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IMPORTANT DATES:

Submission of Abstracts: 15th of April

Notification of abstracts acceptance: 31st of May

Reduced fee registration: 20th of July

Guaranteed hotel reservation: 20th of July

Congress date: 8th - 11th of September

CONGRESS Venue

The Congress will be held at the premises of the Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering and the International Centre of Biocybernetics, Polish Academy of Sciences, 4 Trojdena street, Warsaw, Poland.

CONGRESS LANGUAGE

The official language of the congress is English

CONGRESS WEBSITE

<http://www.ibib.waw.pl/esao2004>

XXXI. CONGRESS – ESAO 2004

Towards Medical Technology of the Future

INVITATION

Warsaw was founded in the early XIVth century. In 1596 King Sigmund III Waza moved the Polish capital from Krakow (Cracow) to Warsaw. After the partition of Poland, in 1795, Warsaw came under Prussian rule, until liberation by Napoleon's armies, and then became a part of the Russian empire. After Poland regained her independence in 1918 a deliberate development of the capitol was undertaken, and by 1939 the population of Warsaw had risen to over 1.3 million and Warsaw became truly "European City".

Then during dark days of the World War II Warsaw was degraded as a city and finally practically ceased to exist. After the war the survivors returned to their city and almost immediately started to rebuild it.

Now Warsaw enchants visitors with its restored 50 years ago Old Town with the Royal Castle and the classicist architecture of the Royal Route. Today Warsaw is a constantly changing city. New housing estates are being built, new thoroughfares and bridges connecting the two banks of the Vistula River are being constructed.

This is our honor and privilege to be for the second time host of the ESAO Congress. However, we would like to stress that in 8th of September 2004 Poland will be in new political situation, very much different from that in 1996, will be a member of the European Union. Many years of living in "Polish People's Republic" has strong influence on our current economical situation. But we believe that this new chance will put our country once more in its proper place in Europe.

The Congress will take place at the premises of the Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering and the International Center of Biocybernetics, Polish Academy of Sciences, the biggest biomedical engineering research center in Poland. The scenery of Congress venue should help to create a unique scientific atmosphere for the Congress.

Start of the new century is usually related to introduction of the new ideas and new technological visions. Therefore, theme motto of the XXXI Congress of ESAO is "Towards Medical Technology of the Future". We hope that our meeting in Warsaw will result in many presentations of realistic ideas, which will give not only a hope but will lead to efficient substitution or regeneration of the lost functions of the organism.

We would like to extent to you a cordial invitation to attend the September 2004 ESAO meeting for work, for fun, for sightseeing, and for witnessing at first hand Warsaw real transformation into one of Europe's most thriving cities.

Jan Maria Wojcicki
Congress President



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ESAO Office (Mrs. A. Aichinger):

Center for Biomedical Technology
Dr. Karl Dorrek street 30, A 3500 Krems, Austria
E-mail: esao@donau-uni.ac.at, Homepage: <http://www.esao.org>

ESAO Office for Eastern Europe (Prof. Jan M. Wojcicki):

Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering PAS,
4 Trojdena street, 02-109 Warsaw, Poland
E-mail: Jan.Wojcicki@ibib.waw.pl

XXXI. CONGRESS – ESAO 2004
Towards Medical Technology of the Future

Congress Organizing Committee

Congress President - Jan M. Wojcicki

Honorary Congress President - Maciej Nalecz

Program Chairmen

Andrzej Werynski & Jan M. Wojcicki

The Local Organizing Committee

Piotr Ladyzynski - **Chairman**

Piotr Foltynski, Karolina Musial,

Anna Ciechanowska, Stanisława Sabalinska,

Krystyna Deszczynska & Dariusz Pisarski

Congress Secretariat Warsaw

“CONGRESS-OR”

Congress & Tourism Bureau

47 Zurawia street, Apt. 304, 00-680 Warsaw, Poland

Phone/Fax: (+ 48 22) 621-31-16; (+ 48 22) 628-45-48

Contact person: **Ilona Grela**

e-mail: i.grela@congressor.com.pl

Scientific Secretariat

Prof. Jan M. Wojcicki

Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering P.A.S

4 Trojdena street, 02-109 Warsaw, Poland

Tel: (0-4822) 658 28 75

Fax: (0-4822) 659 70 30

<http://www.ibib.waw.pl/esao2004>

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XXXI. CONGRESS – ESAO 2004

Towards Medical Technology of the Future

CONGRESS THEME

"Towards Medical Technology of the Future"

The scientific program will include

- ◆ Plenary lectures
- ◆ Regular oral and poster sessions
- ◆ ESAO Working Group Symposia
- ◆ Sponsored Symposia
- ◆ Corporate Member's Symposium

on the following topics:

Apheresis	Electrostimulation
Artificial Blood	Expert Systems
Artificial Heart	Hybrid Artificial Organs
Artificial Kidney and Dialysis	Image Processing
Artificial and Bioartificial Liver	Immunomodulation
Artificial Lung and Gas Exchange	Immunoisolation
Artificial, Bioartificial Pancreas and Diabetes Treatment	Intensive Care and Monitoring of AO - Recipients
Artificial Skin	Modeling and Simulation
Artificial Sensory Organs	Muscle Powered Assist Systems
Biomaterials and Surface Modifications	Neuroprostheses
Biosensors	Organ Regeneration
Cardiac Assist Devices	Respiratory Systems
Cell Transplantation	Robotics and Navigations
Cell and Gene Therapy	Sensor Aids
Drug Delivery Systems	Tissue Engineering
	Miscellaneous



TENTATIVE TIME-TABLE of the Congress

Wednesday, September 8th

Time of the day	
17:00 – 17:20	OPENING CEREMONY
17:20 – 18:00	PLENARY LECTURE T. Siminiak, Poland: “Cell transplantation as possible future technology in regenerative medicine”
18:00 – 18:20	Membrana Award
18:20 – 18:50	Concert
19:00 – 21:30	WELCOME RECEPTION

Thursday, September 9th

Time of the Day			
8:30 – 10:00	Session I (oral) presentations: 1 - 6	Session II (oral) presentations: 7 - 12	Session III (oral) presentations: 13 - 18
10:05 – 10:45	PLENARY LECTURE B. Lindholm, Sweden: “Genotyping for prediction and understanding of outcomes of the patients with renal diseases”		
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:00 – 12:30	Session IV (oral) presentations: 19 - 24	Session V (oral) presentations: 25 - 30	Session VI (oral) presentations: 31 - 36
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
	Corporate Members Lunch Symposium		
14:00 – 15:30	“Heart Support” Sponsored Symposium I	“Peritoneal Dialysis” Sponsored Symposium	“Anticoagulation” Sponsored Symposium
15:30 – 17:00	POSTER SESSIONS		
17:00 – 18:30	Session VII (oral) presentations: 37 - 42	Session VIII (oral) presentations: 43 - 48	Session IX (oral) presentations: 49 - 54

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Friday, September 10th

Time of the Day			
8:30 – 10:00	Session X (oral) presentations: 55 - 60	Session XI (oral) presentations: 61 - 66	Session XII (oral) presentations: 67 - 72
10:05 – 10:45	PLENARY LECTURE A. Meyns, Belgium: “Clinical needs for heart support”.		
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:00 – 12:30	Session XIII (oral) presentations: 73 - 78	Session XIV (oral) presentations: 79 – 84	Session XV (oral) presentations: 85 - 90
	<i>Lunch Break</i>		
12:30 – 14:00	“Liver Support” Working Group Lunch Symposium I	“Uremic Toxins” Working Group Lunch Symposium I	“Regenerative Medicine” Working Group Lunch Symposium I
14:00 – 15:30	“Liver Support” Working Group Symposium II	“Uremic Toxins” Working Group Symposium II	“Regenerative Medicine” Working Group Symposium II
15:30 – 17:00	POSTER SESSIONS		
17:00 – 17:30	GENERAL ASSEMBLY		
18:00 – 23:00	FESTIVE DINNER		

Saturday, September 11th

Time of the Day			
8:30 – 10:00	Session XVI (oral) presentations: 91-96	Session XVII (oral) presentations: 97-102	Session XVIII (oral) presentations: 103-108
10:05 – 10:45	PLENARY LECTURE D. Klonoff, USA: “Current status of the artificial pancreas”.		
10:45 – 11:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>		
11:00 – 12:30	“Heart Support” Sponsored Symposium II	“Apheresis” Working Group Symposium	“Diabetes Treatment” Sponsored Symposium
12:30 – 13:30	SUMMARY OF THE CONGRESS AND CLOSING CEREMONY		
13:30 – 14:30	FAREWELL LUNCH		



PRE - CONGRESS MEETINGS

13:00 – 16:00 Wednesday 8th of September

- Apheresis Working Group Meeting (free entrance for the congress participants)
- Heart Support Working Group Meeting (free entrance for the congress participants)

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstract must be received by the scientific secretariat at the latest on

April 15th, 2004.

The guidelines for abstract preparation can be found on the website of the congress and on the enclosed form.

Abstract can be submitted as follows:

(1) On-line (preferred method)

Abstracts may be submitted via the website using the online submission form. For further information and instructions please visit <http://www.ibib.waw.pl/esao2004>.

(2). E-mail

The abstracts may be sent as a Rich Text Format (rtf) or MS Word Document (doc) file attachment to esao2004@ibib.waw.pl

(3) Regular mail

Send your abstract together with a floppy disk or a CD-ROM to:
ESAO Scientific Secretariat

AWARDS

Membrana Award: The Annual ESAO Congress “Membrana” Award (5000 Euro) is the most prominent award of the ESAO. It is aimed at encouraging young scientists (younger than 38 years) working in the relevant fields of the artificial organ research.

Poster Awards: Three poster awards (500, 300 and 200 Euro) will be given to the authors of the best posters selected by a jury at the meeting.

ESAO Innovation Awards: Two awards (500 Euro each) are dedicated to the most innovative work presented. The decision will be made by a jury based on abstracts and presentations.

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PRESENTATIONS

● Free Communication: Oral Presentation

10 minutes presentation + 5 minutes discussion for each communication are planned. Strict adherence to the allotted time is firmly requested from speakers of all oral sessions. Computer beam projector connected to a PC computer running Windows 98 / XP, slide projector, and overhead projector will be at presenters' disposal in each lecture room.

Slides must be 50 x 50 mm and be fitted in plastic or metal frames. The slides should be given to the Slide Centre in advance to allow preparation of the slide projection.

Computer presentations should be prepared using MS PowerPoint in 800 x 600 pixels resolution and full color mode (24 bpp). Resolution of 1024 x 768 pixels may be available but can not be guaranteed. Computer presentation should be delivered on a CD-ROM.

● Free Communication: Poster Presentation

Authors are kindly requested to mount their Poster on the assigned boards. All posters have to be removed by the authors at the end of the day of presentation. One of the authors is required to attend the poster position during the time scheduled for discussion with Chairmen and other Congress delegates.

● Publication Policy

All accepted abstracts will be published in the International Journal of Artificial Organs.

● Trade Exhibition

All companies are kindly invited to participate in the Industrial exhibition.

Certain area in the vicinity of posters and the places where coffee will be served will be devoted to exhibitions. This will ensure an easy and visibly access to the exhibition stands.

Commercial companies are also offered several possibilities to participate at and support ESAO 2004 Congress through sponsorship and advertisement, including the following opportunities:

- ◆ Exhibition
- ◆ Workshop sponsorship
- ◆ Conference bags
- ◆ Advertising in the final program
- ◆ Coffee breaks
- ◆ Inserts in the conference bags
- ◆ Buss shuttle
- ◆ Social events

Companies requiring any kind of information (participation, cost, entry forms etc.) concerning Trade Exhibition please contact the **Scientific Congress Secretariat** (Prof. J.M. Wojcicki).



REGISTRATION

To register for the Congress please complete **the attached Registration and Hotel reservation Form and return it to the Congress Secretariat ("Congress-Or")**. The electronic copy of the form is available on the website of the congress "on-line" and for download.

The deadline for early registration is **July 20th, 2004**. Delegates will be officially registered upon receipt of this form and the appropriate Congress dues.

A confirmation will be sent either by regular mail or by e-mail. Please check this confirmation very carefully to see if all items you have requested and paid for have been mentioned.

REGISTRATION FEES

	Early registration	Late registration
Participant	before July 20 th	after July 20 th
ESAO Member	300,- EURO	350,- EURO
ESAO Non-Member	350,- EURO	400,- EURO
Central and Eastern Countries ESAO Member	200,- EURO	250,- EURO
Central and Eastern Countries ESAO Non-Member	250,- EURO	300,- EURO
Students (with confirmation of their Universities)	150,- EURO	200,- EURO
One day registration fee	100,- EURO	125,- EURO
Registration for Accompanying Persons	50, EURO	50,- EURO

The registration fee for participants includes:

- ◆ Admission to all plenary sessions, workshops, poster sessions and exhibition
- ◆ Congress Badge
- ◆ Congress Bag
- ◆ Abstract Book
- ◆ Lunches on 9th, 10th, Farewell Lunch on 11th of September and refreshments during breaks
- ◆ Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception on September 8th, 2004 at Porczynski Gallery (1 Bankowy Square, Warsaw) at 17:00

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The registration fee for Accompanying Persons includes:

- Admission to the Congress venue
- Congress Badge
- Opening Ceremony and Welcome Reception on September 8th, 2004 at Porczynski Gallery (1 Bankowy Square, Warsaw) at 17:00
- Lunches on 9th, 10th and Farewell Lunch on 11th of September and refreshments during breaks

Special, extra paid, social events for accompanying persons are described in the section "Tours and Excursions proposed by CONGRESS-OR Congress & Tourism Bureau".

Account name: "CONGRESS-OR" Congress & Tourism Bureau (88-301/ESAO)

Bank name: Bank Przemysłowo-Handlowy PBK S.A.

Branch name: O/Warszawa

Account no: 14 1060 0076 0000 4010 4024 2223

SWIFT: BPHKPLPK

Please:

- ensure that the bank charges are borne by the participant
- make sure that your name appears on the payment
- send the copy of bank transfer receipt to "CONGRESS-OR" either by fax or by regular mail

Credit card payment restricted to: Visa Card / Diners Club / American Express/ MasterCard / EuroCard / JCB.

Cancellation

Notification of cancellation must be made in writing to the "CONGRESS-OR" Congress & Tourism Bureau.

Cancellation before July 20th, 2004 – a refund of 100% will be made.

Cancellation before August 10th, 2004 – a refund of 70% will be made.

Cancellation after August 10th, 2004 – no refund.

The refund will be made after the Congress.

Registration and information during the Congress

Delegates are kindly requested to register at the Central Reception located in the Congress venue at the Institute of Biocybernetics and Biomedical Engineering, at the beginning of the Congress. Participants will be able to collect their badge and Congress documentation.

Central Reception will be open at the following times:

Wednesday, September 8 th	12:00 – 17:00
Thursday, September 9 th	07:30 – 19:30
Friday, September 10 th	08:00 – 18:00
Saturday, September 11 th	08:00 – 16:00



ACCOMMODATION

“CONGRESS-OR” Congress & Tourism Bureau would like to offer you accommodation in Warsaw hotels in various categories (see the map). There will be shuttle bus service at the early hours and at the evening time provided by the Organizers between the Congress hotels and Congress venue.

Hotels prices include VAT valid on February 2004. In the case of modifications in VAT tax regulations in Poland we reserve the right to change the prices.

Hotel	Category	Single room (Euro)	Double room (Euro)
Sofitel Victoria	*****	139	158
Jan III Sobieski	****	112	128
Europejski	***	88	100
Novotel Centrum	***	85	94
Grand	***	74	82
Vera	***	56	66
Campanile	**	50	58

The above rates include one overnight stay and breakfast

The number of rooms in each hotel is limited. Please indicate your first and second choice in the **Registration and Hotel Reservation Form**.

A deposit is required for each hotel booking. **The deposit is the cost of the first night.** The sum will be subtracted from the total amount at the final settlement of account. In the event of non-arrival, the hotel will automatically release the reservation and the payment will be non-refundable.

Official check-in time for the hotels is 14:00 hours and check-out is noon.

“CONGRESS-OR” Congress & Tourism Bureau, upon receipt of the Registration and Accommodation Hotel Reservation Form will issue a booking Confirmation, with the name and address of your hotel.

Accommodation deadline and hotel deposit payment: July 20th, 2004 (Please note that all unsold rooms will be released and reservations requested after this date will be accepted upon availability).

Attention: Lack of the hotel deposit payment will be taken as resignation of hotel reservation.

Meals

Breakfast is included in the room prices and will be served at the hotels.

For participants, lunches will be provided in Congress site free of charge on September 9th at 12:30, September 10th at 12:30 and September 11th at 13:30.

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CONGRESS SOCIAL EVENTS

Wednesday, September 8th, 2004

Welcome Reception at the Porczynski Gallery

A chance to meet old friends and make new ones at Welcome Reception cocktail held at the Porczynski Gallery. Get together event will start just after opening ceremony.

Friday, September 10th, 2004

Festive Dinner in a beautiful Mazovian Castle

This will be the great occasion to talk in a nice atmosphere of how much has been discussed and learned. Cold and hot dishes, drinks and entertainment will be provided. The event will take place at a genuine Polish castle with an over 500-year history. Castle is situated on a hill, overlooking Narew River, it borders the Biała Forest.

Departure from Congress site at 18:00, return at around 23:00 straight to your hotels

Price: **45 Euro** per person



TOURS AND EXCURSIONS proposed by “CONGRESS-OR” Congress & Tourism Bureau

Wednesday, September 8th, 2004

Sightseeing of Warsaw

12:00 – 14:00 The guided sightseeing tour in English will introduce you to the most interesting attractions of Warsaw. You will hear about the past and see what is happening today.

Departure from hotels at 12:00 – 12:15, return at 14:00 back to hotels.

Price: 35 Euro per person

Attention: The event will take place depending on the number of applicants.

Thursday, September 9th, 2004

Visit to the Botanical Garden and Wilanow Palace

ATTENTION: *This social event will take place during the Congress sessions and because of this is especially arranged for the accompanying persons.*

9:30 - 14:30 Sightseeing of Warsaw and visit to the Botanical Garden in Powsin. Visit to the Wilanow – the Baroque residence of the Polish King John III Sobieski set in a lovely park. King John III Sobieski build it in the late 17th century as a present for his French wife. To make her more at home in her new country, the palace was modeled on Versailles, though in much smaller dimensions. After sightseeing, lunch in Wilanow.

Coach departure from the Congress site at 9:30.

Price: 50 Euro per person

Thursday, September 9th, 2004

Excursion to Zelazowa Wola at 18:00

Zelazowa Wola is located 60 km from Warsaw. On this bus tour (with English speaking guide assistance) you will visit the birthplace of Fryderyk Chopin, the famous Polish composer. The house of his parents, surrounded by a beautiful park, has been transformed into a museum, partly retaining its original 19th century interiors. During the summertime Chopin concerts are held at the museum. Following a piano concert, you will be able to taste some of the most delicious dishes of the Mazovian region cuisine in a typical countryside restaurant. There will be many attractions that evening including folklore band performance etc.

Coach departures from the Congress site at 18:00.

Price: 98 Euro per person.

Attention: The event will take place depending on the number of applicants.

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Friday, September 10th, 2004

Visit to the Lazienki Park

ATTENTION: *This social event will take place during the Congress sessions and because of this is especially arranged for the accompanying persons.*

10:30 - 13:30 Visit to the Lazienki Park around the Royal Summer Palace with the Chopin monument. If you want to escape the hubbub of the big city for a while, this is the place to go to. Apart from its beautiful old trees and romantic ponds, there are some architectural sights to be found here, such as the Palace on the Water – the summer residence of the last Polish King Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski, also the Old Orangery or the Amphitheatre. In the summer at midday, there are Chopin concerts held in the park at the monument of the composer.

Coach departure from the Congress site at 10:30.

Price: **30 Euro**

Saturday, September 11th, 2004

Visit to the Royal Castle

ATTENTION: *This social event will take place during the Congress sessions and because of this is especially arranged for the accompanying persons.*

9:30 - 13:30 The Royal Castle originates from the Middle Ages. It was the residence of Polish Kings and the seat of Parliament. From 1926 to 1939, it served as the residence of the Polish President. During World War II, the castle was completely destroyed, but thanks to the efforts of Poles from home and abroad it was rebuilt from 1971-1984. Much of the original furnishing and works of art have returned to their former places. The Royal Castle now serves as a museum. Visit to Warsaw Art Galleries and to one of Warsaw's Bake Shops for a taste of Polish sweets.

Coach departure from the Congress site at 9:30.

Price: **30 Euro**



GENERAL INFORMATION

Arrivals and departures

Warsaw is easily accessible by air, rail, or road.

There will be **ESAO Information Stand** at the airport (organized by “CONGRESS-OR” Congress & Tourism Bureau), where hostesses will answer all your questions and direct you if necessary.

From the airport, Congress place and hotels can be easily reached in twenty/thirty minutes by taxi (cost from 5 – 10 Euro) or public transport (bus No 175).

Congress Secretariat

Registration, hotel reservation and participation in excursions are arranged either on-line, or by fax or regular mail to:

“CONGRESS-OR”

Congress & Tourism Bureau

47 Zurawia street, Apt.304, 00-680 Warszawa, Poland

Phone / Fax: (+ 48 22) 621-31-16; 628-45-48

Contact person: Ilona Grela, e-mail: i.grela@congressor.com.pl

Badge

Admission to scientific sessions and other events is permitted only to those wearing the official Congress badge.

Passports and visas

All foreign visitors must possess a passport valid for at least the next 6 months. Some participants may require visas in order to enter Poland. Please check with your local Polish Consulate or Embassy for details regarding visa and entry requirements.

Letters of invitation

Upon request, the Secretariat of the Congress will send a personal invitation to participants. This invitation is meant only to help visitors raise funds or to obtain a visa, and is not a commitment on the part of the organizers to provide any financial support.

Liability

The Congress Secretariat and Organizers cannot accept liability for personal accidents, loss of belongings or damage to private property of participants, students and accompanying persons, either during or directly arising from the ESAO 2004 meeting. Participants should make their own arrangements with respect to health, travel and property insurance before they depart from their country.

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Currency and credit cards

The currency unit in Poland is the Polish Zloty (PLN) which is subdivided into 100 grosze (gr). The current exchange rate to Euro and US Dollar can be checked at <http://www.oanda.com/converter/classic> (choose PLN as the Polish currency code). In January 2004 it is about 4,7 PLN for 1 Euro. Delegates may change foreign currency and travelers checks at several banks located in the center of the city as well as in many exchange bureaus, at the railway station, at the airport or in many others places. International credit cards are accepted in many hotels, restaurants, cash machines and shops.

Electricity

Electricity supply is 230 V / 50 Hz.

Climate and clothing

The weather in September in Warsaw is usually warm and pleasant, however the evenings might be sometimes quite cold. The average daytime temperature varies from 15 degrees to 18 degrees of Celsius. There is the possibility of rain, so an umbrella, light raincoat and comfortable shoes are advisable. The weather forecast can be checked at <http://weather.icm.edu.pl/java/mgram.php?x=19&y=13&lang=1&ver=06>

Telephone

You can use public telephones with phone cards which can be obtained at the post offices, airport, railway stations, kiosks and in some hotels.

Shopping

Most shops (except for food stores) are open from 11:00 until 19:00. Some department stores may open earlier or close later on weekdays as well as on Saturdays and Sundays.

Polish craftwork is fascinating: wood carving and hand-woven rugs come mostly from the Zakopane region. Other souvenirs include glass, hand-woven baskets, paper cut-outs and crystal. One of the most popular souvenirs is amber from the Baltic Sea. Each individual piece can be fashioned into a pendant, ring, bracelet, or earrings. Most highly prized is amber with a prehistoric insect preserved inside, though it is a rare find. Poland is also known for its silver jewellery, which is sometimes combined with amber to create uniquely Polish pieces.

Food

Poles are known for their hospitality and love of food. Polish meals offer a wide selection ranging from fresh game in season to Baltic herring. Red beet soup or borsch, is well-known, as are Polish sausage (*kielbasa*) and stuffed cabbage (*gołąbki*). Dumplings (*pierogi*) come stuffed with meat, potatoes, blueberries, or sauerkraut and mushrooms. *Bigos* is a stew of meat and sauerkraut, while roast duck comes stuffed with apples. For dessert, try pastries with poppy seeds, or perhaps a Polish donut filled with preserved fruit (*pączek*). In the summer, try our delectable strawberries, blueberries and cherries.



POST - CONGRESS TOURS

Warsaw-Cracow-Wieliczka-Częstochowa-Warsaw

September 12th - 14th, 2004

(coach departures September 12th, 2004 at 7:00 in the morning,
returns on September 13th, 2004 at night)

2-day coach tour:

Price: **333 Euro** per person extra charge for a single room – **55 Euro** per person

The fee covers:

- accommodation in Cracow (breakfast and taxes included),
- entrance fees,
- sightseeing of Cracow including Wawel Royal Castle,
- sightseeing of Wieliczka Salt Mine,
- sightseeing of Jasna Gora Monastery,
- full-board,
- bus transportation - modern deluxe coach,
- English-speaking guide assistance,
- accommodation in Warsaw, September 13th - 14th in a *** star hotel in the center of Warsaw (breakfast and taxes included).

Kraków (Cracow)

Poland's medieval capital, Cracow, possesses a unique atmosphere. For centuries, artists have flocked here, and today it has become one of Poland's most popular tourist destinations. From atop a hill, Wawel Castle keeps watch over the Old Town. The castle, built in the Middle Ages, was reconstructed in XVI century in the Renaissance style and its interiors contain the treasures of the Polish Kings. The Cathedral sits beside the castle, the final resting place of all but two of the Polish Kings. Beneath the hill is a cave, which, legend has it, was once inhabited by a dragon. The Old Market Square is alive with visitors from around the world. The central piece of the square, the Sukiennice cloth hall, is still used by merchants today. St. Mary's Church, one of Cracow's many churches, stands across the square. From its tower, a solitary bugle call reminds visitors of the bugler who had a warning of an invasion cut short in the mid-note by a Tatar arrow. Inside stands the spectacular carved Wit Stwosz Triptych Altar.

Wieliczka

In Wieliczka you can visit a Salt Mine that has been working continuously since the Middle Ages. Visitors can tour three underground levels of the mine walking three kilometers through chambers ornately carved out of salt rock and view the Museum of Cracow Salt working and an underground sanatorium. Wieliczka's Salt Mine has been placed on UNESCO's World's Cultural Heritage list.

Czestochowa

Jasna Gora's most valuable treasure is the miraculous painting of Our Lady. Because of this painting, Jasna Gora became Poland's most famous sanctuary among the numerous sites to Marian devotion throughout the country. But it is not just the tradition, which considers Luke the Apostle as the artist, or the influence of monarchs to whom Jasna Gora has always been dear that made this place famous above all others. It is the miraculous presence of the image which has always attracted pilgrims not only from all over Poland but from all over the world, as the numerous votive offerings show. The tour will end on Tuesday, September 14th with the breakfast at the hotel in Warsaw.

XXXI. CONGRESS – ESAO 2004

Towards Medical Technology of the Future

Warsaw – Gdansk – Malbork – Warsaw

September 12th – 14th, 2004

(coach departures on September 12th, 2004 at 7:00 in the morning, returns on September 13th, 2004 at night)

2-day coach tour:

Price: **310 Euro** per person extra charge for a single room – **50 Euro** per person.

The fee covers:

- accommodation in Gdansk (breakfast and taxes included),
- entrance fees,
- sightseeing of Triple City – Gdansk, Gdynia, Sopot,
- organ concert in Gdansk-Oliwa,
- sightseeing of Gothic Castle in Malbork,
- full-board,
- bus transportation – modern coach deluxe,
- English-speaking guide assistance,
- accommodation in Warsaw September 13th - 14th in a *** star hotel in the center of Warsaw (breakfast and taxes included).

Gdansk

In 1997 Gdansk celebrated its one thousandth anniversaries. Located where the Vistula River meets the Baltic Sea, it is part of the Tri-City area which includes the modern seaport of Gdynia and the resort town of Sopot. Gdansk is a paradise for visitors, with its historic charm intact despite the heavy toll of World War II. Romantic Mariacka Lane invites strollers to experience the quiet of time past, while the long Market bustles with activity well into the evening. The medieval St. Mary's Church, Poland's largest church, towers majestically over the city. Neptune's Fountain stands in front of the late-Gothic Artus Court, one of the Old Town's most impressive buildings. Visitors flock year-round to the town famous for its amber, architecture, and smooth Hevelius beer. It was also here where the Solidarity Trade Union was born.

Malbork

This town was established by the Teutonic Knights and served as the capital of their mini-state in the years 1309-1457, with the gigantic Gothic castle being the residence of the Grand Master of the Teutonic Order. Today the castle represents one of the fine examples of medieval defensive architecture.

Oliwa

The northern suburb of Oliwa is home to a cathedral which contains the famous Organ of Oliwa, built from 1763 to 1788. Today it is still played during concerts.

The both POST CONGRESS tours to the Cracow and to the Gdansk will end on Tuesday, September 14th with the breakfast at the hotel in Warsaw.

Attention: The excursions will take place depending on the number of applicants.



OTHER PLACES TO VISIT IN WARSAW

The Old Town

The Old Town (Stare Miasto) is for those who enjoy museums, art, and historical architecture away from the bustle of everyday city life. It is closed to traffic, and in its narrow streets you can relax and leave the 21st century behind for a while. Everything here is within easy walking distance. The Old Town is especially beautiful in the evening when its floodlit walls, houses and monuments begin to live a life of their own. An absolute must for all visitors of Warsaw.

Old Town Square

This is the hub of the life in Warsaw's Old Town.

The Royal Route

The Royal Route connects the Royal Castle with the other two royal residences: in the Lazienki Park and the Palace of Wilanow. Especially its northern part between the Old Town and Charles de Gaulle Roundabout is worth seeing, comprising Krakowskie Przedmiescie, with its many palaces and churches, and the beautiful campus of Warsaw University, and Warsaw's most elegant shopping street, Nowy Swiat. These two streets, carefully reconstructed after the war, are one of the few places that retain the atmosphere of pre-war Warsaw.

The Jewish Warsaw

The Warsaw Ghetto, where during World War II the Nazis imprisoned over 400 000 Jews, comprises monuments commemorating the place from where Jews were sent to death in the concentration camps. Apart from the monuments, today there is little left that would remind of those days, as the ghetto was completely leveled during the Ghetto Uprising of 1943. The terror of those days, however, can be sensed at two small museums, the Pawiak Prison Museum and the Museum of Struggle and Martyrdom, situated in the cellars of the former Gestapo headquarters at 25 Szucha Avenue (today the Ministry of Education). The huge area of Jewish cemetery in Okopowa street can impress any visitor.

The Palace of Culture and Science

The Stalinesque skyscraper over the city center is probably the most impressive example of this style of architecture outside the former Soviet Union. At the multimedia information center on the 30th floor visitors can get an overview of Warsaw and its history as well as breathtaking views of the whole city.

Disclaimer

All best endeavors will be made to present the programme as printed. However, the Organizers reserve the right to alter or cancel, without prior notice, any of the arrangements, timetables, plans or other items relating directly or indirectly to Congress, for any reasons beyond their reasonable control.

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