



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The International Forum for the Study of Itch (IFSI) will hold its 9th World Congress on Itch in Wroclaw, Poland. It will be a great honour for us to guest outstanding clinicians and researchers from all over the world. On behalf of the Organizing Committee I would like to invite you to take part in this event, that will promote all aspects of itch research.

Wroclaw, lying on both banks of the Odra river, is a unique city with 12 islands and 112 bridges. As the main city of Lower Silesia it is the region's economic, cultural and scientific capital. Wroclaw has been a place where various nationalities and numerous cultures meet. Nowadays it combines rich thousand-year history with modern life. Guests may see valuable architectural monuments, magic places, such as the Town Hall, Ostrów Tumski with the St. John Baptist Cathedral and Raclawice Panorama – an extraordinary exhibition of the famous monumental painting of the battle. Moreover, visitors can find dozens of restaurants, cafes and pubs set in the historical beautiful center. In 2016 Wroclaw is the European Capital of Culture.

The 9th World Congress of Itch in Wroclaw will welcome every contribution from those devoted to the progress of itch research. It is our goal to have an international interdisciplinary meeting addressing physicians and scientists especially in dermatology, internal medicine, neurology, psychosomatics as well as neuroscience and all other fields of related experimental medicine. I believe Wroclaw's warm hospitality, pleasant atmosphere will make our city the ideal place for this purpose. I do hope that besides the outstanding scientific program, participants will have opportunity to visit our city, enjoy social events and make new friendships. Wroclaw is honoured to welcome you in October 2017.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee

Jacek C. Szepietowski
Congress President

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to announce the 9th World Congress on Itch (WCI), and I strongly urge you to consider attending this important meeting that will be held in the beautiful city of Wroclaw, Poland October 15-17, 2019.

The WCI is the biennial meeting of the International Forum for the Study of Itch (IFSI). IFSI is a multidisciplinary international association of clinical practitioners and researchers dedicated to improving our understanding and treatment of itch for the benefit of suffering patients worldwide. IFSI was officially founded at the 2005 meeting in Heidelberg. IFSI is a non-profit professional organization with membership open to clinicians, researchers, scientists and other health professionals engaged in the research and treatment of itch. Our mission is to advance itch-related research and education and to promote treatment and clinical efforts to help alleviate this debilitating symptom.

The WCI brings together leading clinicians and basic scientists with an interest in the mechanisms and treatment of itch. Previous WCIs have taken place in Nara, Japan (2015), and Boston USA (2013). Before 2013, the meetings were called International Workshops and were held in Brest, France (2011), Tokyo, Japan (2009), San Francisco USA (2007), Heidelberg, Germany (2005), Toyama, Japan (2003) and Singapore (2001). The participants realize the importance of updating our rapidly evolving knowledge in this interesting and interdisciplinary field that unites experts from all over the world.

The Scientific Committee is working hard to create a program that will be of interest to both basic researchers and clinicians treating itch, and promises to present the most up-to-date advances and innovations in this exciting and rapidly advancing field. We are confident that this congress will provide an outstanding venue for everyone interested in itch to interact and socialize in a historic and beautiful venue.

I look forward to welcoming you to Wroclaw in 2017!

Earl Carstens
President, International Forum for the Study of Itch

