

## OPENING SPEECH

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It is an honour and privilege to welcome you to Münster on behalf of the Medizinischer Fakultätentag (MFT), the Association of all Medical Faculties of the Federal Republic of Germany. We are much obliged to be your hosts in Münster during the Annual Conferences of AMDE/AMEE.

Last year the 75th Anniversary of the MFT - founded in 1913 in Halle, now in the German Democratic Republic - was celebrated in this town. In a historical review over these three quarters of a century, it became obvious that problems have remained the same over time, but have appeared in a different outlook according to the momentary fashion.

One of the special problems today in the FRG is the enormous number of young people applying to study medicine, which some years ago led to the introduction of a "numerus clausus". But in spite of these means of intended regulation, there are more than 10,000 unemployed doctors today, mostly of young age, and in addition the universities are overcrowded.

Our demand is to improve the quality standards of medical education, especially in the practical exercises which should be performed in small groups of two to four students. This is impossible today with, for example, 550 students per year as in Münster on the one hand, and a limited number of suitable patients on the other.

Making more use of teaching hospitals may be one way to solve the problems. We tried to do so in the "Münster-Modell" which was originated by Professor Habeck, but it is unrealistic to expect that suitable hospitals are at the disposal of all medical faculties, even in the FRG. Thus the quality of medical education can only be increased when the number of incoming students is reduced.

Another important demand is to gain more personal and financial support for research, which normally should only be supplied by the university, to an extent of basic necessities which enables the researching scientist to apply for other sources and grants from outside the university. But it should be made very clear that the "university part" is guaranteed, and not a sacrifice of or better for teaching purposes.

Problems within the medical faculties in the 34 states under supervision of the WHO-European Office are very different, beginning with the different systems of organisation. Reasonable numbers of medical faculties do not belong to universities but are organized as Medical Schools or Medical Academies. The budgets are also handled in different ways by the medical faculties themselves or by the university administration.

Many viewpoints are worth analysing as to the developments of medical science as well as medical education and its impact on medical faculties and medical schools. Where to begin, or indeed to see whether a start has been made, will be a matter of discussion for AMEE, leading to recommendations.

Let me mention one final point in these opening remarks, which was also a topic in one of the workshops this morning: "Ethical Considerations in Research". From my point of view it seems to be a very important item which should be harmonized between the members of AMDE/AMEE.

I hope you will enjoy this highly appreciable town of Münster with its more than 1000 years of history, and that you will profit from the AMDE/AMEE Annual Conference.

My co-workers, to whom I am deeply indebted and grateful for their cooperation, and I will do our best to make your stay in Münster an agreeable one.