

The International Bladder Cancer Network
October 1st – 3rd, 2009 in Erlangen, Germany

Dear friends,

After 10 years the "Barcelona Spirit" brought us back together last fall with a very exciting meeting in Barcelona. The convention of these dedicated attendees, as well as their unbroken willingness to openly share, once again contributed to a unique atmosphere in which we were able to discuss issues in bladder cancer among friends and showed a very promising revival of this truly international group. As part of the outcome of the Barcelona meeting we are looking forward to seeing manuscripts from the discussions articulated in a special issue of *Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Original Investigations* on current issues in bladder cancer.

Another important consideration at the meeting in Barcelona was to further evaluate the function of the IBCN in the future as a "think tank" which should provoke discussion on hot topics in bladder cancer. As part of this process, we will have, in addition to the usual format of the meeting, a working group including members of the industry to discuss general mechanisms and models of network and industry relations. Access to the sessions for the participants from industry will be subject to a signed confidentiality agreement.

In addition, a brief evaluation form is attached as a prerequisite for attendance.

As in the past, the presentations will be focused on the current status in each field, comprise work-in-progress ideas and ideally lead into a discussion on what the IBCN members could contribute. Thus, most of the time will be dedicated to the working groups and should be spent on discussion, development and initiation of concrete projects and plans.

Looking forward to seeing you again in Erlangen,



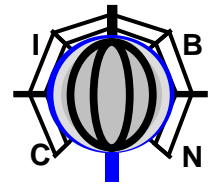
Bernd J. Schmitz-Dräger



H. Barton Grossman



Peter J. Goebell



Brief outline of the tentative program

Thursday, 01.10.2009

Individual arrival
Registration
Get-together (place to be announced)

Friday, 02.10.2009

Project up-dates
Work in progress
Introduction into working groups
Working groups covering the following topics (to be discussed and expanded):

- Diagnostic trials
- Tissue Microarrayer
- Bladder Cancer Registry
- Network – Industry
- Biorepositories
- Epidemiology – environment and bladder cancer
- New biostatistic tools – markers and nomograms

General assembly

Saturday, 02.10.2009

Work group reports
Plenary discussion
Next steps and organisational needs