

Dear Friends and Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen



T. M. Kessler, Zürich

Neurogenic urinary tract, sexual and bowel dysfunction is highly prevalent and affects the lives of millions of people worldwide. It has a major impact on quality of life and, besides the debilitating manifestations for patients, it also imposes a substantial economic burden for every health care system. Neuro-urology has become a well-established and highly recognized sub-speciality in the fields of neurology and urology. Therefore, it was a great honour and pleasure to organize the 2nd International Neuro-Urology Meeting, 13th to 15th June 2013, in Zurich. The world's leading experts in neuro-urology provided an overview on this rapidly developing and exciting sub-speciality. The meeting combined conventional lectures, panel discussions, live urodynamics and live surgery. Emphasis was placed on the interactive component and there were many opportunities to exchange thoughts, experiences and ideas and also to make new friendships. It was a truly international audience with participants from 21 different countries. Fortunately, several speakers agreed to summarize their unique presentations in *LEADING OPINIONS Urologie*. Great thanks go to the industrial companies and to the non-profit organisation Swiss Continence Foundation (www.swisscontinencefoundation.ch) in assisting this meeting. Without their generous support this meeting would not have been possible. Regarding the big success of the 1st and 2nd International Neuro-Urology Meeting, I am delighted to announce the 3rd International Neuro-Urology Meeting, which will be held from 28 to 30 August 2014 in Zurich.

The Swiss Continence Foundation Award, dedicated to promote the next generation in neuro-urology, could be awarded for the first time at this year's meeting. Considering the excellent contributions by young talents in neuro-urology, it was a big challenge for the international jury to select the winner. Neuro-urology needs outstanding young researchers and clinicians – they are the future! Therefore, I am excited to advertise for the second time the Swiss Continence Foundation Award honouring the best contribution of a young talent at the 3rd International Neuro-Urology Meeting. In addition, I am delighted that the 3rd International Neuro-Urology Meeting will be in honour of the retirement of Prof. Jean-Jacques Wyn-daele, one of the fathers of modern neuro-urology. Save the date. I am looking forward to meeting you in Zurich.

Best regards

Ass. Prof. Thomas M. Kessler, MD, FEBU

*Head of Neuro-Urology,
Spinal Cord Injury Center & Research,
University of Zurich, Balgrist University Hospital,
Forchstrasse 340, 8008 Zurich, Switzerland
Email: thomas.kessler@balgrist.ch*