

REPORT ON THE XXIIIrd ISFR CONFERENCE IN SZCZECIN

The XXIIIrd Conference of the International Society for Fluoride Research was held June 11-14, 2000, at the Hotel Radisson SAS in beautiful, historic Szczecin, Poland. Attended by over 100 participants and guests, the 4-day conference drew researchers from 18 countries including China, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Moldova, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Switzerland, Ukraine, The United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

The Organizing Committee of the conference was chaired by Professor Zygmunt Machoy of the Department of Biochemistry and Chemistry of the Pomeranian Academy of Medicine in cooperation with the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology. At the opening ceremony, Professor Machoy offered a warm welcome to the participants, calling attention to the gratifying number of young scientists who had registered. A further welcome was extended by ISFR President Professor Kazusada Yoshitake and by the President of the City of Szczecin, Mark Kocmiel. XXIIIrd Conference awards were presented to Professors Yoshitake, Gene Miller, and Koichi Kono, and Distinction awards were given to Professors Humio Tsunoda, Jurgen Franke, and Ming-Ho Yu, and Dr Bruce Spittle.

The scientific program included 27 scheduled platform presentations distributed over five sessions dealing with biological effects of fluoride in metabolic processes, environmental and analytical aspects of fluoride, a mini-symposium on fluorine in PET - positron emission tomography, health effects of fluoride on humans and animals, and fluoride in dentistry affecting adults and children. An additional 51 presentations were arranged for three poster sessions with the authors in attendance to discuss and answer questions about their presentations. The wide range of topics can be gleaned from the conference abstracts published in the February 2000 issue of *Fluoride* with additional ones in this issue. As in previous conferences, there were vigorous discussions with divergent viewpoints, reflecting the genuinely open attitude of the Society toward controversial scientific issues.

At the Business Meeting, a warm tribute was paid to our late esteemed colleague, Dr John Colquhoun, who died on 23 March 1999, for his unstinting service as Editor of *Fluoride* and Treasurer of the Society from 1992 to 1998. In his report, the current Treasurer acknowledged the generosity of recent donors to *Fluoride* and the Society. To simplify the subscription schedule it was moved and approved that, beginning in 2001, the annual subscription, including membership, will be USD40, 4000 Yen, or GBP25 with an agent discount of 12.5%. For Australia and New Zealand the rate will be AD40 and NZD40, respectively. In addition, it was moved and approved that the position of Print Copy Editor for the Journal be formally recognized for the demanding work currently being done by Ms Elke Babiuk of Calgary, Alberta, Canada, in formatting text, table, figure, and page layouts.

In accord with current and past editorial policy, a motion was passed affirming the scientific nature of the journal *Fluoride*, with acceptance of research and review contributions being based strictly on scientific merit, without regard to viewpoint, after recommendation following expert review and evaluation. Approval was also given that officers and members of the Society be urged to submit editorials and reviews in their areas of expertise and that they be invited to assist the editors in revising and editing articles submitted for publication.

Cordial thanks were extended to Professor Yoshitake for his service and guidance during his term of office as President of the Society. In the balloting for a new Second Vice President, Professor NJ Chinoy of Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, India, was elected unanimously. Officers of the Society for the next two years are:

President: Professor Zygmunt Machoy
Vice President: Professor Koichi Kono
Second Vice President: Professor N J Chinoy
Secretary: Professor Emeritus Gene W Miller
Treasurer: Dr Bruce Spittle

As announced in the May 2000 issue of *Fluoride*, the XXIVth Conference of the ISFR, to be hosted by Professor Yoshitake of Shiga University of Medical Science, will be held in Otsu, Shiga, Japan, September 4-7, 2001. It was agreed that Dr Spittle will host the XXVth Conference at the University of Otago Medical School in Dunedin, New Zealand, in 2002. At the XXIVth Conference in 2001, an offer by Dr Jorg Spitz of the Private Institute for Nuclear Medicine, Wiesbaden, Germany, to host a future conference will be considered.

In a report from a Meeting of the Officers of the Society held prior to the Business Meeting it was emphasized that the Society was established for the exchange and dissemination of scientific information about fluoride and was not a vehicle for promoting anti- or pro-fluoridation viewpoints. Such views as expressed by members in editorials and letters are personal and do not represent an official position of the Society. Similarly, the scientific journal material on the ISFR Website does not imply an official stand by the Society concerning water fluoridation.

Bruce Spittle