



# State of the Art of Surgery 1979/80

Summaries of the Breakfast and  
Luncheon Panels of the 28th Congress of the  
Société Internationale de Chirurgie  
in San Francisco

Edited by

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# Preface

International surgical meetings with thousands of participants speaking a dozen different languages tend to be frustrating for the individual who comes with the hope of learning about progress in his fields, but who additionally would like to be able to exchange ideas on controversial topics and to meet competent people with whom to discuss specific problems. In the "one-way" sessions in which long papers are presented, details or specific points may be missed. Differing views often are not adequately discussed, because the meeting and its participants are pressed for time.

The 44 breakfast and luncheon sessions, covering different topics of interest to the practicing surgeon, were mainly planned to overcome these classical "congress handicaps" and also to do away with the anonymous atmosphere of such a large congress. Slides and formal papers were banished from these sessions. The outcome of these very lively and pleasant discussions taking place around small well-dressed tables was unexpected by most participants. A chairman and several panel members shared their repast, caloric and intellectual, with some 10-30 congress participants. The result was in each instance a lively, informative intimate discussion, very different from the anonymous atmosphere of a large meeting. In the hope of preserving these exchanges, the chairmen were requested immediately the session finished to "distill the essence" of the 90-minute exchange into a summary captured on tape. These discussions are presented here without editing so as to maintain as far as possible the "first-hand" impression of the gathering. Many of the ideas presented may not represent those of the chairman himself but rather some of the panelists or participants. It may be not only informative but also fascinating and amusing a few years from now to compare current opinions on a given subject with those aired in September 1979. That is why we dare to give this booklet the proud title "State of the Art of Surgery 79/80," although it may be not more than a sketch of the actual knowledge on questions that presently seem to be of particular interest to the surgeon.

This publication is meant to be a practical souvenir for all those who participated in these informal meetings of the Société Internationale de Chirurgie. It stands as an informative message

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from this Society to members and nonmembers interested in the present and future activities of this international body. Founded in 1902, it held its first world congress in 1905 in Brussels under the presidency of Theodor Kocher, later to become one of the rare Nobel laureats among surgeons. It is our sincere hope that these panels will remain an important and stimulating feature of future congresses of the Society.

Basel, Spring 1980

MARTIN ALLGÖWER

FELIX HARDER

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