

## PERSPECTIVES AND PROFILES, THE 6<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONGRESS OF THE ECSS

From 24-28 July, 2001 the Sixth Annual Congress of the European Congress of Sport Science took place in Cologne, Germany. Topping 1,500 participants from 70 countries, it was the largest congress of the ECSS held till now. It clearly pointed to the fact that ECSS has grown into the leading sport science organisation in Europe. ECSS has set standards for what now represents the largest meeting of this kind in Europe. The Congress involved researchers from a wide range of disciplines. The scientific program of the Congress comprised 6 plenary sessions with a total of 24 presentations, 49 invited symposia with a total of 187 presentations, 60 thematic sessions with a total of 361 presentations and 778 posters. The total number of abstracts published is 1,350. The Young Investigators Awards were sponsored by MARS Inc. and presented to ten young investigators for the best poster or oral presentation.

### **The main topics of the plenary sessions were:**

1. Exercise and youth: physical activity, sport involvement, and development
2. Exercise and genes
3. Exercise, movement and brain
4. Exercise and energy
5. Impact of sport on environment
6. Impact of modern technology and mass media on sport development

Professor Paolo Parisi was elected the new President of the ECSS at the Congress in Cologne.

His term of office will last until the following Congress in Salzburg, Austria in 2003. Professor Vassilis Klissouras handed over the function of the General Secretary to Erich Müller from Salzburg, Austria. Hans-Hermann Dickhuth and Alf Thorstensson are the two new members who joined the Board of Directors.

Important news came from Human Kinetics; the ECSS and Human Kinetics have launched the European Journal of Sport Science (EJSS) in a collaborative effort to give interdisciplinary sport science a forum on the Internet. Six issues of this journal per year are available and free of charge for all the ECSS members.

The high point of the social program was a visit to the Sport and Olympic Museum located in an old industrial building and situated on the right bank of the river Rhine. The Museum provides an excellent and very exciting exhibition on sports history and none of the visitors missed taking the guided tour. More than 100.000 exhibits are on display paramountly and offer insight into national and international championships, sport events like the Olympic Games and athletes' careers. Photographs, documents, medals and prizes attracted the visitors' attention. Various interactive exhibits (e.g. cycling in a wind tunnel) were offered. "It was our aim to transfer the jolly atmosphere of the congress to this evening." Rolf Kilzer, member of the ECSS Organisation Committee, remarked happily.

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