

EDITORIAL

The Next Step: Introducing the First HSF Scientific Session Savudrija Kempinski Adriatic Hotel, Croatia, September 7-9, 2010

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Fifteen years ago, *The Heart Surgery Forum* began a quest to revolutionize academic publishing in cardiothoracic surgery. Beginning with the HSF website (www.hsforum.com), which went live in late 1995, our members and staff have strived to bring the latest ideas in the profession to a worldwide audience. The printed *Heart Surgery Forum* journal expanded these horizons by beginning its publishing life as the official journal of the newly born International Society of Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery in 1997. Interactive discussions between cardiothoracic surgeons have been ongoing for nearly a decade and a half through the OpenHeart-L, the premiere email list for our profession. Thousands of difficult cases have been presented on the OpenHeart-L, with surgeons in more than 150 countries participating in the discussions and problem solving.

It is our pleasure to announce the next step for *The Heart Surgery Forum* . . . our own scientific sessions. Organized by Igor Rudez and located at the Savudrija Kempinski Adriatic Hotel in scenic Croatia, the first HSF scientific session will be informative and unique. Members of the OpenHeart-L will be invited to present their most challenging and unsolvable cases. The attendees will be prompted to give their solutions and discuss the possibilities. Distinguished faculty from

our forum will lead the discussions, including Tom Martin (Gainesville, Florida, USA), Otto Thanning (Cape Town, South Africa), Michael Firstenberg (Columbus, Ohio, USA), Roberto Battellini (Buenos Aires, Argentina), Giuseppe Resigno (Ancona, Italy), Hal Roberts (Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, USA), William Novick (Memphis, Tennessee, USA), and many other distinguished international and local faculty.

The purpose of this meeting is to bring together the talents and minds from the online forum, to meet face-to-face, and to enrich our lives and professions with each others' ideas and knowledge. *The Heart Surgery Forum* encourages everyone who enjoys this journal and the multimedia format for learning that we have developed to join us in Croatia. Please contact us if you have one of those special cases whose difficulty and solution could only be understood by another surgeon. Spread the news to your colleagues that the HSF is moving up to the next step in academic meetings. You will find registration information at www.hsforummeeting.com.

See you in Croatia!

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