

Welcome to SG-CAP-2010

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 in the “tri-country area” Bodensee (Lake Constance), where Austria, Germany and Switzerland meet geographically.

While the Foundation SONK “St. Gallen Oncology Conferences” has been very successful in organizing large, now bi-annual international breast cancer conferences with up to 5000 participants for 30 years, the idea of facilitating an interdisciplinary forum on “clinical cancer prevention” is a more recent one and dates back only to the millennium year of 2000. This line of preventive thinking in oncology is still new and not yet generally accepted. Even today, at the start of the second decade of the 21st century, modern oncology is still predominantly therapy-oriented. While research budgets in these difficult times of financial recession are cut in many parts of the world, and curative as well as palliative medical expenses are rising continuously, neither politicians nor industry seem to greatly care to engage in additional unpredictable and may be endless channels of expenses such as clinical cancer prevention!

This might be extremely short-sighted, as cancer incidence will be greatly rising with a doubling or even tripling of cases within the next 20 to 30 years, simply due to general aging of our populations worldwide. It is rather uncertain, that this increase in incidence, which takes place mostly in less curable solid tumor types, will be compensated for in this same time-span by dramatic therapeutic advances, thus resulting in a “cancer problem” of hitherto unknown dimension in medical history. Therefore, it is more than time, that academia and industry invest more than before in developing and promoting especially primary cancer prevention, including bio- and chemoprevention of major cancer types.

This is exactly the main theme of this 6th St. Gallen conference on “Clinical Cancer Prevention”, especially featuring chemoprevention of breast and prostate cancer as well as the very provocative topic “cancer and infection”. A first international consensus conference on the timely topic of breast cancer chemoprevention will close this year’s meeting, exposing the latest data and information about closed as well as running trials and seeking international consensus about their transformation to medical practice and counselling.

It is our privilege to co-organize this 6th conference in St. Gallen again with a number of key-players in oncology: The International Society for Cancer Prevention (ISCaP), the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO), the European School of Oncology (ESO Milano), the European Association of Cancer Research (EACR), the European Cancer Prevention Organisation (ECPO), the Swiss Cancer League (KLS) and others.

We greatly appreciate your presence in this selective audience of international experts and we encourage you to actively participate in the scientific sessions of the conference as well as in the social events: Enjoy the conference – and enjoy St. Gallen and its pre-alpine environment!

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

Professor Florian Otto, MD
Conference-Co-Chairperson and
Chair of the Scientific Committee