

Editor's note II

On October 27, 2012, the annual meeting and one-day seminar of DIGM e.V. was held in Nord-West-Krankenhaus, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. DIGM stands for Deutsch-Indonesische Gesellschaft für Medizin, German-Indonesian Medical Association. The Society has an Indonesian and a German Section with about 300 members, altogether.

The scientific meeting had been prepared and organized by Prof. Dr. Ulrike Blum, Frankfurt, Vice-President of the German Section and Dr. Bujung Hong, Hannover, Secretary of the German Section. After the introduction by Prof. Ulrike Blum, the Consul of the Republic of Indonesia, His Exc. Ernest Hadinoto from the General Consulate in Frankfurt opened the Seminar with his message wishing all officials and participants a successful One-Day Scientific Meeting.

The topic of this meeting was **“Vascular diseases in two different continents - state of the art, sharing know-how, experiences, and cooperation.”** Moderators were Prof. Dr. U. Blum and Prof. Dr. Rasjid Soeparwata, President of the Indonesian Section and *“ex officio”* one of the Vice Presidents of the German Section. The first presentation was by Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Freisleben, President of the German Section, who has been working at Indonesian Universities for twenty years and as a member of Research and Teaching Staff at the Medical Faculty of Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta for more than 15 years. He reported on possibilities of collaboration between Germany and Indonesia in clinical fields and in biomedical research. A major aim of DIGM yet still to be established is a German-Indonesian Teaching Hospital in Indonesia, where medical teams from both countries can work together and exchange scientific knowledge and practical know-how. Several MOU's have been signed already, however, the problems with financing and with work permits for foreign medical teams or individual physicians need still solutions. In his context, Prof. Freisleben held a remembrance honouring Dr. Richardus Budiman, who had been the Society's Secretary for many years and deceased on July 17, 2012. The book about 500 years of relations between Indonesia and Germany in the medical field is ready to be printed by the Koeppe-Verlag, but the printing costs still need a sponsor.

The next talk was given by Prof. Rasjid Soeparwata about his experience with vascular surgery in Indonesia during the last three years. Prof. Soeparwata had worked as a vascular surgeon at the University of Muenster and returned to the main Teaching Hospital of Universitas Indonesia, RSCM in 2009, after his retirement in Germany. His presentation about the problems in

his field in Indonesia was followed by Prof. Dr. M. Zegelmann from Krankenhaus Nordwest, Frankfurt/Main, who hosted this DIGM meeting, with a report on the State of the Art in the field of “Infection-protected vascular prostheses – where are we now?”

The next presentation was given by PD Dr. R. Wagner, Klinikum Ernst von Bergmann, Postdam, on “Results of surgical therapy of popliteal aneurysms” with an impressive number of patients from his own clinical practice. Moreover, systematic literature review on several thousand patients with aneurysms comes to the conclusion that “it is difficult to justify endovascular repair for popliteal aneurysms.” Long-term results indicate that this method is “acceptable if venous grafts are used.”

Prof. Dr. N. Reifart, Kliniken des Main-Taunuskreises, Bad Soden talked about “Renal artery denervation (RAD) with an innovative concept: first results and future perspectives”. The introduction of a novel and simple method provides faster, more effective and less painful RAD for therapy-resistant hypertonic patients with good results in the Simplicity Study.

Dr. S. Spiliopoulos reported on innovations in the field of artificial hearts, developments from the Abteilung für terminale Herzinsuffizienz und Kunstherzversorgung, together with Dr. G. Tenderich and Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. R. Körfer, Evangelisches Klinikum Niederrhein, Klinik für Herz- und Gefäßchirurgie, Duisburg.

Before lunch break, Prof. Dr. H. D. Bundschu presented the protective benefits of red wine to the endothelial lining. Later, Prof. Dr. D. Lütjohann, Institut für Klinische Chemie und klinische Pharmakologie, Universität Bonn talked – perfectly scheduled after lunch – “On the impact of cholesterol absorption vs. synthesis in the development of atherosclerosis and the risk for coronary artery sclerosis.” Cholesterol homeostasis is well balanced by the uptake, transport, synthesis and elimination of cholesterol in the human body. Nowadays, the cholesterol precursor lathosterol is used as a serum indicator of cholesterol synthesis and plant sterols from dietary origin serve as markers for cholesterol absorption. Prof. Lütjohann showed results from human studies in his laboratory during the last 25 years, which speak for individualized medicine with identification of hypercholesteremic patients who should receive statins and/or ezetimibe.

Prof. Dr. S. Santoso, Institute for Clinical Immunology and Transfusion Medicine, Department of Immunohematology, Justus Liebig University, Giessen, demonstrated “New insight into the pathomechanism of

Dengue haemorrhagic fever.” These observations give new clues into the complex pathogenesis of Dengue hemorrhagic fever and may help to develop novel therapeutic use of natural products for the treatment of this life-threatening disorder.

Finally, Prof. Dr. H.-J. Freisleben reported about a research project at the Medical Faculty of Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta on the “Effects of curcumin in cardiac hypoxia and reoxygenation of isolated working Guinea pig hearts.” Apart from the scientific results of this study over ten years, it is an excellent example for cooperation between Germany and Indonesia, since Prof. Dr. G. Zimmer had brought all the equipment from his laboratory in Frankfurt am Main to Jakarta when he took a one-month visiting professorship at

Universitas Indonesia after his retirement in Germany, about 14 years ago.

The scientific meeting ended and the annual meeting of the Society's members started with a report by Prof. Freisleben on the activities of the Society during the last 4-year period of the Executive Board of the German Section. It was decided that the election of a new Executive Board of the German Section is postponed for another year, so that it continues to consist of Prof. Dr. H.-J. Freisleben, President, Prof. Dr. U. Blum and Prof. Dr. R. Soeparwata, Vice-Presidents, Prof. Dr. E. Rummeny, Treasurer, and Dr. Bujung Hong, Secretary.

*Hans-Joachim Fedi Freisleben
Frankfurt am Main, Germany, November 2012*