

# THE "BEST POSTER" PRIZE OF THE 4<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS OF THE WORLD SOCIETY FOR RECONSTRUCTIVE MICROSURGERY COMES TO TIMISOARA

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The World Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (WSRM) came into existence in 1999, by the merger of the International Microsurgical Society with the International Society of Reconstructive Microsurgery, Professor V. Mayer being the first elected president. At the same time, the date of the first WSRM congress was chosen. The inaugural event took place in Taipei in 2001, under the capable leadership of Fu-Chang Wei, the Chairman of the Organizing Committee.

The object of the society is to stimulate and advance knowledge of the science and art of microsurgery and thereby improve and elevate the standards of practice in this field of surgical endeavor. The society counts for approximately 600 members from all over the world, Romania being represented by nine microsurgeons from university cities with medical tradition, such as Cluj-Napoca, Iasi and Timisoara.

During June 24–26, 2007, the 4<sup>th</sup> Congress of the World Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery took place in Athens. The participants were microsurgeons coming from Europe, USA, Asia, Africa and Australia. The scientific topics continued the WSRM tradition, with original papers covering both clinical and lab experience. Although most of the themes presented were of maximum interest, I will mention only some of them, which appealed to my clinical sense: head

and neck reconstruction, upper limb reconstruction, microsurgical breast reconstruction, composite tissue autotransplant, urogenital reconstruction, tissue regeneration and engineering, treatment of upper limb ischemia, inferior limb reconstruction, limb reimplantations, experimental microsurgery research and many others.

Lectures held by Wayne Morisson, Fu-Chang Wei, Julia K. Terzis, Berish Strauch, Alexandros Beris, Robert Allen, Catherine Vlastou or Peter Neligan were followed with great interest by every young or experienced microsurgeon present at the congress.

The program was well organized, blending the scientific part with Athens' ancient history and the Greek traditions.

Romania was represented at this event by 12 microsurgeons from Bucharest, Cluj Napoca, Iasi and Timisoara. Among the papers presented, I will mention: "Lattisimus dorsi - the best flap for defect salvaging in the lower limb", "Endoscopic versus open technique in flap harvesting on the experimental models", "The development and implementation of a complex training program in microsurgery". Many others topics were greatly appreciated by the auditorium. Professor Alexandru Georgescu and Professor Mihai Ionac were part of the Congress Scientific Committee, reviewing the abstracts sent prior to the event and participating as speed governours during presentations.

Like in every other edition organised by WSRM, the best poster, best clinical and best experimental microsurgery presentations were awarded. At the poster session, "Videomicrosurgery versus conventional microsurgery - a comparative study in the rat model", having Alex Blidisel, Vlad Dornean, Alex Nistor, Lucian Jiga, Bogdan Hoinoiu and Mihai Ionac as authors, has won the best poster award, together with papers from Japan and Greece. The study was developed at the Pius Branzu Center for Laparoscopic Surgery

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The congresses organised by WSRM always offer intensive courses, interesting conferences, free papers and original posters, which accurately present the

microsurgical achievements, as well as the current trends of this exciting speciality. We thoroughly recommend these international meetings to all the surgeons who work in the clinics or in the experimental laboratories, using the microsurgical techniques.