

ISDP (International Society of Dermatopathology)
Founders' Medal Acceptance Speech
by Prof. W.P. Daniel SU on Sept. 26th, 2013, at Florence, Italy

It is my great honour to receive the Founders' Medal of ISDP which is the leading Dermatopathology Society in the world.

A professional society does not come into existence by itself. It starts with its founders, for example, the 4 founders of ISDP to whom I highly respect. Professor Bernie Ackerman has passed away, but he is always alive in our mind. Professors G. Pierard and Helmut Kerl were my teachers. Professor Jorge Sanchez is still active & is here today. They all have a clear vision of what is important & what is possible to be accomplished for the Society. Of course, that is just the beginning. The Organization needs continuous good leaders as well as core people who can help the leaders.

In 1991, Dr. John Maize was the Secretary-General of ISDP at that time, he called & asked me to consider being the Secretary-General for the next term. I was almost speechless or "shocked". Not because I was too excited to be nominated, but because I was too scared ! That was the time when I still had a lot of hairs, not like now having severe "Alopecia intelligentica". I thought I was too young & too in-experienced to take such an important position. Over the phone, I almost said "No" right away, but agreed to think it over.

My mind was in turmoil for the next 1 to 2 weeks. On one hand, it is such an honour to be one of the leaders of such a distinguished organization. But on the other hand, I knew that there were quite a few difficult issues that needed to be addressed & improved since I had already been involved with some of the work of this relatively new society.

Can I solve the problems? Can I fulfill my responsibilities? I was quite worried. Fortunately, I am a Christian & can take my burdens to the Heavenly Father. After urgent prayers, it became clear to me gradually: You are Not doing it for yourself to be remembered, to be appreciated, or to be praised. You are doing it only for the benefit of the Society. Just do your best under whatever the circumstances.

Well, that was a big relief & meanwhile, a clear direction to go. So I gave a positive response & was Secretary-General for 3 years, then President for 3 years. We promoted international scientific & social exchanges, paying special attention to the developing countries.

Professor Kutzner kindly mentioned some of my work that were done during those years & some afterwards. I need to make it clear that those tasks mentioned were Not done just by me, but by many of the enthusiastic members, like some of you who are present here today. YOU ARE the ones who make the Society going & growing.

No matter how good you are & how much you have accomplished, the most important thing is to encourage & cultivate younger dermatopathologists to take over & to do it even better than what you have done. Seeing the solidness, the vitality & the high academic level of ISDP today, I can tell that the founders & all the previous leaders have handed down the baton very well.

Even though I have retired since 2008, I am so happy to be still part of this wonderful family. Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart !