

Greetings

to John Humphrey Course/Conference of EFIS on Innate and Adaptive Immune Response to Pathogens, Vilnius, October 5–8, 2005

Immunology is a multidisciplinary exercise at the border between basic research and applied aspects of disease control and prevention. This complexity depends on international cooperations. In Europe, these international activities are reflected by the European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS), which presents over 17,000 individuals affiliated with its 28 member societies. Since its beginning, members of EFIS are not only part of the European Union but also come from many states of the European region outside of the European Union such as Russia, Turkey and Israel. Whilst EFIS had presided the enlargement of the European Union of 2004, the establishment of new borders has significantly facilitated interactions among EFIS members. The John Humphrey Course on the innate and adaptive immune response to pathogens, which is under the auspices of EFIS and the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and coordinated by British, German and Lithuanian immunologists, is a reflection of such international interactions. This meeting has brought together scientists from the Baltic States, Germany and several other European countries to discuss state-of-the-art immunology. Meetings of these types are essential for promoting scientific progress in the field of immunology, and I hope that your course will help to strengthen future activities among immunologists from the Baltic States, Germany and other European countries.

I thank the organizers for making this course possible and I wish you exciting days both scientifically and socially.

Stefan H. E. Kaufmann

Past President of the German Society
of Immunology and Incoming President
of the European Federation
of Immunological Societies