

The Georges Brohée Lecture at the World Congress of Gastroenterology

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Georges Brohée (1887-1957), Belgian surgeon and radiologist, was the founder of the 'Société Belge de Gastro-entérologie' in 1928 (since 1982 'Société Royale Belge de Gastro-entérologie') and the 'Journal belge de gastro-entérologie' in 1933 (since 1946 'Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica'), of which he was the first Editor-in-Chief till his death in 1957 (1).

Georges Brohée and a group of enterprising gastroenterologists organized the First International Congress of Gastroenterology in Brussels in 1935. Other congresses followed in Paris (1937), Lausanne (1948), Madrid (1950), Bologna (1952), Paris (1954) and London (1956). Here the decision was taken to organize a World Congress of Gastroenterology (WCG) and to set up a World Society of Gastroenterology from 1958 on.

During each WCG a Brohée Lecture is delivered to commemorate the founder of the first International Association of Gastroenterology. The Brohée Lecturer is chosen by the Steering Committee of the current WCG from either the host country or the respective region.

The honorarium and the Lecturer's travel expenses are covered by the World Gastroenterology Organization (WGO) funds. A medal is provided by the Georges Brohée Foundation.

In November 2009 the WCG was held in London as part of the Gastro 2009 meeting. The WCG Brohée Lecture was given by Professor Kennett McColl as was recently summarized in *World Gastroenterology News* (2). The medal was handed over by Dr. Ph. Van Hoetegem, member of the Georges Brohée Foundation.

As a tribute to Georges Brohée, the summary is reproduced, with kind permission, in this issue of *Acta Gastro-Enterologica Belgica*.

References

1. FIASSE R. History of the Belgian Week of Gastroenterology on the occasion of its XXth manifestation in 2008. *Acta Gastroenterol Belg.*, 2008, **71** : 1-3.
2. MC COLL K.E.L. Acid secretion in the developed world – now too much of a good thing ? *World Gastroenterology News*, March 2010, 5-7.