

Dear Colleague:

We are writing to provide current information regarding the status of a proposed three-society biorheology-clinical hemorheology-microcirculation conference to be held in Munich, Germany in 2011. We are sorry to report that it will not take place as a jointly-organized conference as originally envisaged.

As you may know, the European Society for Clinical Hemorheology and Microcirculation (ESCHM), the International Society for Biorheology (ISB) and the International Society for Clinical Hemorheology (ISCH) agreed to have a joint three-society conference this year. The agreement was based upon decisions made at the 2008 business meetings of the ISB and ISCH and at the 2009 business meeting of the ESCHM. All societies decided that the ESCHM would select the location and local organizer for the meeting, and that two individuals from each society would form a scientific/program committee. The committee was formed, Munich, Germany was selected for the site, and the dates set as June 18-22, 2011.

Unfortunately, there was a failure to agree on organizational principles. Thus, as of mid-December 2010, calls for abstracts and symposia to various scientific societies, notices in scientific journals, a mutually satisfactory web site and a clear financial structure had not yet been accomplished. Based upon prior experience, officers of both the ISB and ISCH became extremely concerned that the time available before the start of the conference (i.e., mid-June, 2011) was not sufficient to assure success. Officers and council members of both societies were consulted, and it was decided that the ISB and ISCH would withdraw from the Munich meeting. This decision was promptly sent via email to the local organizer and to appropriate leaders of the ESCHM.

The current situation is as follows:

1. The ESCHM and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Klinische Mikrozirkulation und Hämorheologie (DGKMH) will hold a joint meeting in Munich, June 18-22, 2011.
2. The ISB + ISCH will organize a joint meeting in 2012 at a location and time to be determined.

We very much regret this result, inasmuch as a three-society meeting would have been of mutual benefit to all. Each society is capable of making important contributions to such a conference, and the cooperative spirit of such a meeting would certainly have helped promote future collaboration among all participants. Hopefully, such a joint conference will occur in the future.

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