



Dear colleagues,

St. Wolfgang, October 2006

The **1st Bilateral Thoracic Surgery Congress** was organized in Lückendorf in 1979 by thoracic surgeons from the **German Democratic Republic** and **Hungary**, thanks to an agreement concerning scientific collaboration between those two countries that had been reached in 1977. Colleagues from Czechoslovakia also participated in that congress. The following two congresses were held in Hungary, first in Szombathely in 1980, and then in Siofok in 1981.

Czechoslovakia officially joined the congress in 1983, and in that year the **1st Trilateral Thoracic Surgery Congress** was organized in Prague. The 2nd and the 3rd Trilateral Meetings followed: in Johann-Georgenstadt in 1985 and in Szeged in 1987. In addition to the participants from the three founding countries, a total of 68 foreign guests also took part in the meeting in Szeged, arriving from Poland, Austria, The German Federal Republic, Italy, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The leading authorities of these Trilateral Symposia were Prof. Neef (Halle, Germany), Prof. Řehák (Prague, Czechoslovakia), Prof. Wechsler (Brno, Czechoslovakia), Prof. Keszler (Budapest, Hungary), Prof. Kulka (Budapest, Hungary), Prof. Kiss (Debrecen, Hungary) and many others.

The last of the Trilateral Symposia - the 7th - and the first after the collapse of the "Iron Curtain" - took place in Bad Schandau, Germany, in 1992 (organized by Dr. Baudrexl, Coswig; Prof. Barthel, Jena; Prof. Neef, Halle).

The subsequent meeting was organized as the **1st International Thoracic Surgery Congress** headed by Dr. Kecskés (President) in Szombathely, Hungary, in 1993.

INTERNATIONAL THORACIC SURGERY CONGRESS			
No.	Year	Venue	President(s)
1st	1993	Szombathely, Hungary	Dr. Kecskés
2nd	1994	Brno, Czech Republic	Prof. Wechsler/ Prof. Čapov
3rd	1995	Frankfurt/Oder, Germany	Dr. Morgan
4th	1996	Debrecen, Hungary	Prof. Péterffy/ Prof. Kiss
5th	1997	Bratislava, Slovakia	Prof. Haruštiak
6th	1998	Prague, Czech Republic	Prof. Pafko
7th	1999	Pécs, Hungary	Dr. Molnár/Prof. Horváth
8th	2000	Wrocław, Poland	Prof. Blaszcuk/ Prof. Kolodziej
9th	2002	Coswig, Germany	Dr. Rolle
10th	2004	Kecskemét, Hungary	Dr. Kovács

We like to welcome you to the **11th International Thoracic Surgery Congress** which is organized together with the **23rd Annual Meeting of the Austrian Society of Surgical Oncology**.

For the first time in the history of both these congresses numerous national Thoracic Surgical Societies – from Germany, Austria, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia – will participate under the patronage of the European Society of Thoracic Surgeons (ESTS) and the European Respiratory Society (ERS).

Yours sincerely,

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Vice President

Adelheid End, MD PhD
Congress President