

Dear members and friends,

The preparations for the 5th ESOT Congress in Maastricht have been completed. Judging from the quality of abstracts that have been received, we can look forward to a first-rate event.

The Proceedings of the 5th Congress will be published in a special supplement to our official journal, *Transplant International*. The publishers have assured us that the special Congress volume will be available in May 1992. We are very pleased with this rapid publication schedule. All Congress attendants will automatically receive the Proceedings.

At the last Council meeting, considerable time was spent discussing the World Health Organization recommendations for organ transplantation [*Lancet* (1991) 337: 1470]. The Council felt that a special statement addressing the transplantation of foreign nationals was called for. The following resolution was passed by the Council:

1. The Council reaffirms its resolve to encourage the development of transplantation facilities throughout Europe. It is particularly anxious to see a significant expansion of transplantation in regions with little activity at present.

2. The Council expresses its concern at the practice of patients from low activity areas transferring to transplant programmes of other countries, as it reduces the impetus to establish local transplantation services.

3. The Council considers it unacceptable for doctors or institutions to charge fees in excess of the recognised registration charge for patients to gain privileged access to transplant services of regional or national waiting lists.

These resolutions are in line with previous official ESOT statements concerning the ethics of organ transplantation.

It is my sincere wish that many of you will participate in what we all expect to be an exciting 5th ESOT Congress.



Gerhard Opelz  
President, ESOT