

Welcome to CAP-2008 in St. Gallen

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

While “St. Gallen Oncology Conferences” has been very successful in organizing large, now bi-annual international congresses on “Primary Therapy of Early Breast Cancer”, the idea of facilitating an interdisciplinary exchange on “Cancer Prevention” is a more recent concept and generally not very accepted in oncology, which still is predominantly therapy-oriented in modern oncology. At least in some parts of the world, research budgets and clinical medical expenses are stagnating or even being progressively cut and neither politicians nor industry seem to be willing to engage in additional unpredictable channels of expenses such as cancer prevention.

When the money for “curing and caring” already gets short, even less is left for disease prevention in the (still) healthy part of the population – although this is an extremely short-sighted, but unfortunately very much prevalent view of health politics for the future in many countries worldwide!

However, in view of newly accumulated knowledge and growing interactions between molecular genetics and biology, epidemiology and clinical cancer prevention, it is again our aim – now for the fifth time since the year 2000 – to offer a comprehensive scientific discussion forum for the development of more rational cancer prevention for the future. It is time that industry – especially in Europe – increases its involvement and activities – and its funding – in this process.

It is our privilege to co-organize this meeting again with the International Society of Cancer Prevention (ISCaP), the European School of Oncology in Milano/Italy (ESO), the European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) and the European Cancer Prevention Organisation (ECPO). New is our association with the European Association of Cancer Research (EACR).

We greatly appreciate your presence in a selected audience of international experts and conference participants interested in cancer prevention from all over the world. We hope you will enjoy the conference and your stay in St. Gallen.

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

Professor Ursula Kapp, MD
Scientific Conference Secretary

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