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Letter from the President

Dear fellow plastinators,

The 11th International Conference on Plastination held in San Juan, Puerto Rico was a new experience. We had very low attendance, obviously due to both organizational and financial problems. However, the exchange of ideas and experience during the workshop and the conference was excellent among the small group of plastinators. Those who undertook the long and expensive trip to San Juan, definitely were compensated by the beauty of the Caribbean island and the hearty hospitality of our hosts.

In order to assure an attractive and affordable environment for future conferences, the newly appointed conference planning committee has started to investigate what are the desirable and tolerable conference fees and the ideal length of the conference for the membership (see minutes of the 8th biennial meeting, page 37 of this issue).

Utilizing the results of this investigation and help of the committee, our host for 2004, Prof. Dr. Rafael Manuel Latorre Reviriego, promises a well organized conference with a moderate cost and thus, hopefully a well attended conference in Murcia, Spain.

After all the transitions of the journal and the treasury within the last years, all areas of the ISP are functioning very well now. The newly elected executive board and the new journal editors have accepted the challenge to dedicate their time and effort to the ISP-members for the next two years. The first results of this devotion can already be observed in this new edition of our journal - inclusion of the minutes of the meetings from St. Etienne and San Juan as well as the updated bylaws.

We have inserted a proposal for further updating of the bylaws which will include clarification and improvement of our nomination and election process that caused some discomfort within the last year.

I personally want to express my gratitude to you for your confidence in our work and to the newly elected and reelected officers for devoting their time for the ISP.

With the kindest regards from Graz, Austria

Andreas H. Weiglein
ISP-President