

Welcome to St. Gallen and Eastern Switzerland!

On behalf of the Co-Chairpersons and the International Scientific as well as the Local Organizing Committee, we are pleased to welcome you to St. Gallen – historic, cultural and medical center of Eastern Switzerland and of the tri-country area “Bodensee” (Lake Constance) – lying between Austria, Germany and Switzerland!

While “OncoConferences St. Gallen” has been successfully organizing large international cancer meetings on “Primary Therapy of Early Breast Cancer” as well as “Supportive Care in Cancer Patients” for more than 20 years, the idea of facilitating interdisciplinary exchange on cancer prevention, epidemiology and oncogenetics is a more recent concept in oncology. It is closely linked to the scientific progress in laboratory developments in molecular genetics, signal transduction and stepwise transformation of normal to malignant cell growth, providing a long “window of opportunity” to interact with these potentially fatal developments.

It is our privilege to organize this meeting again together with the European School of Oncology, Milano/Italy (ESO) and with the International Society of Cancer Chemoprevention (ISCaC), who entrusted us again with the holding of their 9th annual society meeting in St. Gallen after previous meetings here in 1997, 2000 and 2002.

In view of the growing interrelations between molecular genetics and cancer prevention, it was our goal to establish a comprehensive scientific forum, exposing an update of recent experimental and clinical developments in oncogenetics, molecular biology and epidemiology and their influence on cancer chemo- and bio-prevention. We fully realize, that these modern aspects of cancer prevention – and especially of chemoprevention – still evoke substantial scientific and health-political controversies and due to the lack of a well accepted pharmaceutical market, the involvement of industry remains extremely modest, especially in Europe.

Nevertheless, we try to give these issues of chemoprevention in oncology a repetitive, fair platform, with the ultimate goal of lowering cancer incidence and cancer mortality by evidence-based primary prevention as well as more efficient earlier detection and treatment.

We greatly appreciate your presence in a selected audience of international experts and interested participants from more than 20 countries worldwide, and we hope that you will enjoy the conference and your stay in St. Gallen.

Professor Hans-Jörg Senn, MD
*Conference Co-Chairman
and Local Organizer*

Dr. Rudolf Morant, MD
Scientific Coordinator

Center for Tumordetection & Prevention (ZeTuP), St. Gallen