



**EFS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The current executive council was elected in Prague at the 2006 conference and has a four year term.

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**MEMBER SOCIETIES**

• **BELGIUM:** Flemish Society of Sexologie • Institute of Family and Sexuality Studies • Society of Sexologists with University degree in Belgium (SUB) • **BULGARIA:** Sexuality and Health Foundation • **CZECH REPUBLIC:** Sexological Institute • **DENMARK:** Danish association for clinical sexology • **ESTONIA:** Estonian Academic Society of Sexology • **FINLAND:** The Finnish Association for Sexology • **FRANCE:** Association Inter Hospitalo Universitaire de Sexologie (AIHUS) • Association Recherche Sexologique du Sud-Ouest (ARSSO) • Centre International de Formation et de Recherche en Sexualité (CIFRES) • Diplôme Universitaire de Sexologie Médicale de Toulouse • Société Française de Sexologie Clinique (SFSC) • Association des Sexologues Cliniciens Francophones (ASCLiF) • **GEORGIA:** The Society of Georgian Sexologist: Education, Research, Treatment (SGS) • **GERMANY:** Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sozialwissenschaftliche Sexualforschung (DGSS) • **GREECE:** Greek Society of Sexologie • **ISRAEL:** Israel Society for Sex Therapy (ISST) • **ITALY:** Associazione Clinica e Terapia in Sessuologia (ACTS) • Gruppo Ricerca in Sessuologia (School of Clinical Sexology) • Istituto Di Sessuologia Clinica (Institute of Clinical Sexology- ICS) • CERNE • Sexology Italian Center (CIS) • Associazione Italiana Sessuologia Psicologia Applicata (AISP) • Società Piemontese di Sessuologia Clinica • FISS (Istituto Internazionale di Sessuologia) • **NETHERLANDS:** Nederlandse Vereniging voor Seksuologie (NVVS) • WVSD • The Netherlands Institute of Social Sexological Research (NISSO) • **NORWAY:** Norwegian Society For Clinical Sexology (NSCS) • **PORTUGAL:** Sociedade Portuguesa de Sexologia Clínica (SPSC) • **SPAIN:** Asociación Española de Sexología Clínica • **SWEDEN:** Swedish Association for Sexology • Swedish Institute for Sexual Research • **SWITZERLAND:** Fonds Universitaire Maurice Chalumeau • Institut Sexocorporel International • **TURKEY:** Turkey Microbiological Society • **UK:** The British Association for Sexual & Relationship Therapy

**FOR MEMBERSHIP**

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**EDITORIAL**

António PALHA  
EFS President



A transitional period has passed after the Prague election of a new E.C. and we are now resuming our communication by means of this Newsletter, initiated by our former President, Robert Porto. As you know, in their first meeting the new E.C. decided to maintain Robert responsible for sending the EFS communications with its associates as well as with those who are interested in Sexology in Europe and the rest of the world.

The new E.C. is formed by three officers: António Palha, President; Chiara Simonelli, vice-President; Kevan Wylie, Secretary-Treasurer; and members: Mireille Bonierbale (France), Salvatore Caruso (Italy), Moshe Mock (Israel), Ursula Pasini (Switzerland), Birgitta Hulter (Sweden), Alfons Vansteenwegen (Belgium); Osmo Kontula (Finland).

In the first EC meeting, held in Prague after the election, Robert Porto was appointed as an affiliated member until a better understanding of the role of the past president, in accordance with the EFS statutes.

After some months of excessive discussion on the choice of a PCO for the next two EFS congresses, according to the resolution taken in the General Assembly of June 2006 in Prague, you can be sure that the elected officers had a very hard work, producing documents both of analysis and proposal.

Fortunately we have come to a happy end and since December we have a PCO for the Congresses of 2008 and 2010 – the AIM group, of Italian origin, with good experience in organizing congresses as well as professional associations management, which is the case of the well known ESSM.

As president elected I sent a message in the newsletter n° 3, in May 2006, expressing hope in the future of our Federation and asking all members of affiliated societies of sexology all over Europe a strong commitment to their work in the federation, in order to increase our European network, a more frequent collaboration among us, through multilateral projects, and a leader role in education and training in Sexology.

We need to support the official journal of EFS – Sexologies – published in English and French, now in collaboration with the prestigious publisher "Elsevier".

During this period we had the opportunity to have an EC meeting in Vienna which had the active participation of some members of EFS. There the contract with the AIM (PCO) was signed.

There are some tasks given to the members of EC in the Prague meeting that have been presented and evaluated during the EC meeting in Sidney. I would like to stress that all suggestions and projects presented by the member societies of our Federation are welcome and may signify an important contribution for our institutional development in the future.

Last but not least, I appeal to your active collaboration with the organizing committee of the EFS Rome Congress – 13 to 17 April 2008, under the general theme "THERAPY, PREVENTION AND PROMOTION OF SEXUAL WELL BEING" – having in view a great success of EFS. ●

## A PCO for our next congresses

### AIM Congress

The EFS has been involved since Prague in the complex procedure of choosing a PCO for the European Congress of 2008 Rome and 2010 (Athens?). After a long period of analyse of five main proposals, with meeting each of them, it was decided to choose AIM GROUP, an Italian PCO for the next two Congresses.



## Executive committee elected in Prague



Moshe Mock, Osmo Kontula, Robert Porto (Past-President), Ursula Pasini, Salvatore Caruso, Birgitta Hulter, Mireille Bonierbale, Alfons Vansteenwegen, Chiara Simonelli (Vice-President), Antonio Palha (President), Kevan Wylie (General Secretary & Treasurer).

## 9<sup>th</sup> congress of the European Federation of Sexology in Rome

The Conference theme, Therapy, Prevention and Promotion of sexual wellbeing, is a special opportunity to exchange and improve our scientific knowledge on female and male sexuality in a wide frame where the quality of life has to be prominent.

The modern concept of Sexology, as a systematic branch of the science, was first proposed in Europe by Iwan Bloch just 100 years ago and in 1908, Magnus Hirschfeld and later Max Marcuse, edited the first journal in this area with the original contributions of outstanding personalities such as Freud, Adler, Lombroso and Mantegazza.

In the past century a considerable amount of reliable data allowed us to understand the physiology of sexual response and, in the last decade, we have seen a momentous effort to improve our diagnosis and treatment tools. Nevertheless new ideas and models for assessing and treating old and new sexual problems are emerging as well as a collective wisdom on the important role of prevention and promotion of sexual health.

The 9<sup>th</sup> EFS meeting will be an extraordinary occasion for all of us to exchange our opinions from different points of view as the scientific agenda contains a broad range of clinical and experimental topics with a great number

*Associations and laboratories which invite 30 participants have an additional free registration, then one more free registration, by section of 10 additional participants. The same advantage is granted to individuals who gather, starting from 20 participants.*

## Oxford "summer school" on sexual medicine

Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> July - Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> July 2007 / St Catherine's College, Oxford, UK

This two-week residential course will deliver 75 hours of structured teaching, covering a wide range of Sexual Medicine topics, that may be credited towards the requirements for the award of the Fellowship of the European Academy of Sexual Medicine. The Academy is a collaborative venture between the European Society for Sexual Medicine (ESSM) and the European Federation of Sexology (EFS). All interested clinicians are welcome to apply, although the course is primarily intended for physicians seeking the Fellowship qualification. There will be an international teaching faculty and the course will be conducted in the English language. The cost of the course, including meals and accommodation at



Chiara SIMONELLI  
Congress President

of European and international experts in sexology. A qualified programme is combined with the warm and charming city of Rome in Spring: I am sure that your contribution to this event will increase the growth of our scientific community.

It will be a great pleasure to welcome you at the 9<sup>th</sup> Congress of the European Federation of Sexology organized on April 13-17 2008 in Rome. ●

St Catherine's College, will be €2,600.00. Up to 25 scholarship grants are available for 50% and 100% of course fees; the award process is competitive and will be supervised by an independent panel.

**Applications** should be made by e-mail to [summerschool2007@sexualmedicine.org](mailto:summerschool2007@sexualmedicine.org). Please provide details of your full name, title, professional appointments and affiliations, nationality, mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, and a brief CV (to help the course organisers plan group allocations, etc.) Upon receipt of your application, you will be contacted by the Summer School administration, who will liaise with you over accommodation and travel arrangements. You will be responsible ..... *it continues to page 4*

## NEWS

### ● SILDENAFIL DECREASES ABILITY TO SMELL

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) Jan 17 - Higher doses of sildenafil impair olfactory function, which is possibly linked to an impairment in nasal airflow that sildenafil can induce, German researchers report in the January issue of The Journal of Urology.

A team led by Dr. V. Gudziol at the University of Dresden Medical School studied 20 healthy, young male volunteers who received 50 mg, 100 mg and placebo in random order in a double-blind, crossover trial.

Subjects smelled odor-dispensing devices (Sniffin' Sticks). The investigators tested odor detection threshold, odor discrimination and odor identification ability.

They found that the 100 mg dose resulted in a decrease in olfactory function, specifically odor discrimination and odor threshold, compared with placebo. The 50 mg dose had no effect on olfactory function.

Genotyping of the intraoral epithelium was done, but genotype had no effect on olfactory function with sildenafil administration. «In our subjects, the most likely reason for impaired peripheral olfactory function was nasal congestion,» the authors write.

They note that, while it was not evaluated in this study, sildenafil is associated with «a significant decrease in nasal inspiratory peak flow,» and that some genotypes appear to affect nasal airflow response more than others among elderly subjects but not younger individuals.

J Urology 2007;177:258-261.

### ● GENE TRANSFER MAY RELIEVE ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) Dec 11 - In a small pilot study in which gene transfer was used to treat men with moderate-to-severe erectile dysfunction, a sustained patient response was obtained with the two highest doses without dose-related or other adverse effects.

Specifically, transfer of hMaxi-K, a naked plasmid carrying human cDNA encoding for the human slowpoke (hSlo) gene led to increased production of proteins, which relaxes smooth muscle and allows blood flow into the penis, researchers report in the December issue of Human Gene Therapy.

«The results of the phase I trial», lead investigator Dr. Arnold Melman told Reuters Health, «suggest that the technology worked. We have shown that we could give a safe vector, naked DNA, and the hSlo gene and obtain an expected physiological response without transfer-related side effects.»

Dr. Melman of Montefiore Medical Center/Albert Einstein College of Medicine, the Bronx, New York and colleagues studied 11 patients with erectile dysfunction associated with diabetes or cardiovascular disease in about half of the study. The subjects were given a single injection ranging from 500 to 7500 mcg of hMaxi-K into the corpus cavernosum and monitored for 24 weeks.

No serious adverse events were seen and patients given the two highest doses (5000 and 7500 mcg) had sustained improvements in erectile function. One patient at each of these dosing levels reported improvements that were highly clinically significant and were maintained over the whole study period.

The researchers note that the study goal was to establish drug safety and efficacy conclusions can be drawn,

although the results are highly encouraging. The «final proof will be obtained in the larger placebo-controlled trials to follow», Dr. Melman said.

Hum Gene Ther 2006;18:1165-1176.

### ● GENE THERAPY AND ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION: THE CURRENT STATUS

Current available treatment options for erectile dysfunction (ED) are effective but not without failure and/or side effects. Although the development of phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) inhibitors (i.e. sildenafil, tadalafil and vardenafil) has revolutionized the treatment of ED, these oral medications require on-demand access and are not as effective in treating ED related to diabetic, post-prostatectomy and severe veno-occlusive disease states. Improvement in the treatment of ED is dependent on understanding the regulation of human corporal smooth muscle tone and on the identification of relevant molecular

targets. Future ED therapies might consider the application of molecular technologies such as gene therapy. As a potential therapeutic tool, gene therapy might provide an effective and specific means for altering intracavernous pressure "on demand" without affecting resting penile function. However, the safety of gene therapy remains a major hurdle to overcome before being accepted as a mainstream treatment for ED. Gene therapy aims to cure the underlying conditions in ED, including fibrosis. Furthermore, gene therapy might help prolong the efficacy of the PDE5 inhibitors by improving penile nitric oxide bioactivity. It is feasible to apply gene therapy to the penis because of its location and accessibility, low penile circulatory flow in the flaccid state and the presence of endothelial lined (lacunar) spaces. This review provides a brief insight of the current role of gene therapy in the management of ED.

David H. W. Lau, Sashi S. Kommu, Emad J. Siddiqui, Cecil S. Thompson, Robert J. Morgan, Dimitri P. Mikhailidis, Faiz H. Mumtaz (UK)  
Edited by Prof. Jae-Seung Paick

## 10th Congress of the European Society for Sexual Medicine

25 - 28 November 2007 • Lisbon, Portugal

[www.essm.org](http://www.essm.org)



See you in **LISBON 2007**

Editors : Robert Porto, MD  
Mireille Bonierbale, MD  
António Palha, MD

All informations about your societies  
and meetings can be sent to :  
efsnewsletter@gmail.com

EFS web site :  
www.europeansexology.com

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UPCOMING

CONGRESSES

**JUNE 21-23, 2007** WARSAW, POLAND

1<sup>st</sup> EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF THE AGING MALE  
Information & Subscription:  
www.issam.ch  
aging@kenes.com

**JULY 7-11, 2007** MHASA TIBET, CHINA

5<sup>th</sup> CHINA INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON SEXOLOGY  
Information & Subscription:  
www.lugu-lake.com  
www.tibet-china.com

**SEPTEMBER 5-8, 2007** CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, USA

20<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER  
DYSPHORIA

Information & Subscription:  
www.hbgda.org/symposium.htm  
hbgda@umphysicians.umn.edu

**OCTOBER 7-11, 2007** JEJU, KOREA

APSSM 2007 - 11<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL MEETING OF THE ASIA  
PACIFIC SOCIETY FOR SEXUAL MEDICINE

Information & Subscription:  
www.apssm2007.org

**NOV. 23-25, 2007** MARRAKECH, MOROCCO

XI CONGRES MAROCAIN DE SEXOLOGIE  
LE COUPLE ET SES DIFFICULTES SEXUELLES

Information & Subscription:  
www.sexologie-maroc.org  
contact@sexologie-maroc.org

**NOVEMBER 25-28, 2007** LISBON, PORTUGAL

10<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS OF THE ESSM - EUROPEAN SOCIETY  
FOR SEXUAL MEDICINE

Information & Subscription:  
www.essm.org  
essm@cpo-hanser.de

**NOVEMBER 28<sup>th</sup>-DEC. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007** LIMA, PERU

IX CONGRESS OF THE SLAMS - 9<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS OF  
THE LATINAMERICAN SOCIETY FOR SEXUAL AND  
IMPOTENCE RESEARCH

Information & Subscription:  
www.slams2007.org  
info@slamsnet.org

... it continues from page 2... for organising  
your travel to and from Oxford but we  
are happy to provide advice on within-UK  
transfers from major airports. Letters of  
invitation can be provided upon request,  
to facilitate visa applications. A 25%  
deposit will be required to reserve your  
place, with the balance payable no later  
than 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007.

The Syllabus forms a core component of the  
curriculum for the Fellowship programme  
of the European Academy for Sexual  
Medicine. The Summer School programme  
will include most of these topics and the  
entire syllabus will be covered during the  
forthcoming year. ○

For further information, please contact  
summerschool2007@sexualmedicine.org

- 1 Sexual Development
- 2 Psychology and physiology of sexual  
desire, arousal and response
- 3 Impact of gender
- 4 Ageing and sexuality
- 5 Sexual dysfunctions in men and women
- 6 Problematic or deviant sexual  
behaviour
- 7 Gender identity disorders
- 8 Impact of other conditions on sexuality
- 9 Clinical management of sexual  
disorders
- 10 Ethical and legal aspects of sexual  
medicine
- 11 Research methods related to sexual  
medicine
- 12 History of Sexual Medicine

## EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF SEXUAL HEALTH REVUE EUROPEENNE DE SANTE SEXUELLE

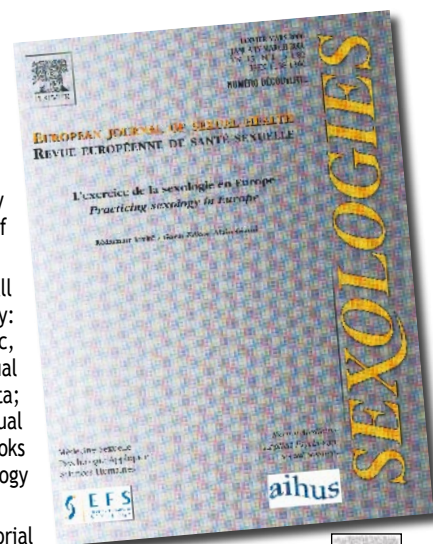
Created in 1992, *Sexologies* publishes quarterly original,  
synthetic articles on human sexuality, its dysfunctions and  
its management.

*Sexologies* is the official organ of the European Federation  
of Sexology (EFS), published with the scientific cooperation  
of the Inter University Hospital Association of Sexology  
(AIHUS) which gathers French academic teachings of  
Sexology since 1983.

*Sexologies* offers a large panel of information to all  
health professionals working in the field of sexuality:  
anatomophysiological and basic research; psychodynamic,  
cognitive, behavioural and relational evaluations of sexual  
difficulties; epidemiological, sociological, forensic data;  
information on new sexoactive molecules; research on sexual  
physiology, reports on specialized congresses; press and books  
reviews; ethical aspects; calendar of major events of sexology  
around the world.

Major international experts in their field joined the editorial  
committee as Field Editors, confirming and enhancing the will  
for scientific excellence of the journal. ●

www.elsevier.com e-mail : sexologies@wanadoo.fr



## The EFS honored in Sydney

During the 1<sup>st</sup> World congress for sexual  
health in Sydney (April 10-15 2007), our  
Past-President Robert Porto has received  
the Gold medal award 2007 from the World  
association for sexual health, for his life  
time achievement and contributions to  
the field of sexology and sexual health.

« I am very happy of this distinction, because  
nothing is more important for a professional  
than to be recognized by its peers, especially on an  
international level, he declared. But I hope that this  
honor flashes back in fact on the EFS within which  
I work for a long time. » The master lecture he has  
delivered at the meeting, "The role of science in  
the current decline of subjectivity", has attracted  
considerable attention and applause.



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