

PRESIDENTIAL LETTER

Dear fellow plastinators,

First of all I - on behalf of the International Society for Plastination - would like to welcome you here at the Jean Monnet University, Faculty of Medicine Jacques Lisfranc in St. Etienne, in the south of France in between the Alps and the Côte d'Azur.

A young society meets in a young place.

The Jean Monnet University is almost as young as plastination; only nine years before plastination was invented by Dr. Gunther von Hagens in Heidelberg, Germany in 1978 and 25 years before the International Society for Plastination was formally established in Graz, Austria in 1994 this university was founded in 1969.

An international society meets in a place that has given priority to international relations.

The Jean Monnet University, located in the center of the eleventh largest city of France, has earned reputation in this sphere not only by research cooperation but also by educational exchange with the European union, Central Europe, North and South America, and certain African and Asian countries.

Our particular thanks go to Dr. Marc Durand and his staff who - besides his anyway tough schedule - offered to host this conference and to bear all the load, all concerns, all the troubles, all responsibility and to do all the work - many of which is not obvious or even visible to those who never were involved with the organization of such an event - to make our conference as successful as possible.

The success of such a conference, however, is not also but mainly due to the active participation of those present. Thus, I would like to thank you, who followed our invitation to participate in this 10th International Conference on Plastination in Saint Etienne, France from July, 2nd to July 7th, 2000. Especially I would like to thank all of you, who will contribute actively to the success of this conference by giving oral or poster presentations. And I would like to invite you all to contribute to the discussion. Do not hesitate to ask questions and to discuss problems - you are here to get information and solutions and here you can get it from the experts!

Also, I would like to welcome all new members of the ISP. You did an important step by applying for membership in the ISP. You will not only get price reductions on conference, meeting and workshop fees, you will also get information via our ISP-homepage (<http://www.kfunigraz.ac.at/anawww/plast/index.htm>), which is linked to many other sites of interest for plastinators. You can obtain information from members all over the world via our List-server (isp-1@kfunigraz.ac.at) within a few hours. And you get information from the Journal of the International Society for Plastination. Moreover, Gilles Grondin, our editor, and Régis Olry, our vice-president, have prepared an updated version of the Current Plastination Index - the CPI 2000 - where you can find any reference concerning plastination.

And finally I would like to invite you not only to consume our offers but also to participate in our society and to contribute to our field of interest by presentations in future meetings and by submitting articles to our journal.

With the very best wishes for a successful conference!

Yours sincerely,

Andreas H. Weiglein