

Joint Meetings – Need for a European Congress?

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Dear Colleagues,

Although a fairly young society, we, as the Turkish Society of Anatomy and Clinical Anatomy were very willing to be a part of the international scientific community. In this context we were first be able to organize the 4th APICA in 2005, in Kuşadası – İzmir. This helped us divert our attention to Europe when almost simultaneously the 10th EACA was decided to be done in Istanbul in 2009. My search for a “joint” meeting with other National Societies began about four years ago. I was a member of the Anatomische Gesellschaft and I knew that they were having joint meetings with Austria, Netherlands or Britain. So our first correspondence began with Professor Friedrich Paulsen and continued with Professor Susan Standring. The extraordinary friendship and support came from Professors José Luis Bueno López and Giovanni Orlandini. I also have to express my special thanks to Professor Beat Riederer and the IFAA executive committee members by Professor Bernard Moxham who all had their parts in realizing this joint meeting.

Furious technological developments, new concepts in medical sciences and sub-branching almost in every discipline also affected Anatomy, Histology and Embryology. In many countries Histology and Embryology parted from the “morphology” departments causing anatomy being perceived as only “macroscopic anatomy” falsely. Indeed anatomists are dealing with all sorts of contemporary scientific fields which also find its meaning in its name changes: molecular and cellular biology, anatomy and cell biology, anatomy and neurobiology, clinical anatomy etc. This diversification caused many of our col-



leagues choose more specific meetings to present their scientific products. Neuroscience meetings became a severe alternative for most of us. National congresses increasingly attract less attention. But this also caused some sort of disturbance among anatomists – estrangement. Anatomists cannot discuss their social and professional problems among their counterparts during those meet-

ings. In my opinion joint meetings are perfect platforms to talk about the global problems anatomists facing. There are many countries that even do not have a society for their professions or their societies could be inactive.

IFAA meetings being done every 4 or 5 years in any part of the world is the only “world congress” anatomists have. ISMS is another perfect platform bringing the morphologists together. APICA is a nice example for a “regional” meeting. I suppose the wide-range interest which attracted about 400 scientists from more than 35 countries (mostly European and Middle Eastern countries) is an indication for a need of another “regional meeting” – revitalization of the “European Anatomy Congress”.

I hope this Joint Meeting of Anatomical Societies would enable a platform to construct new partnerships among departments from different countries, friendships among all of us.

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