

impressive success of that treatment.

An international press conference held on May 31st, 2005 at the conference venue had good response. Otto Hess (cardiologic professor at the Inselspital Bern, Switzerland) presented the results of his investigations regarding revascularisation of ischemic myocardium thru shock wave therapy, Hildegunde Piza-Katzer (surgeon in chief and professor at the dept. of plastic surgery of the Innsbruck University Clinic, Austria) showed astonishing results of shock wave therapy after burning lesions of humeral skin and of a randomized animal trial regarding ischemic skin lesions and shock wave therapy and Wolfgang Schaden (traumatologist at the Meidlinger Trauma Center Wien, Austria) demonstrated the results of a pilot study concerning shock wave therapy and skin ulcers of different reasons (diabetic ulcers, posttraumatic delayed skin healing etc.). There have been reports in the daily news at the national broadcast channel and in the news papers and reports at the scientific programmes.

As at the last ISMST congresses we could organize sessions with veterinarian papers, mainly US American studies with horses have been presented. Shock wave therapy in that field is obviously increasing. It is one of the advantages of the ISMST as a society, that we held it open for everyone who is interested in shock waves, so we have a mixed composition of members of all fields of application - physicians from all different disciplines, veterinarians, clinical investigators, basic researchers, manufacturers and distributors. The scientific level of the presented papers has risen over the years.

The 8th ISMST Congress has been held together with the 5th meeting of the German speaking shock wave societies (5. Dreiländertreffen der Österreichischen, Schweizerischen und Deutschen Gesellschaften für Extrakorporale Stoßwellentherapie). The most important society in that group is the DIGEST (Deutschsprachige Internationale Gesellschaft für Extrakorporale

Stoßwellentherapie), and this society provided an award for the best paper regarding shock wave therapy.

The last years the first two awards have been presented to Markus Maier and Ludger Gerdesmeyer. This year it was a big honour for the ISMST, that the ceremony of awarding has taken place at the opening ceremony of the ISMST congress and it was presented to Jan-Dirk Rompe (Germany) for his clinical study about differences in outcome of ESWT regarding treatment with or without local anaesthetics. At the DIGEST member's meeting in Vienna the assembly has voted for calling for participants for that DIGEST award also thru the ISMST correspondence. This is a sign for good relations between the societies and we hope very much to keep the contact as close as it is now.

Besides the scientific programme the social events have been of good acceptance. special guests have been invited for a presidential dinner to celebrate the 8th birthday of the ISMST founded 1997 in Vienna. A reception at the city hall of Vienna as an invitation of the Lord Mayor of Vienna took place on Monday, May 30th, 2005. The next day we celebrated the society evening in best mood, beginning the event with a street car drive to a typical Viennese winery (25 minutes walk after the street car drive thru the city, than a magnificent view over Vienna, Viennese winery atmosphere with typical music and wine and food and lots of scientific discussions, friendly talks and singing and laughing!). The whole meeting was characterized by the excellent communication, which is the main interest of the ISMST. So as organizers we are happy that the congress was a big success.

We are convinced that this society is growing and we will get members of other disciplines, we are already discussing the name of the society because of the new fields of shock wave therapy which are not only musculoskeletal. The development will continue! We are very much looking forward to the next meeting, the 9th ISMST Congress in Rio de Janeiro from April 20th to April 23rd, 2006 (www.ismst.com). ■

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