

## Incoming Presidential Address



*Professor T. Lerut, President*

Dear Colleagues,

I am highly honored to have been chosen to become the President of the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus at the occasion of the 8th ISDE World Congress in Sao Paolo last September.

This meeting, the first ISDE World Congress in the new millennium, organized by Professor Henrique Walter Pinotti was truly a great success that will be remembered as an important landmark in the history of our Society. During this meeting a total of 591 papers from 33 different countries were presented, reflecting the attractiveness of ISDE. But above all, the meeting was unanimously perceived as a very high quality meeting during which many groups presented the results of their latest research. The many symposia and sessions were largely attended with numerous interesting and lively discussions.

The combination of high quality research and the flavor of the Brazilian Samba (who will forget the image of Professor Pinotti dancing with the Samba girls!) made the 8th World Congress a memorable event.

This meeting is also proof that the ISDE has reached, less than 25 years after its foundation by Professor Nakayama, its full maturity and is ready to stand the test of time and to face the challenges of the rapidly evolving world of medicine.

The assets to focus these new challenges are anchored in the ISDE charter, more specifically in Article 2, Section 1.

"The Objectives of this society are:

- 1 By means of achievements in the fields of research and therapy of diseases of the esophagus, to contribute internationally toward the interchange of scientific and medical knowledge.

- 2 To maintain active contact with organizations interested in esophageal and related diseases.
- 3 To encourage and support cooperative research.
- 4 To encourage, assist and arrange for clinicians and scientists with an interest in esophageal diseases to visit centers for teaching, lectures, study and research."

This section simply reflects the visionary wisdom of the founder fathers who already realized the importance of the exchange of scientific and medical knowledge, today referred to as multidisciplinary.

The impact of globalization in medicine, the introduction of new technologies, new diagnostic tools, new drugs, the explosive developments in genetics and molecular biology are increasingly influencing our daily practice.

The need for a multidisciplinary approach for virtually every pathologic condition has become a cliché. The boundaries between different disciplines are fading in favor of the creation of teams joining forces to work out guidelines, protocols, trials ... Multidisciplinary created Esophagology.

During the nineties, the ISDE leadership began to realize the increasing need to reach out towards other specialties dealing with esophagology.

My charismatic predecessor Professor Tom DeMeester took the lead in launching the idea to integrate other subspecialties, in particular gastroenterologists, into ISDE.

As a result an ad hoc Committee is now preparing a proposal to adapt our constitution to this philosophy. Such an integration of subspecialties, without losing the ISDE identity, may only improve cross-fertilization and the quality of science.

*This address is continued overleaf*

# isde NEWS

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**The International Society for  
Diseases of the Esophagus**

#### SECRETARIAT

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## EASY & FAST CONNECTION

We now have a homepage.  
Send your email address to:

[isde@home.email.ne.jp](mailto:isde@home.email.ne.jp)  
<http://www.isde.net/>

to get all the latest ISDE news

*Presidential address continued*

Along the same philosophy it was felt that esophagologists from all over the world should come together under one single roof. In this respect talks will start with OESO (Organisation Internationale d'Etudes Statistiques pour les Maladies de l'Oesophage) leadership to investigate the possibilities of cooperation and integration. At this point the ISDE and OESO are linked on the basis of a voluntary association by which the statistical services of OESO are available to members of ISDE (Bylaws Article 3 Footnote). It is hoped that this voluntary association may become a formal association that would undoubtedly benefit everyone interested in esophagology.

In any case, the ad hoc Committee that is drafting the new constitution will continue its activities in order to submit its proposal to the Executive Committee and subsequently to the Council and General Assembly within the coming months. The main purpose is to attract especially young investigators from all over the world into a modern and dynamic ISDE.

In this respect I would like to commend the Secretary General, Professor Watanabe, and his staff for their important efforts to modernize the ISDE administration including the realization of the website ([www.isde.net](http://www.isde.net)), which allows all members to remain updated and to have easy access to the secretariat.

With such a dynamic group and with the help of the immediate Past President Professor DeMeester, the President Elect Professor Duranceau and all other officers I am confident that we will succeed in fulfilling our mission.

## Executive Committee Members

### *8th Triennial Term: 7 September 2001–2004*

President:	T. Lerut (Belgium)
Vice-President:	A. Duranceau (Canada)
Immediate Past President:	T. R. DeMeester (USA)
Federation Chairperson:	
Far East Asia:	M. Imamura (Japan)
Continental Asia:	J. Wang (Hong Kong)
North America:	M. K. Ferguson (USA)
South America:	I. Cecconello (Brazil)
West Europe:	A. H. Hoelscher (Germany)
East Europe:	P. O. Horvath (Hungary)
Africa:	H. VanDer Walt (South Africa)
Secretary General:	H. Watanabe (Japan)
Treasurer:	H. Ide (Japan)
Congress Chairperson:	E. Moreno-Gonzalez (Spain)
Editor-in-Chief of Journal:	J. R. Siewert (Germany)
Editor-in-Chief of Newsletter:	N. Ando (Japan)
Immediate Past Congress Chairperson:	H. W. Pinotti (Brazil)

**IXth ISDE World Congress 2004**

**The IXth World Congress of the ISDE will be held in Madrid, Spain in May 2004.**

# Scholarship Report

*Shigeki Uchida, M.D., Ph.D.*

*Department of Surgery and Surgical Basic Science,  
Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University*

*Host Institute: St Elizabeth's Medical Center, Tufts University*

*Host Scientist: Dr Jeffrey M. Isner and Dr Takayuki Asahara*

I would like to express my great thanks for the support of an ISDE scholarship 2000, which allowed me to study in the USA. I had the opportunity to study in Boston, where I studied research for tumor angiogenesis from February 2000 to March 2001. The laboratory at St Elizabeth's is a leading cardiovascular research laboratory in which angiogenesis has been investigated aggressively and gene therapy has been successfully conducted for ischemic diseases in the clinical department. Research fellows were conducting *in vivo* experiments for vasculogenesis and many original methods to investigate angiogenesis have been established. In the laboratory I conducted tumor angiogenesis research using an esophageal cancer cell line that I brought over from Kyoto University. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Dr Jeffrey M. Isner and Dr Takayuki Asahara for giving me an opportunity to study in Boston.

Boston is one of the main centers for angiogenesis research in the world. I was also able to participate in meetings for angiogenesis held at Harvard University in Boston.

It was the most precious experience

for me. Fortunately I could attend the Angiogenesis and Cancer meeting hosted by the American Association for Cancer Research held in Michigan in autumn at which I heard the latest knowledge about tumor angiogenesis and also enjoyed the autumn foliage in Michigan.

Aside from research into tumor angiogenesis I was also given the opportunity to assist in research for heart failure models for gene therapy using mice and rats. These studies have been continued since I returned to Japan and I heard that the experiments are going very successfully.

I enjoyed researching with friends in the laboratory and life with my family in old historic Boston. Unfortunately Boston is one of the most expensive cities in the world to live so I also learned to lead a frugal life!

Finally I appreciate the generous decision to award me this scholarship to study in a cardiovascular research laboratory. I would like to show my great thanks to the Scholarship Committee of ISDE for awarding me the ISDE 2000 scholarship, and to all staff in the cardiovascular research laboratory, St Elizabeth's Medical Center of Boston, for their help and great hospitality during my stay in Boston.

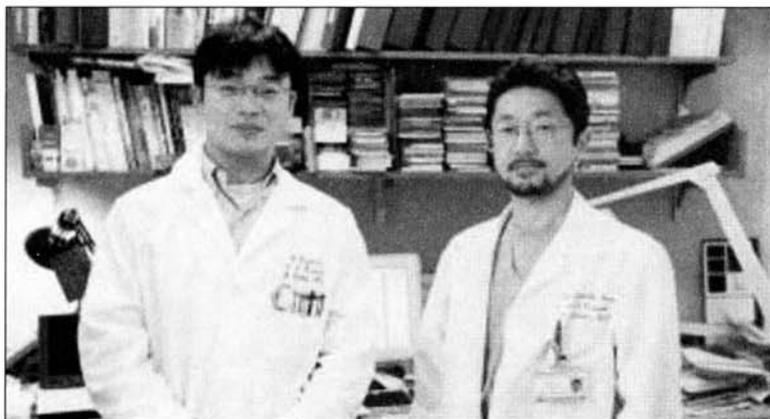
## *The Recipients of the 2002 ISDE Scholarship*



Dr Juan Carlos Meneu-diaz  
"Doce de Octubre" University  
Hospital, Madrid, Spain  
Host Institution (New York  
Hospital, New York, USA)



Dr Roberto R. Taruselli  
Morencio  
Pasteur Hospital and Medical  
School Montevideo, Uruguay  
Host Institution (National  
Cancer Center Hospital  
Tokyo, Japan)



*Dr Uchida (left) and colleague at St Elizabeth's*

# Call for Scholarships

## *2003 ISDE Scholarship*

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### Source of Funds

The Japanese Research Foundation for the Multidisciplinary Treatment of Cancer.

### Purpose

To encourage the transfer of information concerning the diagnosis and treatment of esophageal diseases among specialists in various countries.

### Eligibility

- 1) Applicants must be ISDE members who have fully paid their dues for at least the two years (2001 and 2002) prior to the calendar year in which the Scholarship is to be received.
- 2) Applicants must submit an outline of the research they wish to undertake, and give their reasons for choosing the proposed host institution. The host institution should preferably be one with experienced and qualified staff members who have contributed to the ISDE.
- 3) Applicants must provide evidence of acceptance at the proposed host institution.
- 4) Applicants must attach a letter of recommendation from the chief of his or her department.
- 5) Applicants must be on the staff of a university teaching hospital, research laboratory or similar institution.
- 6) In principle, applicants for the Research Scholarship must be under the age of 45, and must be able to work for a minimum of 3 months at the intended host institution.
- 7) Professors or chiefs of departments are eligible only for short-term grants (Visiting Scholarships).

### Financial Support

Stipends for Research Scholarships will be granted towards the cost of tourist/economy class airfares and accommodations in the host country. No allowance will be given for dependents. In the case of Visiting Scholarships (item 7 above), only the cost of the airfare and not accommodation will be granted. This grant does not necessarily exclude the receipt by the grantee of other stipends to enable him or her to conduct the intended research.

### Maximum Support per award

US\$5 000.

### Total Amount of Support per Annum

Approximately US\$10 000.

### Number of Awards

Two per annum.

### Applications

In 2003, applications (one original and 10 copies with attached photographs—not copies) should be received by the ISDE by 31 December 2002, including proof of acceptance from the intended host institution(s). Notification of awards will be made by 31 March 2002 and the grantee should then finish his or her research by the end of 31 March 2003.

### Limitations

This scholarship will not be awarded for the sole purpose of attending conferences or visiting institutions.

### Other

Applicants for Visiting Scholarships are required to submit the documents outlined in items 2, 3 and 4 above.

### Additional Information and Application forms

Additional information and application forms may be obtained from the Secretariat of the ISDE at the following address:

The International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus  
The Institute of Gastroenterology,  
Tokyo Women's Medical University,  
8-1 Kawada-cho Shinjuku-ku Tokyo 162-8666  
JAPAN  
TEL +81-3-3358-1435  
FAX +81-3-3358-1424  
Email [isde@home.email.ne.jp](mailto:isde@home.email.ne.jp)

### Obligations

The grantee must submit a report of approximately 800 words within 3 months after completion of the scholarship, which will be published in the ISDE Newsletter.

### Addendum

Of the total funds available for any given year, the ISDE reserves the right to provide additional special supplementary grants to recipients with special extenuating circumstances, such as those from economically troubled countries. However, the maximum total amount of such grants is not to exceed \$10 000 per annum.