

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANDROLOGY

ITS BEGINNINGS

The term ANDROLOGY was introduced in 1951 by Harald Siebke, a Professor of Gynecology in Bonn, Germany. However, many years passed before the term gained acceptance. It was not until 1969 when, due to the efforts of Dr Carl Schirren of Hamburg, that the first scientific journal dedicated to the subject titled ANDROLOGIE initiated its publication in West Germany (Schirren, 1985). Now, ANDROLOGY is recognized as an area of science and medicine which fosters a multidisciplinary and multifaceted approach to the study of male reproduction. ANDROLOGY encompasses both basic and clinical sciences. It includes research in biochemistry, genetics, histology, immunology, molecular biology, pathology, pharmacology, physiology and endocrinology. It also includes urology, microsurgery, gynecology, internal medicine, pediatrics, psychology and animal husbandry.

The American Society of Andrology came into being, not as an isolated development but, as a consequence of events promoted by individuals deeply committed to the study of male reproduction. The first of these events, took place in the U.S.A., when Drs W. O. Nelson and CH. LeBlond, suggested that a Club of scientists interested in the study of male reproduction be organized. At that time, Dr E. Steinberger became actively involved in the organization of the Club which held its first meeting in 1968. The Club became known as the Warren O. Nelson Club and held meetings for the following four years. Although it was proposed that the Club become a society, the idea did not materialize.

The second event which occurred abroad in 1970, was the establishment of the Comite Internacional de Andrologia, better known as CIDA, whose tireless founders were Drs A. Puigvert, of Barcelona, Spain, and Dr R. E. Mancini, of Buenos Aires,

Argentina. Due to the continuous efforts of various individuals among them, Drs R. E. Mancini, J. M. Pomerol of Barcelona, and E. Eliasson of Stockholm, Sweden, CIDA was reorganized in 1972, and its governing regulations approved in 1973. It is worth noting that the work carried out by CIDA, fundamentally, to encourage and promote the study of male reproduction, was possible due to the generous support of the Fundacion Puigvert, and of the Population Council, with headquarters in Barcelona and New York, respectively (Eliasson, 1974). CIDA adopted ANDROLOGIE as its publication arm, changing its title to ANDROLOGIA. In 1978, a new journal, the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ANDROLOGY, became the official publication of CIDA. However, both, ANDROLOGIA and the INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ANDROLOGY are now being published without their official affiliation with CIDA or the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANDROLOGY (ISA).

Since its inception, CIDA enjoyed the active participation of American scientists, among others, Drs N. Alexander, W. Bardin, D. Fawcett, C. A. Paulsen, E. Rosemberg, R.J. Sherins, E. Steinberger, and P. Troen, who helped foster the growth of the organization. CIDA stimulated the development of ANDROLOGY as a field of science throughout the world, which led to the formation of several national andrology societies, promoted educational activities, and organized International Congresses. It should be noted that in 1981, when the INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ANDROLOGY (ISA), emerged from the COMITE INTERNATIONAL DE ANDROLOGIA (Nieschlag, 1985), CIDA ceased to exist.

The third important event relevant to the development of ANDROLOGY occurred in the U.S.A., in 1972, when, at the time of the International Congress of Endocrinology held in Washington, D.C., the first Testis Workshop Meeting took place as a Satellite Symposium to the International Congress. This meeting was initiated by M.B. Lipsett, who was then Chief of the Endocrinology and Reproductive Research Branch

of the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), National Institutes of Health (NIH), Bethesda, Maryland. The Testis Workshop Meetings continue to be held every year under the sponsorship of NICHD, NIH.

As American scientists maintained a long standing interest both, at the national and international level, in the formal organization of groups dedicated to the study of male reproduction, the idea of the establishment of an American Society of Andrology (ASA), gradually gained the needed exposure and support from the American scientific community.

This idea was relentlessly pursued by Dr E. Steinberger who discussed the project with interested scientists at the International Congress of Endocrinology held in 1972 in Washington, D.C., at the International Congress on Hormonal Steroids held in 1974 in Mexico City, and also in 1974, at the VIII World Congress of Fertility and Sterility, which was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. It was then that the idea was seriously considered.

On November 7, 1974, a meeting concerning the formation of the ASA took place in Buenos Aires, attended by Drs E.S.E. Hafez, E. Rosemberg, E. Steinberger, and D. de Kretser and R. Eliasson, as representatives of CIDA. The conclusions arrived at this meeting were that Dr E. Steinberger continue to explore the interest of the American scientific community in the establishment of the ASA, receiving the necessary support from Drs E. Rosemberg and E.S.E. Hafez, as well as from members of CIDA. If it was found that sufficient interest was present, the American Society of Andrology could be organized during a Symposium which was to take place in Detroit, Michigan, in April 1975.

Dr Steinberger received many enthusiastic replies from investigators and clinicians. Therefore, the stage was set to schedule the organizational meeting of the American Society of Andrology, which was hosted by Drs T. Evans and

E.S.E. Hafez, April 25, 1975, during the Symposium on " The Human Semen and Fertility Regulation ", organized by the C.S. Mott Center for Human Growth and Development, in Detroit, Michigan.

The initiation of any endeavor requires the gathering of individuals who are willing to provide expertise and devote the necessary time to complete a task. The ASA was fortunate to find such a group, who worked continuously from early February till April 1975 to study and suggest a possible organizational chart for the Society to be established at the Meeting of the Incorporators, to take place April 25, 1975. The individuals most actively involved during this preliminary phase were: N. Alexander, S.J. Behrman, E.S.E. Hafez, E. Rosemberg, and E. Steinberger.

On April 24, 1975, as part of the activities of the Detroit Meeting, the participants elected a Committee composed of four individuals, charged with the election of a fifth member, of the election among themselves of the Officers of the future American Society of Andrology, and the election of the members of the Executive Council. The elected members of this Committee were: N. Alexander, S.J. Behrman, E.S.E. Hafez, and E. Steinberger. The Committee met and elected as the fifth member E. Rosemberg.

The Meeting of the INCORPORATORS of the AMERICAN SOCIETY OF ANDROLOGY was held April 25, 1975, with all the Incorporators, N.Alexander, E.S.E. Hafez, S.J. Behrman, E. Rosemberg, and E. Steinberger in attendance.

E. Steinberger was elected to preside over the meeting, and E.S.E. Hafez was named temporary secretary. The Incorporators elected the following individuals as Officers of the Society: PRESIDENT: E. Steinberger, VICE PRESIDENT: S.J.Behrman, SECRETARY: E.S.E.Hafez, TREASURER: N. Alexander, PROGRAM CHAIRMAN: E. Rosemberg.

The Officers elected the following individuals as Members of the EXECUTIVE COUNCIL: A. Bartke, J. Corriere, F.C. Derrick, Jr., T. Evans, D. Fawcett, C.A. Paulsen, R. Sherins, A. Steinberger, and L. Zaneveld.

The following COMMITTEES were established: BY LAWS - Chairman: S.J. Behrman, Members: N. Alexander, E.S.E. Hafez, E. Steinberger, and J. Corriere; NOMINATING - Chairman: D. Fawcett, Member: C.A. Paulsen; PROGRAM - Chairman: E. Rosemberg, Members: R. Sherins and A. Steinberger; MEMBERSHIP - Chairman: L. Zaneveld, Member: F.C. Derrick, Jr.; FISCAL - Chairman: S.J. Behrman, Members: N. Alexander and T. Evans; LIAISON - Chairman: S.J. Behrman; PUBLICATION - E. Rosemberg. Each Committee Chairman was urged to select the appropriate number of committee members and to send their nominations to all Officers of the Society.

Under the leadership of the President, E. Steinberger, a frenzy of activity took place during the months following the Meeting of the Incorporators. Each Committee Chairman appointed their respective members, and each committee worked at a rapid pace.

By June 1975, due to the efforts of S.J. Behrman, the Articles of Incorporation were signed in the State of Michigan, therefore, the ASA was a legal entity and could function in compliance with Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Consequently, the Society began its activities, soliciting individuals to join the ASA by means of Membership Application Forms, and the Treasurer, N. Alexander, opened a Bank account in order to initiate deposit of membership dues. By July 1975, the Secretary, E.S.E. Hafez, recorded 196 members from the U.S.A., and 47 from Europe. Other aspects of the organizational work proceeded very rapidly. S.J. Behrman and E. Rosemberg dedicated time to prepare a draft of the ASA Constitution and By Laws, and E. Rosemberg initiated the preparation of the First Annual Scientific Meeting of the ASA, scheduled for March 1976 in

Worcester, Massachusetts.

It was recognized that full discussion of important issues needed to be carried out. Therefore, the President, E. Steinberger, scheduled the FIRST MEETING of the Officers, Members of the Council and Committee Chairman. The Meeting was held at the University Motor Inn, Fort Collins, Colorado, July 24, 1975.

At this FIRST MEETING of the Officers and Members of the ASA Council, the following was discussed: a draft of the By Laws presented by S.J. Behrman, ASA affiliation with CIDA and utilization of ANDROLOGIA as the publication arm of the ASA, format of the Membership Application Forms and of the Society's stationary and logo, authorization to sign checks in behalf of the Society, format of the forthcoming First Annual Scientific Meeting, and tenure of office of the President, Vice President and Program Chairman.

The highlights of the important decisions made at this Meeting are as follows: that three (3) Officers be authorized to sign checks, with only one (1) signature, that of the Treasurer, required to withdraw funds; that the ASA affiliate with CIDA and use ANDROLOGIA as its publication arm; that the President serve through 1976-1977; that the Vice President serve through 1976-1977, and become President for 1977-1978; that the Nominating Committee present a slate for nomination and election at the Second Annual Meeting of the ASA for Vice President for 1977-1978, and Program Chairman for 1976-1977; that the Official Business Meeting of the Society be held at the time of the First Scientific Meeting in March, 1976; that A. Bartke assume the post vacated by L. Zaneveld.

The Program Chairman, E. Roseberg, presented the outline of the program of the First Scientific Meeting to take place at the University of Massachusetts, Medical School, in Worcester, Massachusetts, March 31- April 2, 1976. E. Roseberg indicated that she had initiated negotiations to obtain financial support for

the Meeting, as well as negotiations with CIDA in order to publish as a Supplement to ANDROLOGIA the Proceedings of the First Scientific Meeting. The report of the Program Chairman was approved.

The real launching of the Society occurred March 31-April 2, 1976, when the First Scientific Meeting of the ASA took place at the University of Massachusetts, Medical School, in Worcester, Massachusetts. All Committee Members had worked assiduously, and the Society was well under way with 235 recorded members.

The Scientific meeting enjoyed the attendance of 97 members of the ASA, of representatives of other Scientific Societies, of the Center for Population Research, NICHD, NIH, of Members of the Faculty of the University of Massachusetts, Medical School, and of local Worcester physicians (Steinberger, 1976).

The SECOND MEETING of the Officers, Members of Council, and Committee Chairman, was held March 30, 1976, at the Sheraton-Lincoln Inn, Worcester, Massachusetts. At this time, all the initial problems had been resolved, the Constitution and By Laws of the Society were adopted, dates for future Scientific Meetings and respective Program Chairpersons were established through 1979. It was decided that future Scientific Meetings should include Postgraduate Courses as part of the official Program. The duties of the Secretary and Treasurer's offices were defined, C.A. Paulsen was appointed to chair the By Laws Committee, R. Ansbacher agreed to serve as Temporary Chairman of the Nominating Committee, due to the resignation of S.J. Behrman, D. Fawcett was elected President for 1977-1978, and C.A. Paulsen was elected Vice President for 1977-1978.

The Council congratulated and thanked E. Rosemberg for having accomplished the task of conducting the First Scientific Meeting in its entirety, for having obtained the financial support for it, as the Society could not provide financial, organizational and administrative backing, and for having secured the

the publication of the Proceedings of the Meeting, which subsequently appeared as Supplement 1, Volume 8, 1976, of Andrologia.(Ed.) E. Rosemberg.

As discussions were held at the March 1976 and 1977 Meetings of the Officers and Members of the Council concerning the possibility of initiating the publication of an Official Journal for the Society, the President, D. Fawcett, together with the Chairman of the Publication Committee, E. Rosemberg, and with the approval of the Members of the ASA Council and of the membership at large, made the decision to abandon ANDROLOGIA as the publication arm of the ASA, and proceeded to explore the possibility of obtaining an american publisher for a future ASA Journal.

It was in 1979, under the Presidency of N. Alexander, that the contract was signed with J.B. Lipincott to publish the official ASA journal, which was named the Journal of Andrology (JA). The Council elected A. Bartke to be its first Chief Editor, and the first issue of the JA appeared in January-February, 1980, as Volume 1, No 1 (Alexander, 1980). The JA has grown ever since, due to the relentless efforts and great ability of A. Bartke, its first Chief Editor, and of M-C. Orgebin-Crist, who has followed A. Bartke on this post.

Thanks to the competence of the individuals who initiated the Society, and that of others that followed in its governance, the ASA has reached a membership of 642 members, has bestowed since 1976, the Distinguished Andrologist Award to eleven (11) scientists, the Young Andrologist Award to five (5) young investigators since 1982 and, since 1983, has presented the Student Award to three (3) deserving individuals. Moreover, the ASA has contributed to the teaching of ANDROLOGY through the Postgraduate Courses held since 1977 in conjunction with the Scientific Meetings.

With its rapid growth and increased prestige, it was only fitting that, on its

10th Anniversary, our Society would host the III International Congress of Andrology. The Congress took place in Boston, Massachusetts, April 27 - May 2, 1985, with our Society, in collaboration with Tufts University School of Medicine, serving as host of the International Society of Andrology (ISA) (Ansbacher, 1985). It was attended by 366 members of either the ASA or ISA, 182 non-members of either Society, and 120 students. The combined scientific meetings of the two Societies proved to be a great forum for interaction and for renewal of friendships among scientists, who, although geographically distant, share a common interest, and the desire to advance the understanding of our discipline.

We should feel proud of the collective endeavor called the American Society of Andrology. Personally, I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to work with such a group of dedicated persons whom I call my friends.

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