Welcome to ISMICS 2010

On behalf of the International Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiothoracic Surgery (ISMICS) it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2010 ISMICS Annual Meeting in Berlin. Berlin in June is certainly a worthwhile trip in its own right. During this month, the city shows itself in its best light. There is so much to explore and discover in this city — a city that has experienced many highlights as well as tragic low points over the past 150 years and that has developed into one of the most dynamic metropolises in the center of Europe. Visit the almost complete Museum Island with its famous Pergamon Museum, which was reopened last year after decades of renovations. Experience the new center of Berlin under the linden trees, or stroll the shopping avenue on the Ku’damm, which is in the vicinity of the InterContinental hotel.

During the scientific sessions, we will take a look back at the development of cardiac and thoracic surgery over the last years. Innovations will be introduced but also challenged, which can only be accomplished through scientific appraisal. ISMICS wants to be a forum for the exchange of scientific results; therefore, a renowned program committee, under the direction of chairpersons Dr. Wiley Nifong, Dr. Francesco Maisano, and Dr. Walter Weder chose the best of over 250 submitted abstracts with which they have

The ISMICS 2010 Annual Meeting promises to be one of the scientific highlights of the year for anyone with an interest in minimally invasive cardiothoracic surgery. The four day program will cover the latest in cardiac and thoracic surgery, featuring postgraduate courses, podium presentations, poster competitions, videos, symposium, and invited guest speakers.

“The ISMICS Annual Meeting is the best opportunity to meet, and hear from, the most progressive physicians in our field,” said Francesco Maisano, MD, one of the co-chairs of Scientific Program Committee. “The Insider is your guide to all of the events, sessions, and courses being offered at this year’s meeting in Berlin. I urge you to look through this issue and note the sessions you wish to attend. Some of the highlights are listed below.”

On Wednesday evening, following the welcome reception in the Exhibit Hall, the session entitled “Technical Challenges: Pitfalls and Disasters” will be presented (continued on page 12)

Scientific Program Captures Cutting-Edge Techniques and Technologies

(continued on page 13)
Thoracic Endovascular Aortic Repair (TEVAR)

The postgraduate course on Thoracic Endovascular Aortic Repair (TEVAR) will be presented on Wednesday 16 June from 8.00 – 17.00 in the Charlottenburg Room. The course, chaired by Roland Hetzer, MD and co-chaired by Burkhard Zipfel, MD, both from Deutsches Herzzentrum Berlin, will include nine podium presentations and two hands-on sessions.

“Treatment of aortic disease is best handled in cardiothoracic surgery, where decisions between conventional surgery, endovascular repair and hybrid procedures are made without bias,” explained Dr. Hetzer. The course will give an overview of basic endovascular techniques, as well as advanced hybrid and endovascular approaches for complex aortic disease.

The course will cover TEVAR in CT surgery, preoperative planning and imaging, endovascular repair, aortic dissection, hybrid procedures, TAAA repair, and open stent grafting. International leaders in the field have been invited to present the latest technologies and techniques in aortic repair.

In addition, there will be an opportunity for hands-on training with devices and simulators and for procedure planning with current CT reconstruction tools.

Imaging and Surgical Planning

The ISMICS Annual Meeting will also include a postgraduate course entitled “Imaging and Surgical Planning” on Wednesday 16 June from 08.00 – 12.00 in Potsdam III. The course is being chaired by Volkmar Falk, MD from the University of Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland and co-chaired by Anders Persson, MD, Linköpings Universitet, Linköpings, Sweden.

The course will begin with a presentation by Philipp Kaufmann, MD from the University of Zürich on “Functional Imaging for Coronary Artery Disease” and will continue with “Intraoperative 3D-TEE – The Guide to Mitral Valve Repair” by Joerg Ender, MD from the Leipzig Heart Centre.

The morning program continues with an update on “New Frontiers in 3D Echo-Analysis of Mitral and Aortic Valves” given by Pankaj S. Mankad, MD from the Royal Infirmary, London, England, followed by an additional valve presentation “Real-time MRI for Valve Implantation” by Keith Horvath, MD; NIH Heart Centre, Suburban Hospital, Bethesda, Maryland.

The next presentation will discuss the “Technical Steps & Results Transapical” followed by a comprehensive presentation on “Modeling the Heart – From Genes to Cells to the Whole Organ.”

Co-Chair Anders Persson, MD will conclude the course with an insightful look into “The Future of Imaging in Cardiovascular Disease” examining what lies ahead.
Atrial Fibrillation

Joining the list of postgraduate educational opportunities offered during the 2010 ISMICS Annual Meeting is a course on “Atrial Fibrillation” chaired by Mark La Meir, MD from the University Hospital Brussels, Belgium and the University Hospital Maastricht, The Netherlands and co-chaired by Nicolas Doll, MD from Sana Heartsurgery, Stuttgart, Germany. The course will be held on Wednesday 16 June from 13:00 – 17:00 in Potsdam III.

The course is divided into two sessions, beginning with “What You Should Learn from your EP”, moderated by Dr. La Meir, MD. This session will review the current strategies in atrial fibrillation and will begin with “Catheter Ablation in Long Standing Persistent AF: Strategies And Endpoint Relevant to Surgeons” by Claudio Muneretto, MD, continuing with “AF: From Cellular Electrophysiology to Hybrid Strategies for Ablation” by Laurent Pison, MD from the University Hospital Maastricht, The Netherlands.

The session concludes with “Sequential and Hybrid Thoracoscopic Epicardial and Endocardial Atrial Fibrillation Ablation” by Gorav Ailawadi, MD from the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, followed by “Hybrid AF: Back to the Future” by Dr. LaMeir.

After a brief break, the next session, moderated by Dr. Doll, will examine “Bringing AF Surgery to the Next Level.” Included in this discussion will be “Endoscopic Mitral Valve Repair in Combination with Endocardial or Epicardial Ablation - Technical Considerations and Results” by Ralf Krakor, MD from the Heart Hospital Dortmund, Dortmund, Germany to be followed by Dr. Doll’s inquisitive presentation “Do We Have to Prove It, or Just Do It?”

The course will conclude with a review of “Lone AF versus Concomitant AF” by Jerry Braun, MD from the University Medical Center Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands and “Time to Deal with an Old Problem: The Left Atrial Appendage” by Sacha Salzberg, MD from University Hospital Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland.

New Didactic Session on Hybrid Operating Room

The ISMICS 2010 Annual Meeting will include a session on the Hybrid Operating Room, moderated by Francesco Maisano, MD and Herman Reichenspurner, MD on Saturday 19 June from 09.30 – 12.00

The session will begin with a presentation on “Proposal for the Definition of a Hybrid Suite and Position Statement from the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS) and the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)” presented by Francesco Maisano, MD. The program continues with a review of hybrid suites for various procedures. Volkmar Falk, MD will presented “Hybrid Suite for Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation”, followed by “Hybrid Suite for Coronary Interventions.” The session concludes with a presentation by Ernst Weigang, MD, PhD on the “Hybrid Suite for Aortic Interventions” and concludes with “Hybrid Suite for EP” by Niv Ad, MD.

The final presentations of the program focus on visions and examples from industry and include a session from Philips Technology given by Koen Noordermeer from Bothell, Washington and a presentation from Siemens Technology, provided by Georg Nolffert, Forchheim, Germany.
Minimally Invasive Valve Surgery will be the topic of the postgraduate course chaired by W. Randolph Chitwood, Jr., MD from the Brody School of Medicine, Greenville, North Carolina on Wednesday 16 June from 08.00 - 12.00 in Potsdam I.

The course will begin with a Mitral Valve Session and will include a review and discussion of various valve repair techniques. Frank Van Praet, MD will present "Right Mini-thoracotomy MV repairs: "Who Needs daVinci?" followed by "Robotic Mitral Valve Repairs: I prefer daVinci" by Tomislav Mihaljevic, MD. The session continues with Francesco Maisano, MD inquiring "Percutaneous MV Repairs: Are We There Yet?" and "Mitral/Tricuspid Repair: Do Both or the MV Alone?" presented by Juan B. Grau, MD.

The next session will feature Special Topics including "Beating Heart/V Fb Arrest/Cardioplegic Arrest: When to Use During Minimally Invasive Valve Surgery" by Clark Hargrove, MD, "Valves, Rings, and Things: Options for Surgeons in 2010" by Dr. Chitwood, "Pitfalls of Minimally Invasive/Robotic Valve Surgery" by Evelio Rodriguez, MD, and concluding with "Establishing a Minimally Invasive Robotic Cardiac Surgery Program" by L. Wiley Nifong, MD.

The final session will focus on Aortic Valves and will include presentations on "Minimally Invasive Hemi-Sternotomy Aortic Valve Surgery" by Glenn R. Barnhart, MD, "Revisiting Right Thoracotomy for Aortic Valve Surgery" by Jurg Grunenfelder, MD, "Aortic Valve Replacement: Debride and Deploy" by Martin T.R. Grapow, MD, "Transcatheter Aortic Valve Surgery (Transapical Approach)" by Thomas Walther, MD and "Transcatheter Aortic Valve Surgery (Transarterial Approach)" by Francesco Maisano, MD.

On Wednesday 16 June from 13.00 – 17.00, Thomas Walther, MD from the University of Leipzig Heart Centre, Leipzig, Germany and Greg Fontana, MD from Cedars Sinai, Los Angeles, California will co-chair the postgraduate course on Transcatheter Valves in Potsdam I.

The course will begin with a review of "Techniques – How to Do It" and will include presentations on "Hemodynamics of Valve Function" by Muralidhar Padala, MD, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia and "Transfemoral / Transapical AVI" by Todd Dewey, MD; Medical City Dallas Hospital, Dallas, Texas.

The next section of the course will focus on "Near Misses and Failures – How to Bail Out" during which Axel Linke, MD from the University of Leipzig, Germany will talk about "Transfemoral AVI." The next presentation will discuss "Transapical AVI."

The course will conclude with presentations on "New Devices – Development – Perspectives" and includes "US Perspectives and TF Development Pipeline" by Greg Fontana, MD from Cedars Sinai, Los Angeles, California and "Transapical AVI, Imaging" by Thomas Walther, MD from the University of Leipzig Heart Centre, Leipzig, Germany.

**POSTGRADUATE COURSE**

**W. Randolph Chitwood, Jr., MD, Chair**

**MINIMALLY INVASIVE VALVE SURGERY**

**POSTGRADUATE COURSE**

**Thomas Walther, MD, Chair**

**Gregory P. Fontana, MD, Co-Chair**

**TRANSCATHETER VALVES**

**Thomas Walther, MD**

**Gregory P. Fontana, MD**
ISMICS 2010 7th Consensus Conference:
Mini-Mitral Valve Repair or Replacement (MVR) vs. Conventional MVR: A Systematic Review &
Meta-Analysis of Controlled Trials

An international panel of experts in the field met to review the current evidence, research, questions, and meta-analysis available on mini-mitral valves. Led by Prof. Volkmar Falk, Chair, the panelists convened at the Eden au Lac Hotel in Zurich, Switzerland from 15 to 17 May 2010. The goal of the conference was to assess whether mini-mitral valve replacement or repair (MVR) improves postoperative complications and provides comparable or improved long term clinical outcomes, quality of life, and cost-effectiveness compared with conventional open MVR.

The conference began with a working dinner for all panel members to initiate discussions regarding the preliminary protocol and the questions to be answered, as well as to review all conference materials. Over the two days, the panel met as a group and, when necessary, broke into working groups to assess questions, addresses any organizational issues, and to make recommendations. The final process included a review of the level of evidence supporting statements and the final draft before the panel endorsed the final expert consensus statement. The formal report of the Consensus Panel will be presented by Drs. Volkmar Falk and Davy Cheng on Friday 18 June at 10.00 and will be published in an upcoming issue of INNOVATIONS.

The Eden au Lac Hotel in Zurich, Switzerland hosted the 2010 ISMICS Consensus Conference.

Previous Consensus Statements
2009 Atrial Fibrillation
2008 Stentless versus Stent Aortic Valve
2007 Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery in Lung Cancer Resection: Is VATS Lobectomy Advancing Patient Care
2006 Transmyocardial Revascularization
2005 Endoscopic Vascular Harvesting
2004 Off-Pump Surgery

ISMICS Announces 2010 WINTER WORKSHOP to be held in Argentina

ISMICS is pleased to announce that the 2010 Winter Workshop will be in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 13 – 16 October. This year, ISMICS has partnered with the Colegio Argentino de Cirujanos Cardiovasculares (CACCV) for their Argentine Bicentenary Congress which also celebrates 200 years since the Argentine independence.

This special partnership of the ISMICS Winter Workshop and Argentine Bicentenary Congress in addition to the ISES (International Societies of Endovascular Specialists) will include didactic presentations, discussions of innovations and controversies in cardiovascular surgery and live transmissions of surgery cases.

Please join us for the first Winter Workshop in Latin America.
I am delighted to welcome you to Berlin and the 2010 ISMICS Annual Scientific Meeting. I have had the privilege of serving ISMICS since 2000, and it has been a real pleasure to work with the ISMICS leadership, past and present, as the organization has grown and the meeting and societal initiatives have expanded. This year the Annual Scientific Meeting is offering two tracks, one focused on Cardiac and one on Thoracic, in an expanded format. We have almost 40 industry partners supporting this year’s meeting through sponsorship, presence in our Exhibition Halls, luncheon and dinner symposia, and support of our Hands-On training courses. As always, ISMICS values its industry partners and their willingness to bring the latest technological advances to the ISMICS audience of early adopters of new technologies. I encourage all attendees to take the time to visit our exhibitors and to attend the educational symposia being offered at this year’s meeting.

Attendees and their guests have the opportunity to participate in two Exhibit Hall Receptions, our Welcome Reception on Wednesday evening and the General Reception on Thursday. A can’t miss event will be the Friday evening Attendee Reception at the Meilenwerk, a vintage car lover’s dream, where folks will not only enjoy beautiful cars and excellent food and drink, but entertainment provided by an ISMICS-inspired band led by Dr. Volkmann Falk.

Thanks to this year’s Scientific Program Committee, led by Co-Chairs Francesco Maisano, Wiley Nifong and Walter Weder. Their efforts have been tireless, and the pre-registration figures are a testament to the strength of this year’s programming. Thanks also to the Postgraduate Course Directors who have organized a variety of courses for our PG Day on Wednesday. Finally, Dr. Francis Ferdinand has again organized a wonderful International Residents and Fellows Program, which will be held on Thursday. This has become another strong tradition for ISMICS.

ISMICS has had other significant milestones over the past year, including a renewed journal under the Editorship of Dr. Ralph Damiano. Dr. Damiano and Managing Editor Carol Blasberg have done a superb job with INNOVATIONS, including timely publication and quick turnaround on manuscripts so that submitters can have their work published within a very short time span. All presenters at this year’s meeting are requested to submit their work to INNOVATIONS for publication in upcoming issues. Both Dr. Damiano and Carol Blasberg will be available to you this week with questions regarding INNOVATIONS.

ISMICS also held its seventh Expert Panel Consensus Conference last month in Zurich. This year’s Expert Panel examined Mini-Mitral Valves, and the conference report will be presented by Panel Chair Dr. Volkmann Falk and Biostatistician Dr. Davy Cheng on Friday. Each Expert Panel has produced a strong meta analysis and white paper, and once again this year’s panel gave their time and expertise to review a very important topic.

Finally, the ISMICS Winter Workshop continues to be a wonderful addition to ISMICS programming, and thanks are due to Dr. Naresh Trehan and his team from Medicity, who put on an outstanding event.

(continued on page 15)
The ISMICS International Fellows Session was initiated at the 10th Anniversary Meeting in Rome (2007) with the following rationale:

**AIM:**
To facilitate the international gathering of cardiothoracic trainees for the purpose of education in new technologies & techniques, collaboration, and camaraderie for the surgical innovators of the future.

**BACKGROUND:**
There are not fully developed conferences specifically targeted to trainees in most countries/regions. In addition, most training programs are not early adopters of new technologies & techniques, yielding a resultant (wide) gap in the education and training of future surgeons. ISMICS is the perfect vehicle to lead change and fill this role.

**GOALS:**
- Organize a “Fellows Conference” to be an integral part of the ISMICS Meeting & Society
- Form a truly international organization of Residents/Trainees/Fellows in Cardiothoracic Surgery
- To seed/start “Cardiothoracic Fellows” organizations where they do not exist
- Increase membership in ISMICS
- Increase abstract submissions to ISMICS and publications to Innovations
- Get innovation into training programs
- Build lifelong collaborations and friendships

For the ISMICS 2010 meeting in Berlin we have an exciting Session of interest to all Residents/Fellows and young surgeons in the early stages of their careers.

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**SESSION AGENDA**

**Francis D. Ferdinand**  
Session Director & ISMICS Treasurer

**Initiating an International Exchange Program: Jumping Hurdles and Winning: One Year Later**  
Jens Brickwiedel, MD, Assistenzarzt  
Department of Cardiovascular Surgery, University Heart Center Hamburg

**Updates on JAYCS Activities and Idiosyncrasies of Japanese Cardiac Surgery**  
Mitsuhito Kawata, MD, JAYCS Member  
Department of Cardiovascular Surgery  
Saitama Medical University, Saitama Medical Center

**Training Abroad: How, When and What to Expect**  
Gianluigi Bisleri, MD, Attending Surgeon & Assistant Professor of Surgery  
Division of Cardiac Surgery, University of Brescia Medical School

**Proposal of International Network System for Young Cardiac Surgeons**  
Hiroyuki Tsukui, MD, JAYCS Member  
Department of Cardiovascular Surgery  
Saitama Medical University, Saitama Medical Center

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**国际实习生会议**

**Thursday 16 June 2010**

08.30 – 09.30 Cardiac Session 8: New and Emerging Technologies  
Potsdam I

10.00 – 10.30 Cardiac Session 5: Arrhythmia  
Potsdam I

10.15 – 10.45 Postgraduate Course: Imaging of Minimally Invasive Valve Surgery  
Potsdam I

11.00 – 11.30 Luncheon Symposium  
Potsdam I

11.30 – 13.00 Luncheon Symposium  
Potsdam I

11.30 – 12.00 Hands-On: Coffee Break in the Exhibit Hall  
Potsdam I

12.00 – 14.00 Technical Challenges: Pitfalls and Disasters  
Potsdam I

14.30 – 15.00 Cardiac Session 6: Revascularization  
Potsdam I

15.00 – 16.00 Cardiac Session 4: Aorta  
Potsdam I

16.00 – 17.00 Exhibit Hall Reception  
Pavillon

16.00 – 17.30 Poster Competition First Round  
Pavillon

17.30 – 19.30 Evening Symposium  
Pavillon

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**SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE**

**TUESDAY 15 JUNE**

15.00 – 18.00 Attendee Registration  
Lobby

15.00 – 18.00 Speaker Ready Room  
Potsdam IV

**WEDNESDAY 16 JUNE**

08.00 – 17.00 Postgraduate Course: TEVAR  
Charlottenburg

08.00 – 17.00 Postgraduate Course: Imaging & Surgical Guidance  
Potsdam III

13.00 – 17.00 Postgraduate Course: Atrial Fibrillation  
Potsdam III

13.00 – 17.00 Postgraduate Course: Transcatheter Valves  
Potsdam I

17.00 – 19.00 Welcome Reception in Exhibition Hall  
Potsdam II & Foyer

19.00 – 21.00 Technical Challenges: Pitfalls and Disasters  
Potsdam I

**THURSDAY 17 JUNE**

07.00 – 17.00 Attendee Registration  
Potsdam I

07.30 – 16.30 Speaker Ready Room  
Potsdam I

08.30 – 08.15 Opening & Welcoming Remarks  
Potsdam I

08.00 – 14.15 Thoracic Master Classes: Advances in Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery  
Potsdam III

08.15 – 09.25 Cardiac Session 1: Transcatheter Therapies  
Potsdam I

09.25 – 10.10 Coffee Break in Exhibit Hall  
Potsdam I

10.10 – 11.00 Cardiac Session 2: Valve- Minimally Invasive Approaches  
Potsdam I

11.00 – 11.30 Invited Topic: The Future of Imaging in Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery  
Potsdam I

11.30 – 13.00 Luncheon Symposium  
Potsdam I

13.10 – 14.30 Cardiac Session 3: Imaging  
Potsdam I

14.15 – 17.00 Thoracic Master Class: Hands-On  
Potsdam I

14.30 – 15.00 Coffee Break in the Exhibit Hall  
Potsdam I

15.00 – 16.00 Cardiac Session 4: Aorta  
Potsdam I

16.00 – 17.30 Exhibit Hall Reception  
Pavillon

16.00 – 17.30 Poster Competition First Round  
Pavillon

17.30 – 19.30 Evening Symposium  
Pavillon

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**FRIDAY 18 JUNE**

07.00 – 07.15 Attendee Registration  
Potsdam I

07.00 – 17.30 Speaker Ready Room  
Potsdam I

08.00 – 09.15 Cardiac Session 5: Arrhythmia  
Potsdam I

08.00 – 09.15 Thoracic Session 1  
Potsdam I

09.15 – 10.00 Coffee Break in the Exhibit Hall  
Potsdam I

10.00 – 10.30 Consensus Statement – Mini Mitral Valves  
Potsdam I

10.30 – 11.15 Presidential Address  
Potsdam I

11.15 – 12.00 Keynote Speaker – Professor Joachim Schwabbach, PhD  
Potsdam I

12.00 – 13.30 Luncheon Symposium  
Potsdam I

12.00 – 13.30 Luncheon Symposium  
Potsdam I

13.30 – 15.00 Thoracic Session 2  
Potsdam I

15.00 – 15.25 Coffee Break in the Exhibit Hall  
Potsdam I

15.25 – 16.25 Cardiac Session 7: Heart Failure & Assist Devices  
Potsdam I

16.25 – 16.55 Thoracic Session 3  
Potsdam I

16.55 – 17.35 Round  
Potsdam I

18.30 – 20.30 Attendee Reception  
Potsdam I

22.00 – 23.30 The President’s Nightcap  
Park Suite

**SATURDAY 19 JUNE**

07.00 – 11.00 Attendee Registration  
Potsdam I

07.00 – 12.00 Speaker Ready Room  
Potsdam I

08.00 – 08.30 ISMICS Member Business Meeting  
Potsdam I

08.30 – 09.30 Cardiac Session 8: New and Emerging Technologies  
Potsdam I

09.30 – 12.00 Hybrid Operating Room  
Potsdam I

12.00 Adjourn

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MEALS & BREAKS
The Scientific Sessions have scheduled mid-morning or mid-afternoon breaks. Continuous beverage service is available in the Exhibition Hall during the hours the Hall is open. Continental breakfast is available in the Exhibition Halls on Thursday and Friday mornings. Separate continental breakfast and breaks are provided on Wednesday to Postgraduate Course attendees (registrants only please). Lunch will also be available at the various industry supported symposium Thursday and Friday. One Symposia dinner will be held on Thursday.

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As an international society, we have the responsibility to develop innovations in such a way that patients all over the world can benefit from them and not just a small segment of the wealthy.

Medical advancement is, now more than ever, influenced by our economic possibilities. As an international society, we have the responsibility to develop innovations in such a way that patients all over the world can benefit from them and not just a small segment of the wealthy. In this year’s Keynote Address, Professor Schwalbach from the Institute of Management at Humboldt University in Berlin will deliver an interesting presentation regarding economic sustainability. I am certain that this presentation will provide a new insight for all audience members.

The future of catheter-supported cardiac-surgery procedures will impact both the fields of cardiac surgery and cardiology. On Saturday morning, we are devoting several hours to discussing the design and equipping of hybrid operating rooms and the possibilities of hybrid operations with our partners from cardiology and the medical industry.

So, dear colleagues, welcome to Berlin and I hope you enjoy the scientific program and this wonderful city.
Scientific Program (continued from page one)

from 19.00 – 21.00. The session, chaired by Valavanur A. Subramanian, MD from Lenox Hill Hospital in New York and co-chaired by Alex Zapolski, MD from Valley Hospital in Ridgewood, New Jersey, will focus on the complications, challenges, and problems we face. Presentations include problems during a transcatheter aortic valve replacement, strategies for severe AS with biventricular failure, complication in a patient with H1N1, mortality following bilobectomy, and vena cavaI syndrome. In addition, authors will discuss mortality after elective aortic root replacement, technical bloopers, treatment of Marfan patient with severe aortic dissection and severe mitral regurgitation, an elderly patient with two prior cardiac surgeries, and a young patient with active infective aortic valve endocarditis.

“This year’s program includes both a Cardiac Track and a Thoracic Track,” said L. Wiley Nifong, MD, co-chair of the Scientific Program Committee. “The Cardiac Track begins on Wednesday and runs through Saturday morning. The sessions are focused on issues we face during cardiac procedures and in the treatment of our cardiac patients.”

Session One, moderated by Francesco Maisano, MD and Gregory P. Fontana, MD highlights “Valve – Transcatherer Therapies”; Session Two will focus on “Valve-Minimally Invasive Approaches, Technologies & Techniques” and is moderated by W. Randolph Chitwood, Jr., MD and Mattia Glauber, MD; Session Three reviews “Imaging” and is moderated by Randall K. Wolf, MD and Piotr Swiatalski, MD; moderated by Ernest Weigang, MD and Joseph Bavaria, MD, Session Four highlights “Aorta”; Session Five “Arrhythmia” is moderated by Stefano Benussi, MD, PhD and Niv Ad, MD; Session Six on “Revascularization” is moderated by John D. Puskas, MD and Anthony C. DeOuza, MD; moderated by Jan Gummert, MD and Alan H. Menkis, MD, Session Seven focuses on “Heart Failure & Assist Devices”; and Session Eight, moderated by William E. Cohn, MD and Francois D. Ferdinand, MD, discusses “New and Emerging Technologies.”

“The Thoracic Track being with a Thoracic Master Class, entitled “Advances in Minimally-Invasive Thoracic Surgery”, chaired by Walter Weder, MD,” explained Dr. Nifong. The Master Class includes sessions on “Major Lung Resections: VATS or by Robot?”; “Mediastinum: New Developments”; and “Advances in Various Techniques.” The class concludes with a Hands-on Skill Session, led by Jens C. Ruckert, MD. Thoracic Track Session 1 focuses on VATS and includes six presentations, each followed by discussion, and will be moderated by Walter Weder, MD and Kemp H. Kernstine, MD. The next session of the Thoracic Track, moderated by Dr. Weder and Thomas Schmid, MD, includes eight presentations. The final thoracic session, moderated by Dr. Weder and Todd Demmy, MD includes six separate presentations.

The ISMICS Annual Meeting is the best opportunity to meet, and hear from, the most progressive physicians in our field. It is the meeting where innovation meets science and it provides a unique opportunity to share ideas...

POSTER COMPETITION

The Poster Competition is a peer-review session conducted in two rounds, with semi-finalists competing for the finalist award. The First Round will be held on Thursday 17 June from 16.00 – 17.30 in --- Room. Presentations are divided into topic groups with several groups presenting concurrently. Participants score each presentation. The highest scoring papers will be semi-finalists and will move onto the Final Round, which will be held on Friday 18 June from 16.35 – 17.55.

During the Final Round, authors make their presentations one at a time to the entire audience attending the session. Topic moderators score the semi-finalists to select the Best Moderated Poster.

Round 1
Chief Moderator:
Rex De Lisle Stanbridge, MD

Topic Moderators:
Arrhythmia Surgery
James L. Cox, MD

Innovative Biosurgery
Alan H. Menkis, MD

Valve Mitrail Minimally Invasive
Lishan Akgog, MD

Perfusion and Related Topics
Gerhard Wimmer-Greinecker, MD

Revascularization Procdure
Vassilios Guleimos, MD

Transcatherer Therapies
Wiley L. Nifong, MD

Francesco Maisano, MD

Walter Weder, MD

Thoracic Surgery
Jens C. Ruckert, MD

Image Guided and Other Minimal Surgery
TBD

Aortic Valve and Transcathether Therapies
Anson Cheung, MD

Assorted
Alexander Marmureanu, MD

Final Round
Moderators:
Rex De Lisle Stanbridge, MD

John L. Knight, MD

Robert W. Emery, MD

Francis D. Ferdinand, MD

The Future of Imaging in Minimally-Invasive Cardiac Surgery
Anders Persson, MD, PhD

Center for Medical Image Science and Visualization
Linköpings Universitet

Linköping, Sweden

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DON'T MISS on
Thursday 18 June, 11.00 - 11.30

The ISMICS Annual Meeting is the best opportunity to meet, and hear from, the most progressive physicians in our field. It is the meeting where innovation meets science and it provides a unique opportunity to share ideas...

"ISMICS members are a group of innovative surgeons who pave the way for future cardiovascular interventions. If you want a glimpse into the future, I urge you to join the society and participate in every annual meeting," concluded Dr. Maisano. "The annual meeting scientific program is probably one of the best ever. It was also very easy to develop, since the quality of the abstracts was astonishing and covered most unexplored fields of cardiovascular disease.”
LATE BREAKING NEWS

Thursday 17 June 13.00-13.30

This session provides attendees the chance to hear the latest in trial results, new products or other key breaking information from our industry partners. This session is not part of the official ISMICS scientific program.

Welcome Reception - Wednesday 16 June 17:00 – 19:00

Please join your friends and colleagues at the ISMICS 2010 Welcome Reception in the exhibition halls to kick off a spectacular conference ahead.

Exhibit Hall Reception - Thursday 17 June 16.00 – 17:30

Located in the exhibition halls, all industry personnel and attendees welcome.

Attendee Reception - Friday 18 June 18:30 – 20:30

Meilenwerk Berlin

For those who have a passion for cars, the 2010 Attendee Reception at the Meilenwerk should not be missed. This year’s reception venue holds an impressive range of automobiles, from rare vintage models to powerful sports cars and all prime examples of automotive excellence. We look forward to seeing you join us at this unique event location on Friday evening during ISMICS 2010 in Berlin. http://www.meilenwerk.de/
program in Delhi in December. Plans are already underway for the 2010 Winter Workshop, which will be held in Buenos Aires in October, in conjunction with the Colegio Argentino de Cirujanos Cardiovasculares (CACCV).

It has been my honor to work closely with the surgeons who have served as ISMICS Presidents since the society was founded. I thank Dr. Emery for his vision and continued support of ISMICS over a decade after its creation, including his advocacy for the Leadership Fund, Dr. Natal for early leadership and his efforts to expand ISMICS presence in Europe, Dr. Mack for his early work on scientific programming and bringing greater organization to ISMICS governance structure (as well as his advice on good wine), Dr. Reichenspurner for his many years of service to ISMICS on the Board, as President, and as outstanding Local host for the Munich Meeting, Dr. Chitwood for his strong governance of the Society (including on-time Board meetings), his early work with the journal, and his continued staunch support of ISMICS through his extremely well-attended PG Courses, Dr. Subramanian for so many years of tireless efforts on behalf of the society including serving as Local Host in New York, the consolidation of multiple meetings into ISMICS, and now the organization of his incredibly popular Technical Challenges Sessions, Dr. Trehan for his work on Expert Consensus Panels as well as coordination of two amazing Winter Workshops in India, Dr. Wolf for his innovation in programming including expansion into nanotechnology, service on two Expert Consensus Panels, and early stewardship of the journal, Dr. Fonger for his work to strengthen the ISMICS Development efforts and reach out to international industry partners who remain an important part of ISMICS today, Dr. Stanbridge for his outreach with the Thoracic community, his Expert Panel work and service as Local Host for the London meeting, and for his continued oversight of the Poster Competition (not sure anyone else could do it), and to Dr. Puskas for ensuring that the journal would not only survive but become an impressive platform for ISMICS and innovative publishing, his Expert Panel service, and for always making sure that ISMICS would continue to expand its role as the leading society for innovation and advancement of minimally invasive cardiothoracic surgery. Finally, thanks to 2010 ISMICS President, Dr. Anno Diegeler, who took particular efforts to have continual communications with the ISMICS membership, who has also served on two Expert Panels, and who made a dramatic outreach to European, particularly Eastern European, nations this year which has resulted in an incredibly strong and diverse attendance at this year’s meeting. Each of the surgeons named above is a true gentleman and a key reason behind the strength of ISMICS today.

Finally, I thank the current Officers and Board of ISMICS, particularly Secretary Paul Grundeman, for his continued support of me and the rest of the ISMICS Team. We have several team members here at this year’s meeting including EJ Weldon, Crystal Beatrice, Stan Alger, Yvonne Grunebaum, and Elizabeth Chouinard. I hope you have the opportunity to meet each of them during the next few days.

It is a great honor for me to serve ISMICS as your Executive Director, and help the Society grow over the past decade. I hope that you have a wonderful time here in Berlin.
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