

workshops concerning topics in medical education, fundraising for medical projects, working in Europe or alternative medicine will be offered. In addition there will be a forum for interactive discussions between highly regarded scientists and students. Combining with the conference sessions there will be initial skill adaption training courses as chances to get in touch with the practical side of medicine. We will also have an exhibition - the "job contact market", where subject related companies can present themselves or recruit young scientists directly.

One of the main goals of the 14th ESC is anchored in our leitmotif, which expresses our interdisciplinary thinking: For open minded young scientists willing to look beyond.

Our wide variety of cultural and social programme points implies the aim to show Berlin as a European capital with its specific flair and a doorway between east and west. Historical oriented sightseeing tours as well as dinner parties and sport activities will be part of the programme to bring people together.

The 14th ESC has recently extended the agreement with the IFMSA (International Federation of Medical Students' Associations, ifmsa.org) during the March meeting in Estonia. The IFMSA's Standing Committee on Research Exchange (SCoRE) recommends that the participants of its research exchange attend at the 14th European Students' Conference and present their work. If you have done a research and you are going to attend an exchange programme, why not apply the 14th ESC? We enthusiastically welcome students and young doctors from the biomedical sector worldwide to become active as well as passive applicants. The application details and further information are noted down in writing on our website:

esc.charite.de

www.esc-berlin.com

Yours faithfully,

The Organizing Committee

N. Züfle, N. Ledenig, W. Blaum, A. Schuster, A. Gómez-Carrillo, A. Kötter, F. Ufer, S. Herrmann

A MEETING OF THE MINDS

Dear *MJM*,

On February 26, 2003, the Experimental Medicine Graduate Students' Society (EMGSS) proudly hosted the 3rd Annual McGill Biomedical Graduate Conference (AMBGC) at McGill University. The AMBGC was created to strengthen relations among graduate students

and to promote awareness of the research being performed throughout the university. The AMBGC gives graduate students the opportunity to hone their presentation skills and to get feedback on their research from a diverse audience.

The 3rd AMBGC attracted over 250 people and a record high of 102 abstracts were submitted by graduate students from 14 biomedical departments, representing 15 different research institutes. This year's keynote lecture was given by Dr. Lawrence Rosenberg of McGill. Dr. Rosenberg's lecture focused on the discovery of INGAP, a naturally-derived peptide which stimulates the regeneration of pancreatic islet cells and is being touted as a potential cure for diabetes. Unfortunately, due to a personal emergency, Dr. Rosenberg's co-speaker, Dr. Aaron I. Vinik of Eastern Virginia Medical School, could not attend.

Overall, the 2003 AMBGC provided an outstanding forum for biomedical graduate students to share some of the exciting research currently being performed at McGill. The EMGSS would like to thank all of the sponsors, graduate students and judges who participated in this event. For more information and for pictures from the 3rd AMBGC, please visit the conference website (1).

Sincerely,

Randy Levitt and Sabrina Perri
Co-Presidents, Experimental Medicine Graduate
Students' Society (EMGSS)
McGill University

REFERENCES

1. EMGSS. 3rd Annual McGill Biomedical Graduate Conference.

<http://www.medcor.mcgill.ca/EXPMED/AMBGC>