at the Paris World Exhibition in 1900.

Jozsef Imre became famous worldwide because of the "arched plasty" of the eyelids named after him (also called "Hungarian plasty"). He excelled in keratoplasty and plastic surgery and it was his opinion that: "Plastic operations can be placed somewhere between surgical knowledge and art".

We are also proud of the Hungarian Ophthalmological Society, founded in 1904, which is one of the oldest European ophthalmological societies. *Szemészet*, the official journal of Hungarian ophthalmology was established in 1864.

As my very good friend, the president of ESCRS Jose Güell has written: "Budapest, as a venue, is a direct result of the society's strategy to engage more directly with ophthalmologists in the new independent states in eastern Europe". The 14th Winter Congress of the ESCRS has an exciting programme, including Main Symposia on Keratoconus, Imaging, Complications of Cataract Surgery and Secondary IOL Implantation. The Cornea Day will discuss Penetrating and Lamellar Keratoplasty and Ocular Surface Reconstruction. There will be several courses such as the

Basic Optic Course, Cataract and Refractive Surgery Didactic Courses, Cornea Didactic Course and Surgical Skills Training Course. The Free Papers and Posters will focus on Cataract and Cornea, Refractive and Visual Optics and Quality of Vision, and there will be a session for Cornea Case Presentations. A prize of €1000 is awarded to the best Cataract and Refractive Poster Presentations of the Congress. I hope the Live Surgery, which is sponsored by Alcon and Bausch & Lomb, will be very successful and will attract a lot of people. Live Surgery will be transmitted from the newly renovated 100-year-old Ophthalmology Department of the Semmelweis University at Maria Street.

The venue of the congress is the elegant Corinthia Hotel, in the very centre of the city. Budapest is a beautiful city, lying on both sides of the river Danube, in the centre of Hungary and in the centre of Europe as well. It is easy to access by plane, train, and on road as well. I hope those who are visiting the city for the first time will enjoy its charm; the historic buildings, the picturesque panorama of the illuminated bridges by night, and the castle on the Buda side and the Houses of Parliament on the Pest side. Those who already have visited the city will enjoy again the Hungarian hospitality, the cultural heritage of Budapest, which has many museums, theatres, the opera and the Hungarian Ballet to offer unforgettable hours.

Beside the "Chain Bridge" which was opened in 1870 and is one of the landmarks of Budapest, there are several other bridges connecting Buda and Pest to make the unique, wonderful capital of Hungary.

I do hope that as the bridges connect the different parts of the city, the Winter ESCRS Meeting in February 2010 will connect people from eastern and western Europe, including young participants and residents attending the congress. On behalf of all Hungarian ophthalmologists I wish all of you a very warm welcome and a successful and memorable congress. Welcome to Budapest!

**Zsolt Biro is professor of ophthalmology and head of the Department of Ophthalmology, Medical University of Pécs, Hungary, and president of the Hungarian Society of Cataract and Refractive Surgeons (SHIOL).**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear editor,  
We read with surprise an article in *EuroTimes* entitled: Nurse-performed YAG laser capsulotomy etc... (Volume 14 Issue 11 November 2009, page 12).

We think the idea of having nurses or other non-ophthalmologists and, even worse, non-MDs performing such a delicate procedure is not only utter nonsense, but also highly dangerous, not only for our patient but also for our profession, its status, and its place in the medical specialties.

YAG laser is a procedure implying many potential risks: corneal damage, iris damage, damage to the implant, damage to the retina, etc.

It demands from the practitioner not only a

perfect knowledge of the ocular anatomy and pathology, but also a special education in laser technology. (I remember a case of macular destruction by a defective YAG laser device.)

And what happens in cases where there are complications? Who will be held responsible: the nurse, the supervising ophthalmologist (if there is one)?

And why not let nurses perform other procedures with laser (iridotomy, trabeculoplasty, pan-photocoagulation, PRK, etc.). Where will this stop?

The paper says "benefits, but controversy". We don't see any benefit at all, except making ophthalmologic care "cheap", in all possible meanings

of the word. Of course the politicians will love that.

In addition, we do not see any ground for controversy: this is illegal practice of medicine and as such should be (and is) strictly outlawed and forbidden. Period. We are disappointed that *EuroTimes* offers space for such nonsense.

*EuroTimes* should not take a neutral position on such a crucial subject, but an unequivocal stand in the defence of ophthalmologists and their profession.

**Dr René Trau MD, FEBO,  
Board Member and in the name of the BSCRS.**