

# Collegium Oto-Rhino-Laryngologicum

Amicitiae Sacrum

Founded in 1926

General Secretary:

Prof. René Dauman



Bordeaux, 21 December 2011

Dear Members and Friends from the Collegium,

The choice of **Philippe Lefebvre** to organize the CORLAS meeting in **Bruges** was undoubtedly challenging. Wasn't it surprising to see a representative of the southern Belgium, French-speaking Wallonia, opt for the historical town of late Middle-Age Flemish painters? On the traditional Sunday family tour, wasn't it also audacious to invite members and accompanying persons to circulate on cycles through the dunes along the North Sea coast?

Selecting Bruges was an ideal means to bring together all the members of the **Belgian group**. During the year preceding the conference, especially at some strategic stages of the scientific programme development, as well as in the course of the congress itself, I witnessed the way the members of the Belgian group stuck together in the wake of their President. This feeling of cohesion is highly appreciable for a General Secretary. Mark Jorissen repeatedly demonstrated his skills both as Vice-President and Flemish partner, and his lovely wife Elisabeth was most helpful to Catherine at the accompanying persons' dinner.

The family tour to the **Zwin** was an opportunity to understand the events that changed the destiny of Bruges. As remarkably pictured at the opening ceremony, Bruges was a cultural centre until early XVI century. This was no more the case when the Zwin, an ancient arm of the North Sea, came to be completely silted up by a large sandbank, interrupting access to the harbour, while at the same time a tidal wave was widening the river Schelde, enabling large ships to drop anchor in the harbour of Antwerp. Even though other factors also played a role in the displacement of cultural life from Bruges to Antwerp, what happened to the Zwin is a striking example of how nature can influence humans' life. Paradoxically, a few dozens of kilometres North to the Zwin, about at the same epoch as this river was drying out, inhabitants of the nowadays Holland were already in the need to protect their houses from flooding. Approximately one century later, the mouth of the Schelde was blocked as well, though by a completely different mechanism. Indeed, to subdue the rebellion against Spain the king Philip II decided to occupy Antwerp and close the access to the Flemish harbour, real nerve centre of Southern provinces. As ships were no more able to sail freely from and to Antwerp, the trade moved to Amsterdam, contributing to the rapid economic growth of this city during the XVII century.

The beginning of the cycling ride to **Knokke-Heist** may appear somewhat uncertain on the picture taken by Liang Zhou, with people intending to go in different directions according to their group. However, this moment's hesitation was also an excellent occasion to exchange feelings in a colourful environment (see, e.g., Hans Manni and Stephen O'Leary on the left). During the tour along North Sea coast the clouds above our head decided to retain their water, which was unfortunately not the case on the following days.



In Knokke-Heist we were able to visit an ancient church. Beyond the opportunity to see where inhabitants of Flanders spend moments in silence to pray, the remembrance of lengthy religious

conflicts was still perceivable. In the middle of the picture, Seija and Reidar Grénman, Christa Arnold and Keehyun Park are recognizable.



The conference venue, pictured by Liang Zhou, took place in an ancient hospital (**Oud St-Jan**) that was originally modernized into a congress centre. On the view showing the sunny internal garden of the hospital, the nearby church of our Lady can be seen.

Two events dominated the **opening ceremony** of Monday morning. Marcos Goycoolea received the prestigious **Acta Prize** from the hands of Matti Anniko. Marcos was awarded for his exemplary scientific carrier and research development in his home country, Chile. The second salient happening was an outstanding conference on **Flemish painters** who lived in Bruges. Already in 1604, a historian of art, Carel van Mander used to write “Where rich people live, you find artists.” During the XV century the city of Bruges, and more generally Flanders, was ruled by the dukedom of Burgundy. The duke Philippe wanted to compete with the other European courts and invited poets and painters to work with him. **Jan van Eyck** was one of them. Van Eyck portrayed a rich merchant of Bruges, *Giovanni Arnolfini*, and his *Wife*. Fine analysis of this famous portrait reveals the hand of the spouse

as resting on her abdomen, suggesting she was pregnant. Some art critics hypothesized that the painter was directly involved in this pregnancy. Another masterpiece of van Eyck, coined *The Man with Red Turban*, is likely to be a self-portrait. In this work, van Eyck achieves an oil painting with extraordinary details that no artist had attained so far. Not surprisingly, Jan van Eyck was considered the most gifted painter of the late Middle Age. Similarly to Paul Rubens a few decades later in Antwerp, it is reasonable to consider that van Eyck served as skillful diplomat (to the duke of Burgundy for the latter, to the king of Spain and the king of Great-Britain for the former). According to historians of art, **Hans Memling** was as notorious as Jan van Eyck. Like him he spent a long part of his life in Bruges. Memling was one of the richest individuals of the city. He used to portray fellow citizens and their guests. However, Memling owed his celebrity to religious works, such as the *Christ with the Chorus of Singing Angels*, still visible today in a Spanish church of Castile.

**Board and Business meeting**, according to the tradition, were held on different days, Saturday for the first, Monday for the second. The Board met in Hotel Grand Casselbergh and the facilities provided by Philippe Lefebvre were excellent. István Sziklai, who organized so remarkably the conference in Budapest the year before, started the Board meeting with the transmission of the Presidential Medal to Philippe Lefebvre. Witnesses of this scene were able to feel the transfer of energy that is necessary for a President to carry out such a Corlas meeting. Furthermore, at the end of the congress, István offered to Philippe one of the replicates he initiated, managed and co-financed with the help of Corlas.

During the conference the Board was as follows: Philippe Lefebvre (*President*), Mark Jorissen (*Vice-President*), René Dauman (*General Secretary*), Reidar Grénman (*Treasurer*), Wolfgang Arnold (*Councillor*), Mamoru Suzuki (*Councillor*), Hamlet Suarez (*Councillor*), Matti Anniko (*EditorialSecretary*), and P. Ashley Wackym (*Second Secretary*). In agreement with the Business Meeting in Budapest, Roberto Filipo (next *President-Elect*) was invited as observer. Roberto informed the Board that the *Vice-President-Elect* in Rome will be Edoardo Arslan, the Chairman of the Italian group.

Beside Philippe Lefebvre and Mark Jorissen, all the members of the Belgian group deserve to see their name quoted in this report: Pierre Delaere, Michel Gersdorff, Erwin Officiers, Marc Remacle, Paul van Cauwenberge, Paul van de Heyning, and Jan Wouters. They all played a role and contributed to the success of the meeting.

Among the apologies, the Board insisted on the inability of Kari Kvaerner (Norway) to attend, as she still had to take care of wounded survivors to the tragedy of Oslo. The Board also respected the remembrance of well-known Corlas members who passed away. Their name, country and year of birth appear in the following list: Hans-Jürgen Gerhardt (Germany, 1928-2010), K.A. Thomsen (Denmark, 1920-2010), Ron Hinchcliffe (Great-Britain, 1926-2011), Gill Ryoung Kim (Korea, 1926-2011), Otto H. Meurman (Finland, 1921-2011), Clodwig Beck (Germany, 1921-2011), and Manabi Hinoki (Japan, 1921-2011).

The Board also approved the *change* in *Corlas Rules* proposed by the internal working group assigned one year before: Wolfgang Arnold, Reidar Grénman and P. Ashley Wackym. The new by-law relates to Article V 1a: "The President and Vice-President are proposed by a majority of the members of the country in which the Scientific Meeting will take place. The responsibility of each new Presidency will start at the end of the foregoing Scientific Meeting and it will last until the end of the next following

Scientific Meeting.” The application of this new rule will be carried out at the Corlas symposium during the IFOS world congress in Seoul 2013.

The Credentials Committee, chaired by Allen Ryan, made the following favourable recommendations that all were approved by the Board: Yun-Hoon CHOUNG (Korea), Jong Woo CHUNG (Korea), Remco de BREE (Netherlands), Karen GORDON (Canada), Lennart GREIFF (Sweden), Stefan HELLER (USA), Alexander HUBER (Switzerland), Hidenori INOHARA (Japan), Terence JONES (Great-Britain), Tatsuo MATSUNAGA (Japan), Emmanuel MYLANUS (Netherlands), Thomas NIKOLOPOULOS (Greece), Petri OLIVIUS (Sweden), Pa-Chun WANG (Taiwan), Hao WU (Shanghai), and Shi-ming YANG (Beijing).

According to the wish of Hans Manni, the Board also made a suggestion for a successor in the field of Head and Neck Surgery. The name of René Leemans was unanimously approved.

The Board approved the financial report of Reidar Grénman who, on behalf of Corlas, made a non-at-risk investment of 100 000 € on the Finish Nordea bank and reported a bank balance of 47 231€.

Finally the Board was most pleased to see in advance the excellent plans prepared by Roberto Filipo for the meeting in Rome. The dates of the scientific meeting are **August 26-29, 2012**. The post-congress tour will include two steps: *Toscana* first (Siena, Montepulciano), *Umbria* second (Italy’s holy land and Italy’s green heart). The deadline to submit the abstract to René Dauman ([rene.dauman@chu-bordeaux.fr](mailto:rene.dauman@chu-bordeaux.fr)) is **May 1, 2012**. As usual, only one paper per author can be submitted, and the abstract ought to be organized as follows: *Name of authors* (Charles L...,<sup>1</sup> William M...<sup>2</sup>), *Institution* (for each author<sup>1,2</sup>), *Title, Background, Study Design, Results, Conclusions* (using Times New Roman 12 and 300 words at most). The decision on presentation mode (taking as much as possible account of authors’ preference) will be announced individually by René Dauman *before* the dead line for early registration fees.

All of the proposals from the Board were submitted and approved by the **Business meeting**. Under the leadership of Valerie Lund and Philippe Lefebvre, the assembly determined the cities that will host next Corlas meetings: *Istanbul* (Metin Önerci, 2014) and *New York* (P. Ashley Wackym, 2015). The contribution of the other candidates to the democratic process of selection (Wei-ning Huang for Beijing, Rudolf Probst for Zurich, Nasser Kotby for Luxor, and Fawsi Saheb for Jordan) was warmly recognized by Valerie Lund.

Finally, after discussion with the assembly, the suggestion of our Treasurer, Reidar Grénman, to allocate an individual support to the President of the forthcoming congresses was approved. This financial support will amount 100 € for each Corlas member attending the members’ dinner.

Despite two independent features that might be interpreted as handicapping, the unusually late announcement of the social programme and the overall unfavourable weather, the meeting in Bruges was successful thanks to the efforts of Philippe Lefebvre and his team. **Ninety-six scientific presentations** were performed. The country that contributed the most to the scientific programme of this year was Japan with 13 presentations (7 oral and 6 posters). This is even more remarkable when considering the dramatic tsunami that hit this country in March. Another noteworthy comment to be made is that **19 new members** took part in the scientific programme (13 oral presentations, 3 participants to the Rhinology Symposium, and 3 posters).

On behalf of all Corlas members and guests, I would like to acknowledge the three Symposia moderators: Philippe Lefebvre (*Regeneration of the inner ear*), Mark Jorissen (*Rhinology*), and Reidar Grénman (*Oncology*). The diversity of these topics illustrates the breadth of our specialty, Oto-Rhino-Laryngology Head and Neck Surgery, which needs absolutely to be preserved.

My final words to this annual report will highlight three more social contributions that were most appreciable. The first is the concert given by the *Triologicum Amicitiae* at the Cultural evening. As seen on the picture sent by Bert Huizing, the trio consisted of Patrice Tran Ba Huy (Paris, piano), Wolfgang Arnold (Luzern, violin), and Bert Huizing (Utrecht, violoncello). All three, with a great maestria, played the second movement “Trio Con Variazioni” of the piano trio in C major that was composed by our founder Prof. Emile Benjamins in 1931. Moved by the warm applause from their colleagues and friends, the *Triologicum Amicitiae* accepted to repeat the second variation, the Waltz, as an encore. The picture will adorn the box with the CD that will be available around the next conference (in Rome).



The second social highlight relates to the members' dinner at the "*St.-Sebastian's Gilde Brugge*" in a special framework. We will certainly not forget the archers of this six-hundred-year-old fraternity, whose members originally served as voluntary city guards. In the middle of large portraits of famous members to this society and the sound of the "bell" ringed by our President to make the announcements, all the events took a special flavour: the ceremony of welcoming the new members who, all, received from Reidar Grénman the book of Rules and the historical Corlas book; the speech of our Japanese Board member, Mamoru Suzuki, who expressed with emotion his gratitude to the numerous messages of sympathy and friendship after the disaster experienced by his country.

Last, the high quality of gastronomy that was attained during the Gala dinner at the "*Provinciaal hof*" needs to be underlined.

In conclusion, even though occasions to appreciate the beauty of the canals in the brightness of the sun were rare, we are grateful to the Belgian group to have given us this historical overview of Bruges and left us with a closer idea of their country.



Most of the pictures in this report were taken by Liang Zhou (Chinese Corlas group) whose help was strongly appreciated.

Catherine and I wish you all a peaceful and happy new year

René Dauman