

CONFERENCE REPORT

The XXIV European Muscle Conference

FLORENCE, ITALY, 13-16 SEPTEMBER 1995

The XXIV European Muscle Conference was held in Florence (Italy) from 13 to 16 September 1995. It was organized by G. Cecchi, F. Colomo and C. Poggesi. Our Italian colleagues offered free accommodation and registration to 25 scientists coming from eastern European countries (Russia included). Financial support was provided by the Regione Toscana, the Università di Firenze and the Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche; we all thank these organizations for their well-grounded support. Many young scientists presented and discussed their work not only among themselves, but also with experts like A. F. Huxley, S. V. Perry or J. Gergely. The quality of the works presented in this Conference will be judged from the following abstracts. I do not feel able to single out one or a few works, since I would then leave many other good contributions in the dark. I want, however, to make one exception: A. F. Huxley posed some new thoughts on a problem which has vexed muscle scientists for many years: why are there two heads in the myosin molecule?

This reminds me that some years ago, Marcus Schaub delivered several lectures on this problem, with his usual insight and humour. He organized

the first Conference with Hamoir in Liege (Belgium) 24 years ago. Every year since he has carefully tended the European conferences, which slowly and surely developed under his continuous impulse. This last Conference is a further testimony of the success of his work. There were 47 participants at the First Conference; this time they numbered 318, who presented 221 posters, the largest numbers ever on record. Marcus Schaub wished to further strengthen the future of the European Conferences. He first organized a small committee a few years ago and it has now been decided that it was the right time to elect a new Secretary. On the proposal of the committee, our colleague Ger Stienen, from the Free University of Amsterdam, was elected and he accepted this responsibility. Ger Stienen is thus the new Secretary of the European Society for Muscle Research, whose principal activity is to promote a yearly conference. The XXVth European Muscle Conference will be organized next year (14-17 September) by T. Barman and F. Travers (INSERM U318, Montpellier, France).

GEORGES MARÉCHAL