

Welcome to St. Gallen and Eastern Switzerland !

On behalf of my Co-Chairpersons Prof. Richard Gelber (Boston) and Prof. Aron Goldhirsch (Lugano) as well as the Local Organizing and the International Scientific Committee, I am pleased to welcome all of you to St. Gallen, historic cultural and trading capital of Eastern Switzerland and the tri-country 'Bodensee-Area' between Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

For the fifth time in 16 years the Interdisciplinary Cancer Center, St. Gallen has had the privilege of organizing this important conference on 'Adjuvant Therapy of Primary Breast Cancer'. We appreciate your presence and look forward to another challenging meeting of high scientific and social standards.

This conference, again assembling some 800 breast cancer specialists at a truly international and interdisciplinary level, has become a 'classic' among the many breast cancer meetings worldwide. It is to our knowledge the only one that has repeatedly centered around adjuvant (or multimodal) therapy. Taking place every three to four years, it is well placed to serve as an international forum, to periodically and

critically analyze clinically meaningful evolutions towards more curative and less traumatic treatment of primary breast cancer.

Adjuvant (multimodal) therapy of breast cancer has meanwhile come of age: more than 20 years have passed since the start of the first wave of 'modern' prospective trials in the USA and in Europe, signaling positive prognostic effects in (mainly premenopausal) breast cancer patients. But although the strategy works somehow, too many questions still remain unsettled and require additional, well designed trials in specific subsets—elderly patients, high-dose adjuvant therapy in highest risk node-positive patients, etc. We hope to catch significant news during these conference days!

And finally, please do not forget to participate once more in an outstanding social program, featuring some of the cultural and geographical highlights of our old, monastic city and its rural environment.

I hope you enjoy the conference and your stay in St. Gallen.

Prof. Hans-Jörg Senn, MD, Co-Chairman, 'ABC-95'