Papers Presented at the Closed Meeting of the International Hip Society

Editorial Comment

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The International Hip Society (IHS) was founded in Paris in 1966 by a group of hip surgeons that included John Charnley, Mark Coventry, Merle d'Aubigné, William Harris, Maurice Muller, Augusto Sarmiento, Frank Stinchfield, and Heinz Wagner. The idea behind its formation was the exchange of ideas among expert hip surgeons from around the world with the objective of improving the life of patients afflicted with hip diseases. Membership in the Society is not obtained through application, but through nomination by two active members and supported by other members from the nominee's country. Certain criteria must be met for acceptance, including a practice significantly dedicated to hip surgery, an adequate number of publications, and a recognition as a "hip authority" in the country of origin or internationally. Active membership is limited to 100 members. Members older than 65 years become emeritus, if they have retired from active practice. Recently a category of associate members has been added to include engineers and other basic scientists with research interest in the hip.

The Society meets twice every three years. There is one open meeting which takes place during the triennial SICOT meeting, and two closed meetings, one of which occurs immediately before or after the open meeting, and the other

at a time and place selected by the President who is elected for a three year term. Initially these meetings were somewhat unstructured and the Society functioned more like a travel club. The President carried the responsibility of organizing the meeting's scientific and social programs. The Executive Committee is in the process of developing defined criteria for membership, a rating system, and is endeavoring to make the meeting presentations reach the orthopaedic community by publishing the Proceedings. The IHS has signed an agreement with Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research to publish papers presented during the closed meeting. This is the first such publication and includes a selection of the papers presented during the Society closed meeting in Paris in September 2006. The papers presented here represent a cross-section of the subjects debated during the meeting: etiology of osteoarthritis; nonreplacement treatment of hip disorders; long-term results of total hip replacement including difficult conditions such as DDH, AVN after bone marrow transplant or sickle cell disease; new observations on old and new bearing materials; experimental work with revision techniques such as impaction grafting; and clinical results with revision techniques.

An important characteristic of these papers is that they represent the state of the art from different countries including Australia, Korea, France, Japan, New Zealand, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. Given English was a second language of many authors, the editorial process was somewhat challenging and we are grateful to Dr. Richard Brand and the CORR editorial team for their efforts to improve the readability of these papers.

It is our hope that readers will find these studies both interesting and informative.

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