President’s Welcome Address to the 15th EHRS Meeting in Jerusalem

„Wake up, wake up, Jerusalem, and clothe yourself with strength. Put on your beautiful clothes, …“
(Isaia, 52:1)

In Jerusalem, at history’s crossroads for millennia, many civilizations have made their mark. For centuries it has been considered as the center of the world.

Jerusalem is a holy city to the three major Abrahamic religions—Judaism, Christianity and Islam:

In Judaism, Jerusalem has been the holiest city since, according to the Biblical Old Testament, King David of Israel first established it as the capital of the united Kingdom of Israel in c. 1000 BCE, and his son Solomon commissioned the building of the First Temple in the city.

In Christianity, Jerusalem has been a holy city since, according to the New Testament, Jesus was crucified in c. 30 CE and 300 years later Saint Helena found the True Cross in the city.

In Sunni Islam, Jerusalem is the third-holiest city. It became the first Qibla, the focal point for Muslim prayer (Salah) in 610 CE, and, according to Islamic tradition, Muhammad made his Night Journey there ten years later.

As a result, and despite having an area of only 0.9 square kilometres, the Old City is home to sites of key religious importance, among them the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa Mosque.

Although Jerusalem is most renown for its religious significance, the city is also home to many artistic and cultural venues, as well as to several prestigious universities, among which the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has been ranked among the top 100 schools in the world. Its Board of Governors has included such prominent Jewish intellectuals as Albert Einstein and Sigmund Freud, and the university has produced several Nobel laureates. The Hebrew University operates three campuses in Jerusalem, including a medical campus at the Hadassah Ein Kerem hospital.

Abraham Zlotogorski from the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center has committed himself to host the 15th Annual Meeting of the EHRS in Jerusalem, and has organized both an
outstanding scientific programme and a number of cultural highlights that will make this year’s EHRS Meeting a life-time event for every participant.

Since its constitution in 1989 in the heart of Europe (Brussels), the European Hair Research Society (EHRS) has grown in numbers and influence that reach far beyond the geographic boundaries of the European continent, to embrace an international membership of scientists and clinicians from all over the globe sharing a profound interest in hair.

I consider it a personal privilege to address my welcome to you as EHRS President on the occasion of this meeting, and wish you an unforgettable event with many opportunities for new insights and contacts, and happy encounters with your friends and colleagues who have made their journey from all over the globe to meet in the unique setting of this city at the Axis Mundi!

Professor Ralph M. Trüeb
EHRS President 2008-11