
LETTER FROM ECCMID

8th European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases Lausanne, Switzerland, May 25-28, 1997

On behalf of the committees of the 8th ECCMID, I would like to invite you to join us in making the May '97 gathering in Lausanne a great success, a goal we feel will be realised by the combination of an outstanding scientific programme and the late-May dates of the Congress, a time of year when both the climate and the scenery should be at their best.

The preliminary scientific programme we have planned thus far will include the best scientists in the various fields. This will be possible because the 8th ECCMID will be the major congress of its kind in Europe in '97. The programme will begin in the morning with two simultaneous State-of-the-Art lectures, followed by parallel symposia. From 12.30 to 15.00 hours, the time will be devoted to the posters and the industrial exhibition. We have made a special effort to offer all participants a dynamic platform for exchange. This is underscored by a new type of session entitled "Meet-the-Speakers Sessions" which will take place after each symposium. These informal sessions will be scheduled during lunch and tea time. Thus, the programme will be smooth and relaxed, giving ample opportunities for meeting colleagues and engaging in interactive discussions.

The Scientific Committee has obtained the support of several national and international societies such as the International Society of Infectious Diseases, the International Immunocompromised Host Society, Infectious Diseases Society of America, the Inter-science Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy Program Committee, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, the European Society of Paediatric Infectious Diseases and the European Society of Intensive Care Medicine. Joint symposia have already been organised with them or are being planned.

Moreover, the European study groups and working parties of ESCMID have prepared special symposia presenting the most recent advances and discussing the major issues in their respective fields.

Accreditation for continuing medical education is being sought in countries where applicable. In the United Kingdom, the Royal Colleges have agreed to an allocation of 15 hours, for full attendance. In Belgium, the Ministry of Health has accepted an accreditation of 150 points of Continuous Education. In the United States, the approval of the American Medical Association (AMA PRA Category 1 credits) is expected within the next few weeks.

In order to make your stay on the beautiful Swiss Riviera as pleasant as possible from the outset, a welcome desk will be set up at Geneva Airport on Sunday, May 25, and special transfers to the Lausanne Congress Centre will be organized. Throughout the entire Congress, a free-of-charge, personalised transportation system will take participants from their hotels to the Congress Centre and back. An exciting social and artistic programme will begin with the Opening Ceremony, presenting the "Fête des Vignerons", a major local event celebrating the vine, which has been held four times each century since the Middle Ages. The Opening Ceremony will be followed by a reception with free buffet and drinks as well as dancing. In the following days, the participants will have a choice between a free concert at the Lausanne Cathedral or a performance of the Béjart Ballet.

Thus, we believe that, not only the scientific programme, but also the social and artistic events, will be of the highest quality and originality.

We, therefore, invite all scientists from Europe and abroad, who are active in the field of clinical microbiology and infectious diseases, to join us in Lausanne from May 25 to May 28, and to submit abstracts.

We are all looking forward to seeing you in Lausanne.

Michel P. Glauser and the Organizing Committee