

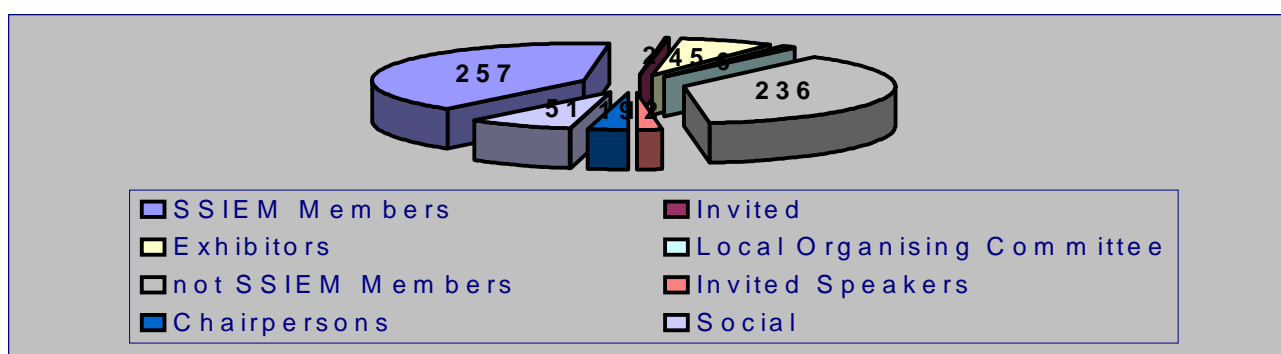
Final Report

GENERAL

The 37th SSIEM Annual Symposium was held in Genoa, Italy, from 7th to 10th September 1999. The venue was the “Magazzini del Cotone” Congress Centre located at the old port area.

Congress venue, accommodation, financial and social aspects were managed by a Company (TOP Congress P.R.) under the strict control of the Local Organisers. The Company fee was added to the overall expenditures, but, in using the Company, financial management was better and less time consuming (Local Organisers are not experts on this topic) and accommodation costs were lower for single delegates.

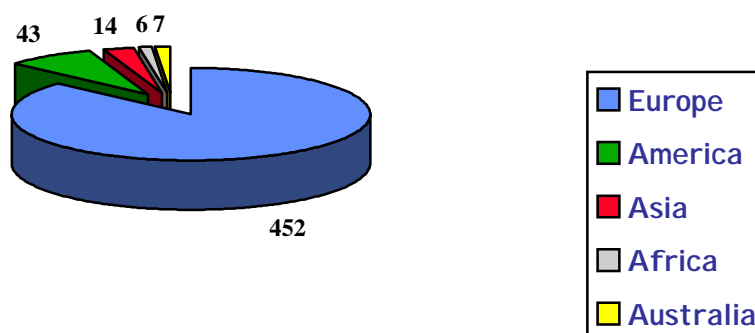
It was one of our most popular meetings.



As shown, the total number of the registered participants was 628:

- 257 SSIEM Members,
- 236 not SSIEM Members,
- 12 Invited Speakers,
- 19 Chairpersons,
- 6 from the local Organising Committee,
- 2 invited (N. Buist, P. Durand),
- 45 Exhibitors,
- 51 Social delegates.

coming from 5 continents and 42 Countries, mostly from Europe.



Scientific programme.

The topic of the Main Symposium was “Cellular Organelle Membranes and Metabolic Disorders”. The topic was covered through five sessions:

1. New developments in pathophysiological mechanism
2. Glucose transport and related disorders
3. Disorders related to peroxisomal membrane
4. Disorders related to mitochondrial membrane
5. Lysosomal disorders

The policy of the Symposium was to have just one main lecture for each session from an expert in the field who presented ‘the state of the art’, leaving most of the time for the oral communications to encourage the active participation of younger researchers

Three to five oral communications were presented in each session. In general the subject of the oral communications was strictly related to the theme of the session. In total 24 oral communications of high scientific level were held, including a “long oral communication” from Prof H.Moser. (see final programme for details). One accepted oral communication was not held because the author was not able to participate.

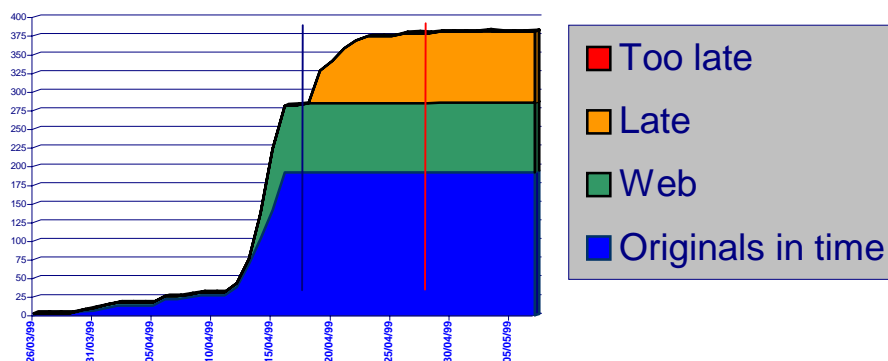
The Mini-Symposium theme was “Adulthood and IEM”. It was held on the same style of the main Symposium, divided in two afternoon sessions:

1. Adulthood and Inborn Errors of Metabolism, including an “introduction to the theme” by C. Scriver,
2. IEM and pregnancy

Two main lectures and eight oral communications from participants were held.

Abstract report .

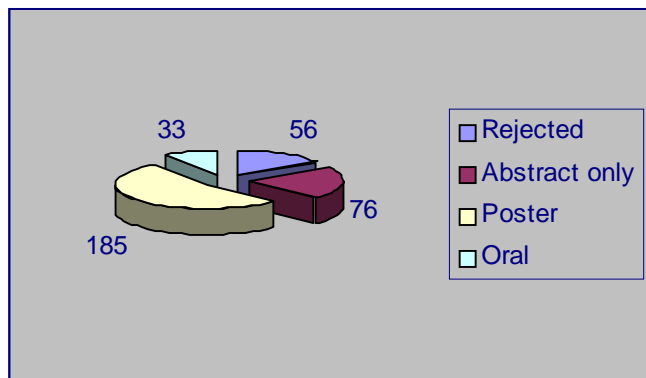
A total of 358 abstracts were submitted, mostly in the last days before the deadline.



99 abstracts were submitted after the deadline. Four out of these 99 arrived too late to be accepted. It was the first time of the electronic submission. This experiment looked rather successful: 93 out of 358 were submitted throughout the SSIEM Web site (22 were also in original form).

The judging system was rather complicated. Following the decision of the Council, the abstracts were judged separately by the Local Organising Committee (including some other Italian experts) and three chosen by the Council. As a result of this plan, the abstracts were sent by express courier to all external judges and the results were collected in Genoa by E-mail. We found some difficulties in homogenising the results from all the judges. The most of the work was done in Genoa on 14th May 1999 with the supervision by the Editor of JIMD, R. Pollitt.

The final result was: 56 abstract rejected, 76 accepted for abstract publication on JIMD, 185 accepted as posters and 33 as oral communications.



These numbers resulted from 1) indication from the Council, 2) space for exhibition and financial reasons.

Poster presentation.

The poster exhibition was located at the first floor of the Conference Centre, in the bar area. The poster panels were large enough to well accommodate the posters. However, the total amount of space for the poster panels was a little limited, in spite of the large space availability on the same floor. As a consequence, the poster exhibition area was sometimes too crowded for comfort. The limitation of the space used was a result of financial saving. Following the York experience, 16 selected posters were also presented by a couple of slides in the main conference hall, in three sessions. The scientific level of these presentations was high. The general feedback of it was positive.

Scholarship.

25 applications were received by J. Kirk, 16 awarded.

2 abstracts were sent only to the scholarship judge, but not to the Local Organising Committee, in spite of a clear indication, one being awarded. Moreover, three out the 16 awarded were rejected from the judging system of the Symposium. At least one colleague was not able to participate in the meeting for financial reasons.

Comment from the Local Organisers: The list of the awarded abstracts was sent to the Local Organising Committee too late for matching with the other judging results. It should be better arranged for the next Meetings. We propose that the scholarship judge should be included in the main judging committee.

Workshops.

Three parallel workshops were held on the morning of 7th September, organised from ERNDIM, N. Blau and Dieticians Group, respectively. To our knowledge, no problems arose from the last two. The financial aspect of these workshops was managed by TOP Congress working directly with the Workshop Organisers, the Local Organising Committee was not involved. It was agreed that a quote of the costs of the Dieticians Meeting would be charged to the SSIEM through the Symposium budget.

Concerning the ERNDIM QA workshop, there was a complaint from ERNDIM about the high costs but this resulted mainly from late request of the facilities. Another reason was a mistake by the TOP Congress Company in costs sharing. The latter problem was solved by the intervention of the Local Organising Committee with the final agreement from the ERNDIM Treasurer.

A further workshop was organised separately on the morning of Saturday 11th by the ALD working group. No problems there appear to have been.

Comment from the Local Organisers: The organising of the side workshops was made difficult by the lateness of the request. Indeed, we got the details about the workshop (needs, cost charging, lunch, coffee break etc.) too late, some in spring 1999, and this was source of problems. We suggest, for the next meetings, to allow side workshops (Including ERNDIM workshop) only while the above mentioned details are agreed with the Organisers before the end of December.

Lunches and coffee.

The lunches were served in a restaurant close to the Conference Centre. The service was fast and satisfactory.

Coffee breaks were arranged on the first floor of the Conference Centre, in the same hall has the poster display. The coffee service was slow in the first day, but after was satisfactory.

Social program.

The social program consisted of a Welcome Reception at the Aquarium of Genoa, two dinners in ancient mansion houses and in an afternoon excursion to San Fruttuoso and the Eastern Riviera. The last dinner was followed by dancing with a professional jazz group.

A special program was provided for Social Delegates.

Everything (sites, weather, food, wine, music) was highly appreciated by all participants.

Football match.

A football match was organised with two teams, one representing "Italy", the other the "Rest of the SSIEM", sponsored by "Comune di Genova", "Genoa C.F. Club" and "U.C. Sampdoria". The small profit from the tickets was devolved to the DIAGEM, the local parent's association.



The match, "unfortunately" won by the SSIEM 1 to 0, was very friendly and successful. The referee, C. Jakobs, poorly supported by the linesmen (one was a lady), was rather honest. Many people expressed the wish to repeat this tournament at future Meetings..

Sponsorship and exhibition.

The sponsorship was considerable:

- Milupa
- Perkin Elmer Italia
- SHS International
- EG & G Wallac
- Biochrom LTD
- Cambridge Isotope Laboratories
- Dietetic Metabolic Food (DMF)
- Fratelli Carli, Imperia
- Genzyme s.r.l.
- Jeol Italia S.p.A
- Mead Johnson S.p.A.
- Micromass UK limited
- Nutricia S.p.A.
- Orphan Europe s.a.r.l.
- Blackwell
- Frogna Trust
- Bio Rad
- MIPS Informatica

Nine further Companies were invited but did not accept. One company has supplied the Symposium bags, one the badges, one has allowed a computer for the Website, one some gifts for invited speakers and chairpersons. Two Companies have organised a separate workshop, one giving a considerable sponsorship, the other unilaterally organised a workshop. Twelve exhibition stands were located on the ground floor of the Conference Centre. See next paragraph for financial details.

Comment from the Local Organisers: As above noticed, one company, Genzyme, has independently organised a side workshop. On the leaflet there was an explicit reference to the 37th SSIEM meeting, but the Local Organisers were aware of it just seeing the announcement. We feel that this must be avoided, in the future, by notifying the commercial companies that every side event must be agreed previously by the Local Organising Committee.

Financial report.

The final account, as received by the Top Congress P.R. Company, is showed in detail in the table.

EXPENDITURES

Congress Centre	L.	23.500.000	VAT L.	4.700.000
AV – Slides Centre		18.570.000		3.714.000
Services		1.766.800		353.360
Transportation		24.640.000		4.928.000
Dietician's Meeting		2.280.000		456.000
Poster room		4.959.433		991.887
Exhibition		2.055.000		411.000
Hostess and Congress Centre personnel		4.666.000		933.200
Social programme		129.268.400		25.853.680
Accompanying persons programme		2.798.500		559.700
Social tour – 9 September		14.900.000		2.980.000
Catering		53.963.636		10.792.728
General expenses		17.339.726		3.467.946
Poster boards, badges, etc...		11.522.793		2.304.559
Speakers – Hotel/Travel expenses		21.287.110		4.257.422
Fee TOP Congress P.R. (10%)		33.351.740		6.670.348
TOTAL		366.869.138		73.373.830
Gaslini expenses (billed trough TOP):		35.953.843		7.190.769
- Algraphy (printing)				
- 500 JIMD Volumes				
- Kluver (post expenses for further volumes)				
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		402.822.981		80.564.599

INCOME

Registration fee (turnover)	L.	386.572.746	VAT L.	77.314.550
Exhibition		118.143.000		23.628.600
Sponsorship		5.146.762		1.029.353
TOTAL INCOMING		509.862.508		101.972.503

INCOME	L.	509.862.508	VAT L.	101.972.503
EXPENDITURE		402.822.981		80.564.599
TOTAL IN CREDIT		107.039.527		21.407.904

Some amounts included in this budget as incoming were not cashed (as ItL):

Scholarship (from SSIEM)	18.586.255 (9559 Euros)
Not cashed from delegates (3+1)	2.530.000
Not paid to the Hotel (two delegates)	.364.930
TOTAL (to be subtracted)	21.481.185

Further, an amount out of the £ 5,000 provided by the SSIEM in 1998 was spent directly by the Local Organisers. The list of these expenses is detailed as follows:

Local Organisers expenses	ItL
1st announcement to York	116700
London Meeting December 1998	1658500
Mail	100000
Various	169500
2nd Announcement shipment	2621450
DHL Courier (abstracts)	348000
Abstract acceptance shipping	288100
Manchester Meeting June 1999	1055577
Notepads for bags	399695
Technical support	100000
London Meeting February 2000	1692000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	8549522

The total amount which will be transferred to SSIEM is:

Surplus (from TOP Congress Budget)	107,039,527	
Not cashed (see above)		21,481,185
Local expenses (see above table)		8,549,522
Received from SSIEM (1998)	14,760,000	
TOTAL	121,799,527	30,030,707
BALANCE (Italian Lire)	91,768,820	
Corresponding to Euros		47,394.64

Finally, there is a balance between the expenses and the interest of the bank account. This balance seems to be in surplus but must be exactly accounted by the time of closing the account.

Following a request from the Local Organisers, it was agreed that a small quote from the sponsorship will be returned to the local Parent's Association (DIAGEM). "In answer to your proposal we suggest that approximately £5,000 (16.000.000 L) is returned to DIAGEM."

The large surplus was the result of receiving about 30,000 Euros more than we expected and also of the large number of delegates (in the preliminary budget it was planned as 350).

Final considerations.

The Symposium was successful. The total number of participants was one of the highest in the SSIEM history. The scientific level of the invited lectures was high as well as that of several delegate presentations (posters and/or oral communications). The financial balance led to a considerable surplus.

The final balance of the work done by the TOP Congress was positive, with minimal hitches.

As noticed by Malcolm Heron, up to December 1999 39 new members have joined the SSIEM as result of the Meeting in Genova.

The social program was very popular and the weather fantastic! The Local Organising Committee has got a lot of written and oral congratulations from every corner of the world. We hope that our effort was fruitful for Italy and for the whole SSIEM.

Finally, the two Chairmen are indebted to the President, Prof. Cesare Romano and the Local Organising Committee members: Prof. Renata Lorini, Prof. Rosanna Gatti, Dr. Maria Cristina Schiaffino, Mr. Giuseppe Minniti and Mrs. Stefania Bertoni.

On behalf of the Organising Committee we would like to thank all those who attended and contributed to the success of this meeting.

Roberto Cerone & Ubaldo Caruso.