

## REPORT ON THE XXIVth ISFR CONFERENCE IN OTSU

The XXIVth Conference of the International Society for Fluoride Research was held on September 4-7, 2001, at the Hotel Piazza Biwako in Otsu City, Shiga, Japan. The hotel is situated on the shore of Lake Biwa, the largest freshwater lake in Japan, and provided participants and guests a magnificent view of the water and the surrounding beautiful green mountains. The area is rich culturally with the original ancient city Otsukyo being built in 667. The ten countries represented by the approximately 70 participants and guests attending were: China, England, Germany, Hungary, India, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, and the United States of America.

The Local Organizing Committee for the conference was chaired by Professor Kazusada Yoshitake of the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Shiga University of Medical Science, and Dr Gaku Yamamoto was the secretary. The other committee members were: Dr Yukio Fujiki and Professors Takashi Ando, Fumiko Hayakawa, Hiroya Kawanabe, Koichi Kono, Kiyoshi Murata, Terumichi Nakagawa, Masayuki Okazaki, Masashi Shimahara, and Yoshinori Yamaguchi. They were assisted by an International Advisory Committee comprising Professors Dianjun Sun, Zandao Wei (China), G Milhaud (France), Jörg Spitz, Jürgen Franke (Germany), Miklós Bély (Hungary), Humio Tsunoda (Japan), Albert Burgstahler, and Ming-Ho Yu (USA).

At the opening ceremony, Professor Yoshitake extended a warm welcome to everyone and thanked Professor Koichi Kono, Dr Kenji Akiniwa, Professor Zygmunt Machoy, and all those who had made the conference possible. Professor Miklós Bély noted how interest in the biological effects of fluoride in the USA had led to the formation of the ISFR and subsequently, in Europe, to National Societies for Fluoride Research in Poland, Germany, and Hungary. He made a presentation to Professor Yoshitake of a Millennium Gold Medal, one of ten created by the Hungarian Fluoride Society and featuring on the obverse side women and children fighting against disease and on the reverse side amyloid deposits which have been linked to both fluorosis and Alzheimer's disease. Professor Yoshitake made presentations of a traditional Temple tea cup to Professor Burgstahler, Editor of *Fluoride*, Professor Ming-Ho Yu, Associate Editor of *Fluoride*, and Professor Miklós Bély in recognition of their esteemed contributions to the Society.

The scientific program included 24 scheduled platform presentations, spread over three days, dealing with the environmental effects of fluoride and fluoride analysis, the biological effects of fluoride, and the health effects of fluoride on humans and animals.

A further 18 poster presentations were made in which the authors spoke briefly about their posters and participated in discussions on points raised

about them. The wide range of topics in the presentations is evident from the edited abstracts of the conference published in the August 2001 issue of *Fluoride*, pp. 194-220.

At the Business Meeting the Advisory and Editorial Boards were formally approved. The Advisory Board meets at conferences of the ISFR to determine the agenda for the Business meeting and to recommend policy for the ISFR. The term of the President is limited to two years and the Members at Large are appointed for a period of five years which may be renewed on the recommendation of the officers of the Board. The ISFR Advisory Board for the period August 2001 to January 2003 is:

President and Chairperson of the Board	Professor Zygmunt Machoy
Vice President	Professor Koichi Kono
Second Vice President	Professor Niloufer Chinoy
Secretary	Professor Emeritus Gene Miller
Treasurer	Dr Bruce Spittle
Editor of <i>Fluoride</i>	Professor Emeritus Albert Burgstahler
Members at Large	
Asia	Professor Guifan Sun Professor Emeritus Humio Tsunoda Professor Koichi Kono Professor Niloufer Chinoy
Europe	Professor Jürgen Franke Professor Miklós Bély Professor Zygmunt Machoy
North America	Professor Ming-Ho Yu Dr John Lee Dr Richard Foulkes

The Editorial Board meets at the International Conferences of the ISFR and makes recommendations to the ISFR Advisory Board officers concerning *Fluoride*. All ISFR members are available to assist the Editor with the review of manuscripts and similar activities. The members of the Editorial Board are approved by the Advisory Board. They serve for a term of five years which is renewable. The officers of the ISFR Editorial Board are:

Editor and Chairperson of the Board	Professor Emeritus Albert Burgstahler
Managing Editor and Co-Chairperson	Dr Bruce Spittle
Associate Editor	Professor Emeritus Gene Miller
Associate Editor	Professor Ming-Ho Yu
Associate Editor	Dr John Lee

In his report on the journal, Professor Burgstahler drew attention to the revised Notice to Authors published in the February 2001 issue of *Fluoride*, pp. 85-90. He stated that it would facilitate speedier processing of papers if members of the society who are willing to help review and edit papers would make their e-mail addresses available to him (awburg@ku.edu) and the Managing Editor, Dr Bruce Spittle (spittle@es.co.nz). Authors can assist the process by being as concise as possible in their manuscripts.

Professor Burgstahler also circulated a list of topics which he thought are in need of more research. These are given in the editorial in this issue of *Fluoride*.

In the financial report the Treasurer acknowledged the generosity of recent donors to *Fluoride* and the Society. The recommendation was passed that the membership and subscription fees remain at the same level for 2002. The fees, payable in advance, are US\$40, £25, Euro40 or ¥4000 with a subscription agency discount of 12.5%. For residents of Australia and New Zealand only, A\$40, and NZ\$40 respectively.

After due consideration, there was majority agreement for Dr Bruce Spittle to host the XXVth ISFR Conference in Dunedin, New Zealand, January 21-24, 2003, and for Dr Jörg Spitz to host the XXVIth Conference in Wiesbaden, Germany, in 2005. The XXVIIth Conference is tentatively planned for 2007.

On the Thursday afternoon (Sept. 6) of the conference the delegates and guests enjoyed travelling by bus 20 miles from Lake Biwa to the Shigaraki Mountains to visit the Miho Museum. The architect, IM Pei, was commissioned by Mihoko Koyama and her daughter Hiroko Koyama on behalf of Shinji Shumeiki, a Japanese spiritual order, to create The Museum of the Mountain which opened in November 1997. On display were an exhibition from the Longmen Caves of China together with works of art from the resident collection including from the cultures of Greece and Rome, Egypt, South Asia, West Asia, the Northern and Southern Dynasties of China, and the Shang, Zhou, and Han periods of China.

The conference closed with a ceremonial banquet at the Hotel Blue Lake Otsu. Warm expressions of thanks from all were extended to Professor Yoshitake and his colleagues for making the meeting so successful and memorable.

Bruce Spittle