

**Welcoming Speech from the President of the Gesellschaft
für Medizinische Ausbildung (German Section of the AMEE)**

Professor Dr. D. Habeck, Münster, RFG

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you here to the AMEE Annual Conference in Münster. It is the first AMEE Conference in the Federal Republic of Germany. I am therefore delighted to welcome so many illustrious participants, and among them the foreign guests, especially the great number of Polish and Czech colleagues.

Last but not least, I am very happy to welcome so many students. Some of them, if not all, will be the future teachers in medical education, and I hope that by the time they are professionals, medical education will be better appreciated than it is at present in several countries, including my own.

Medical education is often oriented to the ideas and meditation of individual professors and the reputation of various disciplines and specialties. Teaching is also widely regarded as an inborn gift, and systematic investigations and research in medical education are mostly not understood as a challenge for its development and as a scientific matter.

Scientific thinking in medical education is the main theme of this conference. The President of our Association, Prof. Gunnar Ström, has given us his reflections on this subject. They have been published in our journal "Medizinische Ausbildung". I believe that his explanations will be a good basis for our work, so that this conference will be a fruitful one.

We have reduced the participant's fee by about half, in comparison with previous AMEE conferences, and have allowed students to attend the conference free of charge. You may

therefore miss some comforts, such as bus shuttles from the hotels, and cultural events.

Let me now come to the programme. A video will be added to the topic "learning biographical history-taking in peer groups" on Thursday at 1 o'clock. The video was produced by German students. In addition you can visit our Mediothek upstairs and the thorax trainer, two components of our Münster Model. These and other elements, such as the use of simulated patients, are described in the yellow 1989 AMEE brochure, including the integration on non-university hospitals, based on experiences in Bern, Lille, Kraków and Southampton. You will have the opportunity to visit one of these non-university hospitals on Friday under the optional excursion programme.

I would now like to thank all chairmen, speakers, and those colleagues who presented posters of their contributions to this conference. I would like to ask you for your manuscripts so that they can be published in the final report of this conference, just as Professor Taner was able to do with the proceedings from the last conference in Istanbul. You will find a list of them in the abstract booklet.

Finally, my thanks to our President, Professor Gunnar Ström, and Professor Fritz Kemper, and to all those in the Institut für Pharmakologie and Toxikologie and the Institut für Ausbildung and Studienangelegenheiten for the excellent cooperation in planning, preparing and accomplishing this conference.

Thank you very much.