Dear Member of the ISDE
We are 18 months away from World Congress and Montreal is getting ready to host the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus from September 1-4, 1998. Our organization committee is a solid team regrouping Gastroenterologists and Surgeons in a common goal: to put together and offer the best Esophageal meeting possible. This target is evident in the scientific format that we have retained in order to create the highest level of academic exchange for our Society. ISDE Montreal 98 will present four major activities, as illustrated in this schematic view of the congress activities. (TABLE 1)

1) The plenary session will offer the best abstracts submitted for presentation at the meeting. We are planning, as part of plenary format an afternoon forum session on fundamental esophageal problems where the most recent basic esophageal work can be presented. During each day of the congress, State recognized for their contributions to the field of Esophageal investigation, will address clinical and fundamental aspects of Esophageal Diseases.

SEPTEMBER
1-4
1998
### VIIIth World Congress of I.S.D.E.
### STATE OF THE ART LECTURES

**SEPTEMBER 2**
- State of the Art Clinical: Dr. F. G. Pearson, Toronto-Canada
  - The Development of Esophageal Surgery in Canada
- State of the Art Fundamental: Dr. N. E. Diamant, Toronto-Canada
  - Control Mechanisms for Esophageal Function

**SEPTEMBER 3**
- State of the Art Clinical: Dr. Donald O. Castell, Philadelphia, P.A., USA
  - Rationale and Cost Benefit of the Esophageal Function Laboratory
- State of the Art Fundamental: Dr. John Dent, Adelaide-Australia
  - The Lower Esophageal Sphincter

**SEPTEMBER 4**
- State of the Art Clinical: Dr. S. J. Spechler, Boston, M.A., USA
  - Barrett's Esophagus
- State of the Art Fundamental: Dr. D. Liebermann-Meiffert, Friburg, Switzerland
  - Embryology of the Esophagus

2) The interactive POSTER SESSIONS have been planned to offer the best exposure and exchange possibilities for their authors. These daily sessions will be held in topic-related groups. During each afternoon, all poster sessions will be transformed in panels allowing the authors to summarize their findings on two slides followed by an open discussion from the floor.

3) VIDEO SESSIONS will present each day four paneled discussions on Endoscopy and endoscopic manipulations, laparoscopic and thoracoscopic techniques and open surgical procedures. These always popular sessions should offer the latest in technological developments for investigation and management of Esophageal Disease.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Barrett's</th>
<th>Motor Disorders</th>
<th>Esophageal Cancer</th>
<th>Quality of life</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Idiopathic Reflux Disease</strong></td>
<td>Pathophysiology</td>
<td>Barrett and Reflux</td>
<td>The Upper Esophageal Sphincter</td>
<td>Squamous Cell Carcinoma</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sept. 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sept. 3</strong></td>
<td>Rationales of Medical and Surgical Treatment</td>
<td>Barrett and Cancer</td>
<td>Achalasia</td>
<td>Adenocarcinoma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sept. 4</strong></td>
<td>Best Surgical Treatment</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
<td>Spastic Disorders</td>
<td>Neo adjuvant therapy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These 15 symposia are planned and organized by two chairpersons who represent solidly established names in Surgery and Gastroenterology. The content of each Symposium should offer the most recent advances in its area of Esophageal problems.

4) A series of 15 symposia was planned for all afternoons of the congress. We want to build up the most extraordinary program to be paralleled by an exciting social organization. Montreal is a beautiful city with a warm hospitality tradition. We are looking forward to your visit in September 1998.

Sincerely,
Andre Duranceau, M.D.
Professor of Surgery
Université de Montréal
Division of Thoracic Surgery
President, VIIIth World Congress ISDE
Organizing Committee

David Mulder
Professor and Chairman of Surgery
Department of Surgery
McGill University

Gilles Beauchamp
Professor of Surgery
Université de Montréal
Division of Thoracic Surgery

Michel Boivin
Asst. Professor of Medicine
Université de Montréal
Division of Gastroenterology

Serge Mayrand
At. Professor of Medicine
McGill University
Division of Gastroenterology

Secretariat

Henri Colas
Co-principal Co-organizers inc.
Scientific and General Conference Secretariat

Carol Langevin
Co-organizers Co-organizers inc.
Scientific and General Conference Secretariat

Table 1

7th World Congress on Diseases of the Esophagus
Scientific Format

I
1 AM 9 AM 10 AM 11 AM 12 noon
PLENARY SESSION
PLENARY SESSION
PLENARY & FORUM SESSION
LUNCH

II
3 PM 4 PM 5 PM 6 PM
SYMPOSIUM

III
INTERACTIVE POSTER SESSIONS
SIDE PRESERVATION AND PANEL FOR POSTERS

IV
VIDEO SESSION
VIDEO SESSION
VIDEO SESSION
VIDEO SESSION
REGIONAL ACTIVITY

*U.S.A

F. Henry Ellis, Jr. M.D., Ph. D.
Clinical Professor of Surgery Emeritus
Chief Emeritus
Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery Deaconess Hospital
Harvard Medical School
Boston, U. S. A.

-SUMMARY OF ESOPHAGEAL PAPERS PRESENTED AT THE RECENT MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF THORACIC SURGEONS-

The 33rd annual meeting of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons took place in early February in San Diego, California, and several presentations of interest to esophageal physicians and surgeons were presented. A group from the University of North Carolina presented their experience with neoadjuvant therapy for carcinoma of the esophagus. This was a phase II study and not a prospective randomized study comparing the results of neoadjuvant therapy with the results of surgery alone. They employed 5FU and cisplatin concurrently with radiation (45 Gy) in 66 patients and had a resectability rate of 100% with a 30 day mortality of 6% and a pathologically complete response in 41% of patients. The overall 3-year survival was 32%, and, as expected, those exhibiting a complete pathologic response fared better than those without a complete response. Further follow-up on these patients and, particularly the results of a prospective randomized study, will be necessary to determine the role of neoadjuvant therapy in the management of esophageal cancer.

A retrospective review of 42 patients undergoing treatment of esophageal perforations associated with benign esophageal disease was presented from the University of Michigan in order to evaluate post treatment swallowing function and the need for further treatment. The overall mortality was 16.7% and, of the 35 survivors, 17 (48.6%) required at least one esophageal dilation postoperatively. They concluded that primary repair in patients with achalasia or no obvious underlying esophageal disorder achieved the best results, esophagectomy being a better option for patients with stricture or diffuse esophageal diseases.

A group from Pittsburgh reported their preliminary experience with positron emission tomography (PET) for staging esophageal cancer as being encouraging, claiming that it may improve the efficiency and accuracy of minimally invasive staging techniques for esophageal cancer. The group from Vancouver, Canada reported on 26 patients undergoing laparoscopic esophageal myotomy associated with anterior partial fundoplication for the treatment of achalasia. The follow-up was short but, at a median follow-up interval of 4 months postoperatively, the results in 21 of the 26 patients available for evaluation suggested that this approach provides "efficacious treatment of achalasia as assessed by symptom scores, satisfaction scores and esophageal transit studies."

(F. Henry Ellis Jr.)

*GERMANY

"14th International Gastrointestinal Surgery Workshop, Davos-Switzerland"

The 14th International Gastrointestinal Surgery Workshop took place from March 1 to 7, 1997, in the Congress Center Davos-Switzerland. This course which is running now since 14 years comprises the teaching of open and laparoscopic surgical techniques for doctors in surgical training. The course is an arrangement of lectures followed by practical exercises using various models. The practical exercises are performed on pig gut on the workbench after detailed teaching by video presentation. The course is designed to give each participant a chance to practice all the demonstrated techniques on the models. This allows the participants to learn new techniques and to familiarize themselves with alternative procedures and also to improve their skills. The course is taking seven days from 8:00 in the morning to 7:30 in the evening with break from 12:00 to 14:00 which gives the opportunity for skiing in the wonderful Davos mountains. The course is supported by 9 chairman of

A. H. Holscher, M.D.
Professor & Chairman
Chairman of the Department Medizinische Einrichtungen
Universität zu Köln (Lindenthal),
GERMANY

University Clinics and 4 Chiefs of Surgical Departments from Germany, Switzerland, Denmark, Sweden and Great Britain. The course is divided in a basic course and an advance course accoring to the skills of the participants. Concerning Esophageal Surgery the course is presenting laparoscopic procedures as fundoplication and open procedures especially esophageojunostomy. Lectures and discussions about surgery for esophageal cancer and Antireflux surgery have been presented. The course meets the approval of the Swiss Surgical Society, the German Surgical Society and the Danish and Norwegian Surgical Society. The next course will take part from February 28 to March 6, 1998. (A. H. Holscher)
"O.E.S.O.- FRANCE"

R. GIULI, M.D., FACS
Professor of Surgery
Scientific director of
O. E. S. O., FRANCE

1996 was the year of the 5th O.E.S.O. World Congress which, as usual, dealt with a single topic, The Esophagogastric Junction. This Congress took place in Paris, once again in the emblematic setting of the U.N.E.S.C.O. Headquarters, under the patronage of its Director General and that of the President of France. In 7 different auditoriums functioning simultaneously 10 hours per day, 1500 participants benefited from the total involvement of the most important experts in the world. The attendees participated in essential updates, in the form of answers to 300 questions on the esophagogastric junction, and controversial debates or colloquia in 18 disciplines.

Several organizations officially participated: British Society of Gastroenterology, Pasteur Institute, Gastroenterology Societies of Brazil, Argentina, and Uruguay, World Organization of Gastroenterology, World Organization of Digestive Endoscopy.

Moreover, a world premiere took place at U.N.E.S.C.O.; 21 international experts, representing prominent universities, contributed to the first attempt at a worldwide evaluation of the laparoscopic Nissen technique, thus giving shape to what could soon become the University of the Future.

Nine Centers spread out over Europe, North America, and Australia, participated in this evaluation. This marked a milestone in the worlds of esophagology, of surgery and in the vision, thus rendering concrete, of globe-encompassing education.

Following the inter-university evaluation, the audience contributed to an in-depth reflection upon on the pros and cons of the dissemination of knowledge by means of remote teaching. Over the course of a Debate on the University of the Future, 23 questions were posed to prominent personalities in education, research, industry, humanities and communication. Their professional contributions led the discussion to an exceptionally high level.

The success of the Congress lead to developing an entirely original project, unlike any other in the area of Health, to create, on a worldwide scale, a network of:

- information,
- updating knowledge,
- diagnosis,
- assistance in treatment, specialized in one organ, the esophagus.

This project, currently under elaboration, will be called O.E.S.O. line.

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"BRAZIL"

Henrique Walter Pinotti, M.D.
Professor of Surgery
Head of Digestive Surgery Department Medical School of University of San Paulo
San Paulo, BRAZIL

For the first time in South America, a great scientific event, entirely dedicated to esophageal diseases, will be realized. This event has been called "Esophagus Today", and it is being organized by the Sao Paulo University Group and Brazilian Section - ISDE, led by Prof. Henrique Walter Pinotti. It will be held on June 29-30, 1997, and it will have, among many distinguished invited speakers, Prof. Duranceau (Canada), President of the next ISDE World Congress and also leaders of the field in esophageal research, in Brazil South America. A broad range of esophageal diseases will be discussed, with special emphasis to carcinoma, reflux esophagitis and motor diseases. These events will be organized on an Annual Basis serving already as a way to congregate and attract new members to the ISDE and also as a preparation to the ISDE World Congress which will be held in Sao Paulo, in 2001. For more information, please contact Prof. Ivan Cecconello, M.D. - Telephone 00 55 11 883-7720 - Address: Av. Dr. Eneas de Carvalho Aguiar, 255 - 9th Floor - Cep:05403-900 - Sao Paulo - SP, Brazil.

(H. W. Pinotti)

Ivan Cecconello, M.D.
Professor of Surgery Digestive Surgery Department Medical School of University of San Paulo
San Paulo, BRAZIL
REGIONAL ACTIVITY — Japan

Akiyoshi Yamada, M.D.
Professor & Chairman
Dept. of Radiology
Institute of Gastroenterology
Tokyo Women’s Medical
Tokyo, JAPAN

THE 50TH MEETING OF THE JAPANESE
SOCIETY FOR DISEASES OF ESOPHAGUS.

It was my great honor to be in charge of the 50th Meeting of the Japanese Society for Diseases of the Esophagus, which was held in Tokyo from June 20 to 21, 1996.

Focused topics on this meeting were (1) Different strategies of surgeons, internists and radiologists for esophageal carcinoma (2) Comprehensive diagnosis for multimodality treatment of esophageal carcinoma.

There were 142 presentations and approximately 700 attendants from surgery, medicine and radiology. As recent strategies for esophageal cancer seem to face a certain chaos, each session were truly worthwhile with hot discussions of each specialists.

And this meeting was 50th commemorative meeting throughout 50 years and was deserving special mention. Some representative professors gave attractive speeches like as follows;

Professor Rongci Nakayama, Founder of this meeting:
"The Rise of the Japanese Society for Diseases of the esophagus"

Professor T. Kakegawa, President of this meeting:
"Progress of surgical treatment of esophageal carcinoma"

RECENT PUBLICATION

Recent advances in DISEASE OF THE ESOPHAGUS

A. Peracchia, R. Rosati, L. Bonavia, U. Fumagalli, S. Bona, B. Chella (Eds.)
Printed n June 1996 by Litosci - Rastignano - Bologna (Italy)

This book presents the proceeding of the 11th ISDE World Congress held in Milan, Italy, from August 23 through 26, 1995 under able Congress Presidency of Professor Alberto Peracchia.

Professor David B. Skinner wrote in the foreword of this book, that for the triennial congress in Milan the program was selected from more than six hundred outstanding abstracts. The best of these were selected for presentation, and from this highly selected number manuscripts for publication in this book have been chosen. For all of us in this field, this volume will remain the most important reference volume and source of information on this disease through the next three years.

This book incorporates the 180 manuscripts, on Cancer of the Esophagus; Epidemiology, Biology, Pathology, Staging and Choice of Treatment, Surgical Treatment, Extent of Lymphadenectomy, Multimodality Treatment, Palliation, Respiratory Complication in Esophageal Surgery, Cancer of the Cardia; Epidemiology and Cagellation, Surgery and Neoadjuvant Treatment, Progress in Diagnosis of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease, Current Medical and Surgical Treatment of GERD, Vagotomy and Reflux Disease; Indication and Technique, Barrett Esophagus, Moiilility Disorders; State of the Art in Diagnosis and Medi, Achalasia and Diffuse Spasm; Therapeutic Approaches, Caustic Lesions and Benign Stricture, Esophageal Peforations and Anastomotic Leaks Rehabilitation in Esophageal Diseases, Progress in Enteral and Parenteral Nutrition, Current Treatment of Esophageal Varices, Pediatric Esophageal Surgery.

(H. Ide)
SCHOLARSHIP REPORTS

Vinay Sharma, M.D.
Tata Memorial Hospital
(TATA MEMORIAL CENTRE)
Dr. Ernest Borges Marg,
Parel, Bombay - 400 012 India

It was a great pleasure to have the opportunity to visit and work at the Department of Radiation Oncology, Memorial Sloans Kettering Cancer Center, New York, USA from 7th December 1995 to 6th March 1996 under the aegis of Intentional Society for Diseases of the Esophagus fellowship award for the year 1995 for the project on 'Conformal radiation therapy in Esophagus cancers'.

I was introduced to all the staff members by Dr. Michael Zelefsky, Programme Director, Department of Radiation Oncology and my host. I started work with Dr. Bruce Minsky, incharge of gastrointestinal services inclusive of esophagus cancers. I attended the simulations, treatment planning sessions and out patient clinics both for deciding about the management and subsequent follow up with Dr. Bruce Minsky and gained better insight into various aspects of radiation treatment either alone or in combination with chemotherapy/surgery both as radical and palliative treatment. I attended the GIT services Journal clubs every week during my three months stay and interacted with surgical as well as medical oncology groups. Dr. Minsky was very cordial and took special interest in teaching me the intricacies of management as well as analysing my own data on radiation therapy of esophagus cancers. He also guided me in preparation of manuscripts on treatment of esophageal malignancies by radiation therapy.

I had the opportunity of attending the departmental conferences, seminars and journal clubs during my stay and discussion were stimulating and thought provoking with special reference to the data published from the host institution.

In addition to working with Dr. Minsky for radiation therapy of carcinoma esophagus, I had an opportunity to work in close collaboration with Dr. Adam Raben, attending Radiat Oncologist for Conformal radiation therapy of the lung cancers on the 'Ongoing Phase I dose calculation protocol for non small cell lung Cancer'. I correlated the esophageal and pulmonary toxicity after high dose radiation therapy for non small cell lung cancers with the dose volume histogram, pulmonary function tests, percentage of esophagus volume receiving 60Gy, percentage of lung receiving 25Gy with normal tissue complication probability data developed through a inhouse special computer programme at the Memorial Sloans Kettering Cancer Centre, New York, USA.

A total of 93 patients of non small cell lung carcinoma treated during 1991-1995 with external beam radiation with or without chemotherapy formed the basis of this toxicity study. All except one patient had a median dose of 70.2 Gy for radiation alone Group and 64.8 Gy for combined chemotherapy + RT group. The grade 1 and Grade 2 acute esophageal toxicity developed in 75% patients. No grade 3 & 4 acute as well as late esophageal toxicity was noted. The Normal Tissue Complication Probability (NTCP) calculated from dose volume histograms ranged from 0-79%. More than 30% volume of esophagus receiving 60Gy dose was found in 39.7% of all patients. Grade 1 and Grade 2 toxicity were similar to as most reported in literature. A correlation between calculated NTCP, esophageal toxicity with percentage volume of esophagus receiving 60Gy could not be established due to lack of grade 3 and grade 4 esophageal toxicity.

Grade 3 acute pulmonary toxicity decreased in patients after modification of treatment field to exclude elective mediastinal irradiation and ipsilateral supraclavicular region being done in initial period of study. Over all toxicity was higher in ~25% NTCP group along with patients having ~30% lung volume receiving 25Gy or higher. The toxicity was more in patients with 70% FEVI. However all the results did not reach statistical significance. Addition of chemotherapy increased the acute as well as late toxicity.

I got an opportunity to learn about the radiation therapy management of other cancers especially prostate by attending treatment planning sessions, simulations with Dr. Michael Zelefsky.

In cases where conformal therapy with multileaf collimation could not be delivered, especially designed custom made shielding blocks for individual patients were used thus allowing delivering of high dose to the tumour with maximum sparing of normal tissues in the vicinity. Multiple beams with computerised treatment planning and dose volume histograms for critical structures like spinal cord, lung were used for optimisation of treatment.

The research scholarship provided me a chance to learn about the conformal radiation therapy for various cancers especially esophagus and lung. It will thus help in achieving an optimal therapeutic ratio using dose volume histogram and improve the local control as well as quality of life of patients suffering from cancers especially esophagus and lung at our center.

I am indebted to Dr. Zvi Fuxs, Director and Chairman, Department of Radiation Oncology, MSKCC for accepting me for research programme under him.

I have already started using the information and knowledge gained over the 3 months in the improvement of management of cancer patients at our center.

(Vinay Sarma, M.D.)
CONGRESS NEWS

1997
* 37TH SIC *
-International Surgical Week ISW97-
Site: Acapulco, Mexico
Date: August 24-30, 1997
Organizer: E. Moreno-Gonzalez

1998
* 6TH WORLD CONGRESS OF ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY *
Site: Rome, Italy
Date: June 3-6, 1998
President: Alberto Montori

* 7TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE I.S.D.E. *
Site: Montreal, Canada
Date: September 1-4, 1998
Congress Chairman: Andre Duranceau

* XXXI BIENNIAL WORLD CONGRESS OF ICS *
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS
Site: Buenos Aires - ARGENTINA
Date: November 15-19, 1998
Congress President: Prof. Jose Yoel

2001
* 8TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE I.S.D.E.*
Site: Sao Paulo, Brazil
Date: 2001
Congress Chairman: H. W. Pinotti

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* KUREHA CHEMICAL INDUSTRY CO., LTD.
  萩尾化学工業（株）
* MITSUI PHARMACEUTICALS, INC.
  三井製薬工業（株）
* NIHON PHARMACEUTICAL CO. LTD.
  日本製薬（株）
* MINOPHAGEN PHARMACEUTICAL CO. LTD.
  （資）ミノファーゲン製薬
* TAKEDA CHEMICAL INDUSTRY CO. LTD.
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* SANKYO COMPANY, LTD.
  三共（株）
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* MEIJII SEIKA CO., LTD.
  明治製薬（株）
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