

The 4th Black Forest Forum for Musculoskeletal Interactions

Foreword

We owe this issue to Webster S.S. Jee who persistently reminded the lecturers of the 4th Black Forest Forum to provide extended abstracts of their presentations for part of this issue of JMNI. The Black Forest Forum for Musculoskeletal Interactions was held in Bad Liebenzell, Germany, May 10-13, 2007. More than 30 researchers from a variety of disciplines contributed to this meeting. A long time for discussions is an essential feature of this meeting. Although the abstracts cannot reproduce the inestimable discussions, they give an excellent overview over the wide range of research in this field.

The meeting started with two sessions on Basics chaired by Allen Goodship and Jürg Gasser where an emphasis was placed on modulation of the mechanostat and its consequence for diagnosis and therapy. Järvinen, Gasser, Goodship, Skerry, Jee, Felsenberg, Fuchs, Itabashi, Maldonado and Okamoto presented lectures.

In the Muscle and Bone session, chaired by Professor Ling Qin, talks about environmental factors influencing the relationship between muscle and bone were presented by Firth, Ling, Talla and Thomsen.

The two Clinical sessions were chaired by Dieter Felsenberg and Pierre Braillon with lectures from Ferretti, Runge, Laskey, Specker, Braillon, Qin, Fricke, Winwood, Ferretti and Binkley.

A special session was addressed to the new field of Mechanography. Jörn Rittweger chaired with contributions from Runge, Rawer, Schönau, Rittweger and Schiessl.

Johannes Roth and Frank Rauch chaired the Paediatric sessions with lectures from Schönau, Söderpalm, Roth, Högler, Crabtree, Rauch and Ward.

The concentrated amount of new information in three-and-a-half days made this meeting again an arduous but also inspiring experience. Please note that in 2008 the meeting will join the 6th International Workshop for Musculoskeletal and Neuronal Interactions from May 8-11 in the Kardinal Schulte Haus, Bergisch Gladbach (near Cologne). Information can be found under the ISMNI homepage www.ismni.org.

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