

# ESOPHAGUS 2001 VIIIth World Congress, ISDE



## *São Paulo Opening Ceremony: Prof. Pinotti's Comment*

*H. W. Pinotti, M.D., President of the  
ISDE 8th World Congress*

Welcome to the VIIIth Congress of the ISDE and thank you for your participation in the first meeting of the new century, which will certainly be an important landmark in the history of esophageal congresses.

In the beginning of this new century, all medical fields are growing very rapidly owing to progress in science and technology. This is also true with esophageal diseases that are currently very common in all societies, with some epidemiological peculiarities.

In tropical areas of South America, Chagas' disease affects 20 million people; in Brazil, 3.5 million, approximately 20% of them with digestive consequences, among which 35% have megaesophagus.

Schistosomiasis is another tropical disease common in Asia, northern Africa and South America. In Brazil, mainly in the northern, and central regions, there is high prevalence with 3 million people involved. Among them, 2500 patients per year are hospitalized due to hepatic fibrosis and esophageal varices, with 500 deaths a year.

Cancer is considered the major esophageal pathology, due to its severity and mortality.

Heavy intake of distilled liquor with a high alcoholic content and smoking habits are considered the most important factors in the development of esophageal cancer, especially when consumed in large

amounts over a long time. The behavior of people in developing new societies, and the promotion of these habits through the media are responsible for the uncontrollable consumption of both and their repercussions on the esophagus in the cancer development.

Certainly, in the near future researchers will achieve new methodological conquests that allow physicians to accomplish cancer diagnosis at early stages, particularly through mass screening.

However, the most common esophageal disorder in all continents is reflux esophagitis. Population questionnaires have shown that about 25% of people complain of the symptom of heartburn. One major challenge in this field is the columnar cell layer of the distal esophageal mucosa, the so-called Barrett's esophagus, and its potential for cancer development. The great challenge is to know whether patients will have a benign or malignant outcome to this disease. In the near future it will certainly be possible for the physician to apply accurate diagnostics methods, which will hopefully come from ISDE meetings.

'Finally, as a dreamer is allowed to dream, the great dream is, in the near future to have accurate diagnosis in all the diseases, especially malignant diseases in early stages, for a definite cure by advanced resources with fewer complications and without mortality.'

# ISDE NEWS

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**The International Society for  
Diseases of the Esophagus**

#### SECRETARIAT

The Office of the Secretariat of ISDE  
The Institute of Gastroenterology,  
Tokyo Women's Medical School  
8-1 Kawada-cho, Shinjuku-ku  
Tokyo 162-8666, JAPAN

Tel: 81-3-3358-1435  
81-3-3353-8111 ext. 252229

Fax: 81-3-3358-1424  
Email: [isde@home.email.ne.jp](mailto:isde@home.email.ne.jp)  
Homepage: <http://www.isde.net/>

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## ISDE PAPERS LIST

*From 33 countries in total, 591 papers were presented!*

Country	Total	Oral	VTR	Poster	Country	Total	Oral	VTR	Poster
Argentina	17	7	3	7	Japan	95	20	18	57
Australia	9	6		3	Netherlands	16	13		3
Austria	2			2	PR China	9	4		5
Belgium	12	9	2	1	Peru	2			2
Brazil	196	78	28	90	Poland	5	4		1
Canada	9	6		3	Portugal	27	5	13	9
Chile	12	7	1	4	Romania	6	3	2	1
Cuba	3			3	Russia	1	1		
Czechoslovakia	2	1		1	Spain	14	6	3	5
Finland	4	2		2	Sweden	4	4		
France	8	3	1	4	Taiwan	4	1		3
Germany	28	20	3	5	UK	5	4		1
Greece	1	1			Ukraine	1			1
Hungary	14	6		8	Uruguay	3	3		
India	7	3	3	1	USA	37	26	5	6
Ireland	4	4			Yugoslavia	9	6		3
Italy	42	29	6	7					
<b>Totals</b>						<b>608</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>238</b>

### DEAR ISDE MEMBERS

We are now making the new ISDE membership directory (2001-2004).

Please complete the form inserted in this issue and fax back to the Secretariat no later than 18 January 2002 by fax or email.

Fax to :  
**ISDE Secretariat**  
**81-3-3358-1424**  
 email:  
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Your cooperation is essential in compiling a useful directory.



Prof. DeMeester, Prof. Ide, Prof. Watanabe, Prof. Pinott, Prof. Lerut.



Delegates at the VIIIth World Congress.