

ORAL SURGERY CLUB OF GREAT BRITAIN GOTTINGEN MAY 11-13 2011

The destination for the 2011 spring meeting was the Department of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, Georg Augusta University, Göttingen Germany, under the auspices of the President's friend Dr Henning Schliephake. Members arrived in Göttingen by various routes and those using the train for a transfer found the railway system fast and cheap. A reception with drinks and canapés was held at the Hotel Gebhards, members were introduced to our host Henning Schliephake. After which members found local restaurants the standard of which unfortunately varied.

The following morning members were met at the main reception of the "Universitätsklinik", and escorted to the theatre suite. The hospital was very modern and generally impressive with an excellent theatre suite. Henning had laid on some superb surgery including a cleft septorhinoplasty, sinus lift, and a mandibulectomy with scapular flap reconstruction. Refreshments were of a high standard!

The informal meal that evening was in the Italian restaurant at the Best Western Hotel. Despite members' best efforts, the bill including drinks was very reasonable.

The next day was a joint Scientific Programme with presentations from our hosts and the OSCGB at the Universitätsklinik. Andrew Sadler began with an extremely informative talk on self publication. It was obviously a great feat to manage to publish his own textbook, and members' feedback suggested that the information in this talk was going to be of great practical benefit.

Karl-Gunter Wiese followed with a talk on deer antlers as a model of stem cell based bone regeneration. It was interesting to get an insight into mesenchymal stem cells transformed to produce new bone being the only example of mammalian tissue regeneration.

Mike Davidson gave a lecture on Gunning the man. This remarkable dentist who lived in the USA in the nineteenth century was responsible for many innovations including the Gunning splint, used his treatment of Seward, Lincoln's Treasury Secretary.

Peter Ramsay-Baggs described the use of hilotherapy in OMFS. It was surprising how few trials have been published on the use of cooling as an anti-swelling and analgesic agent. Peter showed us some of his own impressive results and it was interesting that cooling was most beneficial between 15-20 °C

David Adlam did a very comprehensive talk on his audit of a personal series of 154 alveolar bone grafts. His 90% success rate using Bergland and Kindelan scoring was impressive as was his self deprecation, and strive for perfection!

Florian Fialka gave a complex talk on research into the genetics of SCC and that of cell-cell interactions done at there department. LGI1 and SIAT genes had been looked at in SCC and normal tissues, as had gap junction genes as a tumour suppressive agent which reduced in oral SCC

Laurence Oldham gave an amusing talk of surgery in Uganda and his experiences there in the 1960s. There were images of gross pathology. He emphasized the benefits to senior

trainees of working in the third world but also emphasized that he was only useful after being there a year, hence the lightening tour may not be that useful!

Franz-Josef Kramer gave a talk on the aetiology of cleft lip and palate. This included his work utilizing genotype wide association studies, selected DNA variants and phenotypes and on the genotypes of deficiencies of enzymes involved with folic acid substrates. It was interesting that different genes had different effects whether maternal or paternal or whereabouts in the world they were analysed

Mark McGurk gave his impressive results of 390 patients in his sentinel node study of the oral squamous cell carcinomas. In this study, 72% of these patients had no neck nodes positive for SCC, 26% were positive and only 2 positive cases were missed. Of these 2, 1 was salvaged with neck dissection.

Henning Schliephake gave a talk on approaches to tissue regeneration. This included cell based devices, and scaffolds containing autologous cells. He showed the results of animal studies. He also discussed the use of growth factors. He was brutally honest with the results of his clinical cases of tissue regeneration, and this made for a very informative presentation.

Andrew Lyons presented the results of his multi centre study, which has shown unequivocally that osteoradionecrosis is a genotype dependant process. The evidence for this was explained, and the implications of this genotype for treatment planning was discussed. Since the talk this work has been accepted for publication in the International Journal of Radiation Biology or "The Red Journal" as it is known.

The programme finished by 15.30 to enable members and their partners to explore the very quaint and interesting university town of Gottingen. The Club dinner where we treated our hosts was held at the Planetarium Restaurant. This was a superb multicourse set meal of fantastic quality and variety supplemented by some very nice wines. After short speeches our hosts were presented with a textbook of Operative Oral Surgery by the President, thus rounding off an extremely enjoyable evening and what was a fantastic meeting keeping to the very high standards of the Oral Surgery Club of Great Britain.

We in the club and particularly those attending owe Ken a great deal of thanks for arranging both this meeting and the excellent one held at East Grinstead. As secretary I particularly enjoyed the white knuckle ride of the of Ken Lavery's schedule for the organisation of this trip!

Note the website: www.oralclub.co.uk