

EUROBS 01002

Report on the proceedings of the IVth meeting
7–9 September 1989
Cracow, Poland
by
Rudolf Klimek

The IVth EAGO Meeting took place in Cracow, Poland, on the fifth Anniversary of the Association's founding. There were 360 participants representing 28 countries in attendance. This number helped surpass the previous years', attendance for the fourth consecutive year. 30 international firms presented their wares ranging from sophisticated imaging equipment to the latest offerings in scientific pharmaceutical and publications.

These totals are a qualified indication of the successful and progressive evolution of EAGO in the European and international arena, for which thanks are due to the dedicated and tireless efforts of EAGO's founders and as well as to the members of its Executive Board.

The Meeting itself attracted 112 abstracts accepted for publication in the Official Abstract Book whose timely and relevant topics were distributed between 48 Free Communications and 64 Posters. In addition, there were four Main Plenary Sessions on carcinoma, uterine and fetal blood flow, implantation, and ethical questions pertinent to Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Prior to the formal opening of the 4th EAGO Meeting, a 'Scientific Weekend' was prepared for the EAGO Executive Board, Scientific Committee and others in a rural setting in Southeastern Poland. This provided for those present a relaxed opportunity to exchange ideas on scientific concerns, matters of organization as well as ethico-moral questions. A special session on bio-ethics was commenced and later re-convened in Cracow at the residence of Franciszek Cardinal Macharski with Professors Eskes, Fairweather, Klimek and Sureau in attendance.

There the participants had the chance to visit several historical points of interest in the region as well as the beautiful Polish Tatra mountains from Zakopane.

EAGO President, Professor C. Sureau, officially convened the Meeting on 7 September 1989 at the Forum Hotel. In his opening remarks he addressed the membership outlining the scope of EAGO's activities, while Professor J. Tomkinson spoke of the Association's historical development. Local Organizing Committee Chairman Professor R. Klimek greeted all participants with warm words of welcome and wishes for a successful and prospective Meeting. Also, the Rector of the Copernicus University School of Medicine, Professor T. Cichocki, presented the participants with official greetings on behalf of the oldest Polish Medical School, as

did his predecessor, Professor T. Popiela, who also delivered a lecture.

The Plenary Sessions were chaired by distinguished scientists who oversaw topics on cancer by P. Kenemans and R. Klimek and the latest advances in Doppler ultrasonography by A. Kurjak. Approaches to problems concerning implantation were elegantly presented by M. Seppala and H. Ludwig, while perhaps the most hotly debated and controversial topics were to be found in the session on ethical concerns in Obstetrics and Gynaecology presented by C. Sureau, P. Schenker and ethicist Father J. Skrzydlewski, Professor at the Papal Theological Academy in Cracow.

That same evening the membership was privileged to take part in the State of the Art Lecture by T.K.A.B. Eskes who most eloquently, using only visual aids accompanied by his own piano score and recital, presented a valuable humanistic portrait of the various stages in a woman's development – from conception until death – and the role which medicine, especially Obstetrics and Gynaecology, plays throughout this magnificent life-cycle.

Professor P. Bernard of WHO Headquarters in Geneva flew in with the most recent World AIDS update, providing EAGO members with the latest epidemiological data which was published just days before the Meeting on this most pressing health concern.

The Scientific Committee acknowledged the efforts of two outstanding presentations during the Meeting and declared the winners of the best Free Communication Session in Obstetrics and in Gynaecology. The winners were: R.P.M. Steegers-Theunissen, E.A.P. Steegers, R. de Boer, C.M.G. Thomas, M.D. Kloosterman, T.K.A.B. Eskes for their paper 'Effects of oral supplementation of folic acid and Vitamin B12 during pregnancy on maternal and amniotic fluid concentration', Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University Hospital Nijmegen, The Netherlands, and G. Creatsas, E. Deligeonoglou, A. Zachari, D. Loutradis, K. Miras, D. Aravantinos for 'Prostaglandins: PGF₂ a, PGE₂, 6-keto-PGF₁ a and TXB₂ serum levels in dysmenorrhoeic adolescents before, during and after treatment with oral contraceptives', Division of Paediatric and Gynaecology, 'Alexandra' Maternity Hospital and Department of Biochemistry, University of Athens, Greece.

A General Assembly of EAGO Members on September 9th provided the opportunity to enlighten the membership on topics discussed by the Executive Board. Professor D. Aravantinos provided the necessary information, and welcomed all to the 5th EAGO Meeting, to be held in his native Athens in October, 1990.

A rich cultural and social program accompanied the presentations and deliberations allowing the membership to take part in the varied wonders of historic Cracow. Tours of the medical city centre, Wawel Castle, and the Auschwitz Museum were provided as well as a folkloristic dance presentation by a Polish Highlander dance ensemble. The administrators of the City of Cracow invited all participants to ceremonies at City Hall for the awarding of the Gold Medal of Cracow City to Professor Tom K.A.B. Eskes, Denys Fairweather, Sir Rustam Feroze, John Tomkinson, Asim Kurjak, Laszlo Lampe, Hans Ludwig, Joseph Schenker, Claude Sureau and The Medal of Honor, commemorating the 600-year anniversary of Jagiellonian University to Professor Tom K.A.B. Eskes as well as Copernicus Medal's to Professor Markku Seppala and Professor Hans Ludwig for

their efforts in creating and sustaining a bridge which united the academic centres of Europe.

The EAGO Bridge, symbol of the Association, properly underscores the efforts of uniting European scientific centres, as was evidenced by the choice of Cracow for this year's Meeting. Cracow has had a long and rich tradition of democracy and tolerance in addition to its being a significant Polish centre of science and learning, boasting one of Europe's oldest Universities, the Jagiellonian, chartered in 1364, and is currently the home to more than 40 000 students enrolled in its institutions of higher learning.

During the Meeting, the World Club of the Polish Gynaecologists had an opportunity to hold an Assembly as well. The aim of the Club is to facilitate international exchange of medical experience and information between gynaecologists, neonatologists and anaesthesiologists of Polish background.

At Meeting's close, Professor Fedor-Freybergh, President of the International Society of Perinatal Psychology and Medicine provided information regarding the next World Congress of that Society, to be held in Cracow, 1992. Professor Klimek will again organize a well-planned Congress and invites all members of EAGO and FIGO to attend. The Meeting will provide another occasion to meet again in the same town that so heartily welcomed its EAGO guests.