

22–25 September 2002, Sydney, Australia

Welcome from the President

It is hard to believe that more than one year has already elapsed since the terrible tragedy of September 11 in New York and Washington which destroyed thousands of innocent lives in the most brutal and merciless terrorist act we all have witnessed. It has also been one year since OARSI held its 2001 World Congress in Washington amidst the sorrow and disbelief of the immediate period which followed the cruel terrorist attack. However, as I expressed during the opening ceremony of the Washington Congress, terrorist acts will not deter the progress of science and will not swerve the determination of the scientific community for the pursuit of new knowledge. The 2002 OsteoArthritis Research Society International World Congress is clear evidence that this is indeed the case. There has been remarkable progress in the broad spectrum of interest to members of our Society and these developments will be presented at the 2002 Congress in the venue of this wonderful city of Sydney. The outstanding scientific program very ably put together by the Scientific Program Committee, co-chaired by Peter Ghosh and Stefan Gay, will undoubtedly be an extraordinary success. We all should be grateful to Drs Ghosh and Gay and to all members of the Committee for the enormous effort they have devoted to the organization of this program. As you all will appreciate during the next few days, the program contains state-of-the-art lectures given by prominent members of the scientific community, scientific symposia and a large number of podium and poster presentations of the latest advances in osteoarthritis, cartilage research, and related clinical aspects. This outstanding program is clear evidence that our Society continues to be a thriving and vibrant one. It is with great pleasure that I welcome all participants to what will undoubtedly be another extraordinary World Congress of our Society. Welcome to Sydney and I am sure you will enjoy and benefit from the scientific program of this Congress.

Sergio A. Jimenez, MD

President