

Responses to Post Annual Meeting Survey

Many thanks for completing our survey. We are pleased that you also agree that ICS 2009 was a very successful meeting. As ever there is room for improvement but there were just a few points we would like to clarify specifically to points raised on the survey results.

We are taking your comments with regards to the Scientific Programme very seriously and will hand this over to our Scientific Committee to discuss further.

CME:

Several of you said that the CME was insufficient for your purpose and when you explained many of you stated that it was because you did not collect your certificate of attendance. The certificates were available towards the end of the meeting via the automated check in desks. However if you did not collect your certificate you can still contact the office and they would be pleased to send out any certificates needed.

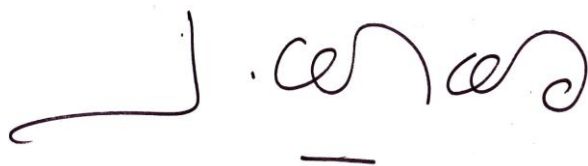
Also some of you are having difficulty transferring the EU-ACME credits to the AMA. We are working with both institutions to resolve these issues.

Food and Catering:

Several of you stated that you were not happy with the quality of food. The ICS is looking into the possibility of having an "ICS standard" for lunches and breaks. Also we absolutely agree with your comments with regards to the lack of seating provided in the conference centre and this is something we will ensure is provided in the future. Also to reassure you that any leftover food from the conference centre and welcome reception was put to good use and was sent to local homeless shelters.



Once again I really thank you for taking the time to complete the survey. However we want more people to complete the survey so should you have any ideas on how to engage with delegates more I would be very interested in hearing from you.

With regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Corcos', with a horizontal line underneath.

Jacques Corcos


ICS General Secretary


INTERNATIONAL CONTINENCE SOCIETY

39TH ANNUAL MEETING

September 29th – October 3rd, 2009 • San Francisco, USA



ICS 2009 Post Meeting Survey

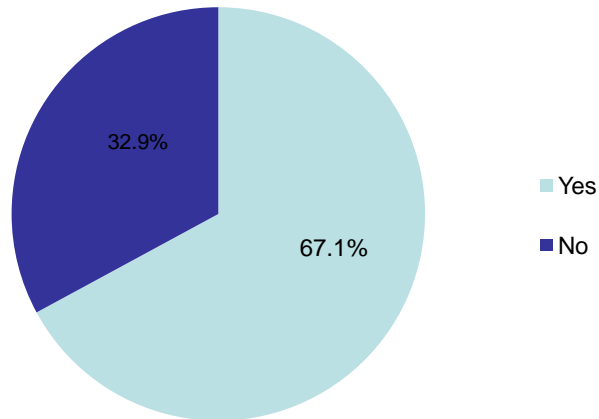


ICS 2009 Overview

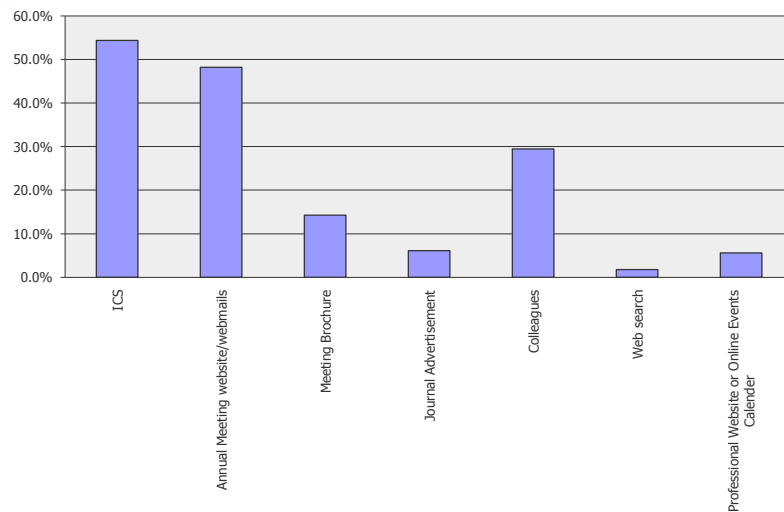
Total Number Attended:	2535
Total Number of Delegates:	2230
On Site Registrations:	142
Brought by industry:	661
Countries represented:	58
Number of e-mails sent for survey:	
	2357
Number of survey responses:	
	342
14.5% Excellent Return !!	



Are you an ICS member?

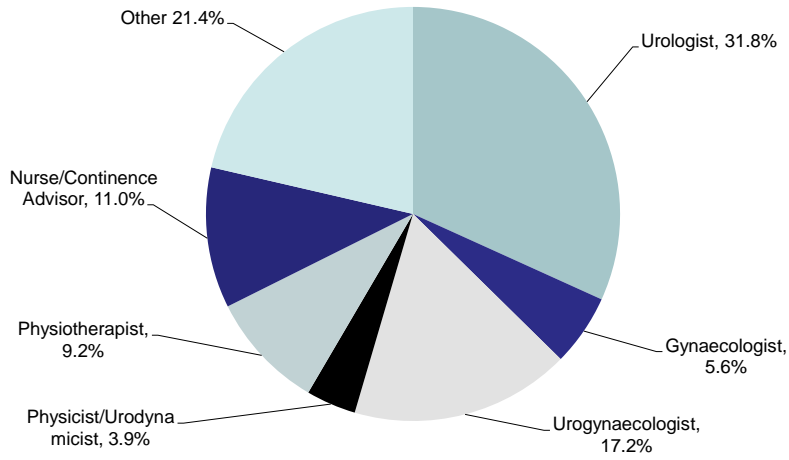


How did you learn about this Meeting?

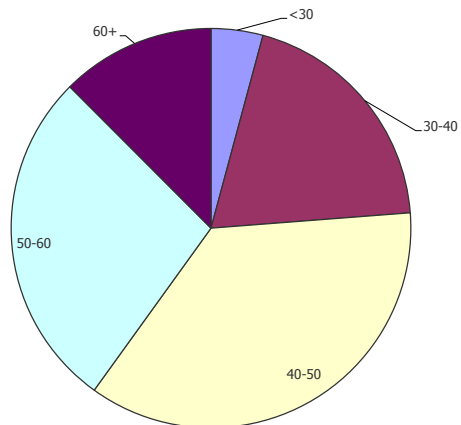




Profession

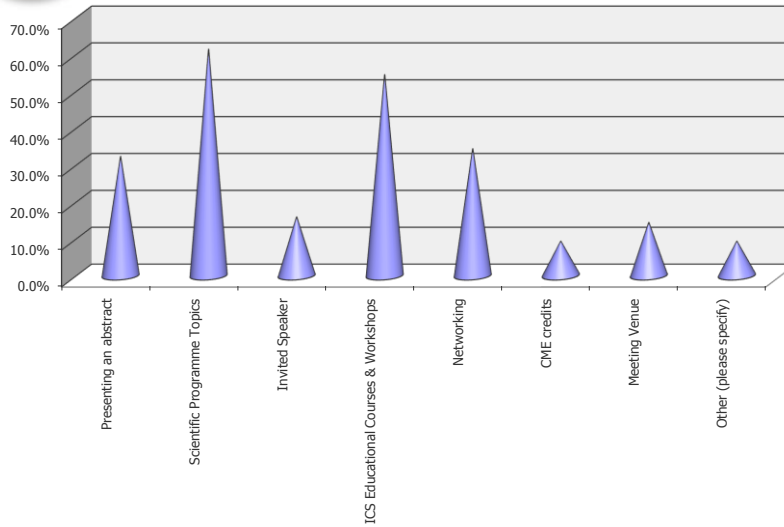


Which age group are you in?



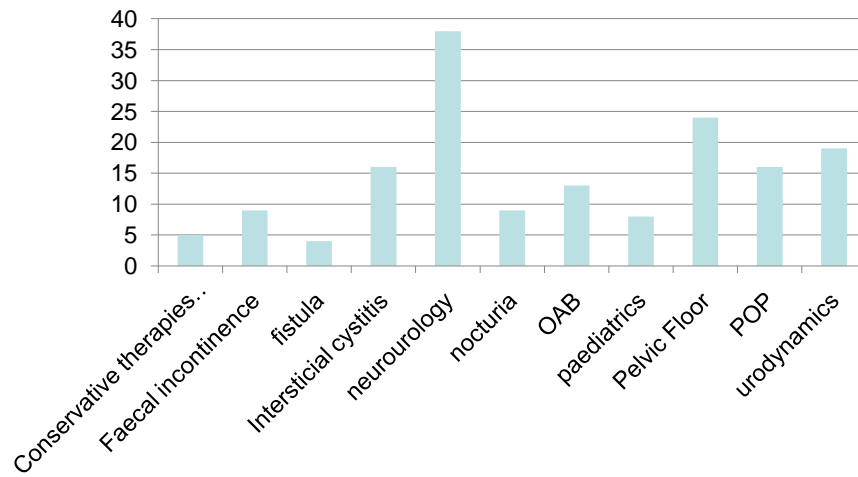


Which aspects of the meeting are the main reasons for your attendance?



Which topics will be of interest for the next Meeting?

Main areas grouped below





This year the ICS ran more parallel sessions than usual. Would you like to have more parallel sessions in the Scientific Programme?

Answer: 63.7% said No

Was the certification provided at the meeting and after the workshops satisfactory for your personal CME programme requirements?

Answer: 86.2% said Yes

Reasoning why most said no – they forgot to collect certificate!!



Congress Newsletter

Did you read the printed Annual Meeting Newsletter distributed at the meeting on Wednesday?

Yes: 69.3%

Did you read the Annual Meeting Newsletter distributed by e-mail on Friday?

No: 57.6%

Do you think it is important to have a newsletter at future Annual Meetings?

Yes: 65.6%

If Yes, would you prefer to see an electronic version of the newsletter?

Yes: 63.2%



Abstract Book

Do you feel that having a printed copy of the abstract book is essential?

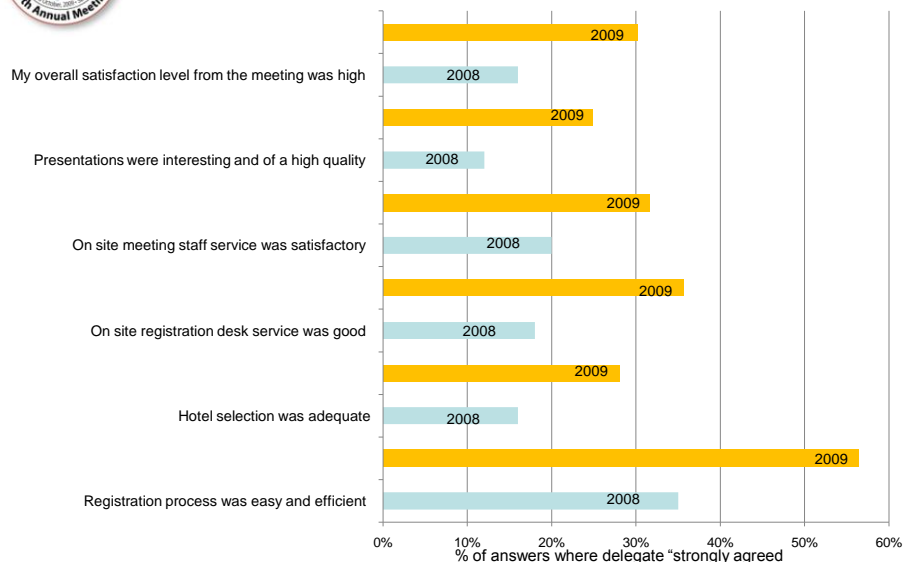
Yes: 64.1%

Assuming that all abstracts will be available online to view in good time before the meeting, would you find it acceptable if the ICS was to suggest a "Green" alternative to the abstract book such as an abstract CD-ROM/USB stick rather than the book.

Yes: 70.3%

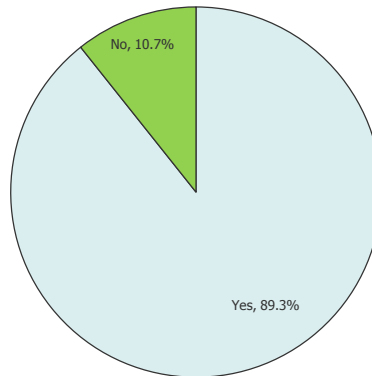


Areas where we have improved since 2008





Will you consider attending the next Annual Meeting in Toronto?



Positive
Good to get sight of all abstracts
perfect organisation and well presentations with different views on a subject f.e. mesh or not is very good
excellent. spectacular organization. Congratulations
Great meeting -
<p>I was extremely impressed with this meeting. I want to give huge kudos to the organization!!!<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>There is some need to provide interpreters for those who struggle with English. I felt the Japanese had some important information to share but their presentations and Q/A was inadequate due to language barriers.<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The one thing I was actually kind of annoyed about was missing the luncheon with "Meet the Experts" because I wasn't aware of the advanced registration requirements...perhaps, that could have been re-iterated in the schedule, as that's what I used to navigate through the meeting.<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Exhibitors were pretty limited for my needs. There were no emg demos or other biofeedback devices available to preview.<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Egos were out in full force. I'd prefer those feeling a need to grandstand could be reined in...however, it's like this no matter where you go.<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The Welcoming Ceremony at the SF City Hall was spectacular.<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Generally, it was great to see such a cohesive group striving toward common aims.</p>
continue with the 5 km run for fun... And add more big sessions.
this year the ICS annual meeting was perfect, I did enjoy it a lot and learned a lot, thank you for good job, hope to be there next year too
It was excellent meeting
A longer welcome meeting would have been beneficial for networking and more enjoyable. otherwise excellent meeting
Nil. Everything was very well executed
Thank all of you very much.
Conferences are well organised and are very good value for cost and time expenditure
SUPERIOR !!!
Just more! Excellent!
Good meeting
<p>The Meeting was very interesting and very well organized, anyway I would like to meet more psychologists next time.<input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Kind Regards</p>
Now that I have been to my first ICS, I will know how to choose next years selections. You might consider running the preconference selections that are really popular more than once. I don't know if this is feasible.
funds permitting
this is consistently a well organized and informative meeting. I plan to continue attending.
It was a very interesting and very well organised congress. <input type="checkbox"/>
Sorry, not free for Toronto
Same format, this was better than the Cairo Meeting.
San Francisco conference centre was best I have ever attended. Easy to find, easy to find one's way around and local staff were so kind, helpful and friendly. food easily available and not too ostentatious. All in all the background was set for a very successful meeting.
pleased to hear worldwide voice.
Very interesting themes, various quality of speakers, familiar atmosphere hope, attending the meeting in 2011

Negative Comments Scientific Programme
Too many parallel sessions on Saturday on subjects which all interested me. Less printed paper - ?smaller abstract book ?
The video sessions were of dubious value. The authors should be asked not to add music to the videos.
we must try to keep the meeting in ICS manner. Bladder dysfunction and the problem around this. Not so must TVT etc. it is in UIGA
This was my first ICS meeting, and I was overall disappointed. It seems to me that the educational portions of the meeting are more useful, but I was interested in the presentations. The language barrier for many presenters was significant. I would suggest that a translator (?mentor) be present for those not conversant in English so that questions will be more manageable, and the audience can get something out of the responses.
I was a bit disappointed by the selection of topics for oral presentations vs. posters only. Seemed a bit arbitrary rather than based on the quality of the science. Some of the oral presentations were of lesser quality than previous meetings.
I think it would be important to have information on all the abstracts and their presentation schedule prior to the meeting
not enough Urology, too much gyne and urogynae
The content of the main meeting seemed a bit thin in parts. Some of the presentations were of limited scientific credibility. Lower numbers of better studies with longer presentation time would be better.
I don't like so many concurrent sessions. Need much more time for audience discussion and would like to see audience discussion in the plenary sessions as well
The scheduling of spoken posters rather than podium sessions was unsatisfactory to the audience, and from anecdotal discussion, also from the perspective of the speaker. There were few choices of podium presentation based streams and so in many cases the audience were forced to sit through poster sessions or take time off from the conference. This reduced the 'value for money' of the conference and would have made presenting an expensive process as preparation of posters is costly.
You have to address the problem of papers being presented by authors who are unable to understand the questions or answer in comprehensible English. I was at one session that was ruined by this problem and the audience started to laugh derisively. On top of that some questionnaires were addressing significant criticisms of the papers but not being answered. You will have to consider funding proper simultaneous translation or insist on a minimum standard of English. Given the costs of attending, I find it unacceptable that such a significant proportion of the meeting was blighted in this manner.
I suggest 1) Adding one or two sessions for other urology specialties not related to continence in particular (eg, stone diseases, oncology....) only 10% of the meeting 2) the Toronto meeting will be during the month of Ramadan. Muslims will be fasting and it will be difficult for some to participate in the meeting. The
I was disappointed of the scientific quality of the abstracts and some presentations.
I was disappointed that the MeshVS No Mesh talk didn't involve much more debate and as such, fell flat at the end. It's always good to have a controversial topic heatedly debated by eminent professionals.
Some areas of controversy were not given anything like enough time. Abstract presentation too short ...like a treadmill
Suggestions: 1) Workshops: Highly variable quality of speakers and content. Should be MUCH better vetted or inform members that there is little/no vetting 2) Too many parallel sessions; impossible to attend 3) Too many poor quality abstracts. Please focus on fewer and higher quality with fewer parallel 4) Green: agree that members can simply bring NaU abstract issue from home but will need to distribute a simple paper list of rooms, moderators, speakers. Can eliminate the heavy spiral-bound guide and the extra abstract book. A "stick" would be welcome but optional. Thank you.

I would like to see more podium presentations, instead of poster presentations, which barely give presenters enough time to skin through their research. It was very frustrating to hear so many short presentations. The workshops (OAB and Continence Promotion) were excellent.
I think it is bad when presenters present the same slides or the same presentation. I suggest for the next meeting change the presenters more (don't repeat the presenters).
Workshops
fewer clashes between workshops and committee meetings and fewer overlapping/clashing committee meetings. committee members would sometimes also like to be able to attend workshops and courses.
enhance applied courses
We could reduce the number of workshops. They were too many and some were poorly attended.
Far too many workshops offered at the same time
The extra paid courses were rather disappointing, if you charge extra money, you expect a real value
When trying to register on site, one of the workshops was sold out. I realize that it is difficult to have a large spare space for late registrations but still, some people may have reasons not to make a preregistration
Food
need more fruit and veggies available for lunch and snacks
Improve food.
lunch provided should be varied rather than just sandwiches every day!
food at lunch exhibition was lacking, poor quality and no where to eat
The lunches and breaks are really going downhill. Biscuits only for morning breaks (not even a croissant?) and rolls for lunch with hardly any meat or nourishment .. What happened to the nice hot lunches like we used to have (Florence etc?) We have long days and need nourishment please.
The food provided was pretty good but there seemed to be no provision for liquids other than coffee or tea. No liquid refreshments were available for lunches other than three water coolers which soon ran dry.
lunch is no good.
Registration/Organisation/Kenes
There was nowhere to sit/stand/lean to eat lunch in the entire venue on any of the conference days. Consequently there was a lack of social aspect to the meeting, very awkward. Just a few high tables or surfaces for plates/drinks would have done and encouraged chatting and networking! Probably poor planning on the part of the venue!
Use a service other than Kenes. They are hard to reach and not very helpful.
I know that the breaks and lunches are set in the exhibit rooms to encourage people to look at the exhibits however it is very uncomfortable and inconvenient to eat while walking. There should be chairs or stools or even little tables in the exhibits and poster areas.
For the last 3 years I have booked accommodation independently, and found it consistently and significantly less expensive than via Kenes

You should have left the tables up in the second level of the Mascone center in the outside area. The first day that was conducive to networking. One the second days and thereafter, there were only a few paltry benches to meet with people. Also, the registration process was ok for the rpre-signed up participants, but if you wanted to add any sessions the wait was extremely long. You should have more windows or peoplw who can process these requests in a more timely manner.
I think you should remove Pickwick hotel from your list. This place needs lot of restoration.....
the speakers in the main auditorium could not hear the questions from the audience or chair. this was not rectified throughout the meeting.
The conference dinner was poor value for money. Poor quality food and entertainment. While seeing the harbour at night from the boat was nice, this could have been ahieved to some extent by having a venue with a view of the harbour. With different levels, networking was quite difficult and the dinner overall was disappointing. It was not up to the standard of previous dinners.
identify committee meeting and how to participate□ Provide tables in the exhibit hall for lunch
please give us possibilities to sit during meals! to sit to network.....to write.....to discuss.....food during workshops and courses was great!
Did accompanying persons have access to the venue and to the exhibition area? If not, it would be an improvement if they had.
The wireless connection onsite at meeting is terrible slow, hope can improve in future
having the trade display/ lunch coffee on the ground floor but the meeting two floors above was quite inhibitory to discussion in the coffee breaks and it was very annoying that there were very few small tables to put lunch plates on for discussion over lunch. i found this meeting discouraged networking. people need somewhere conducive to talking that is readily accessible from the main auditorium
1. alternate meeting venues between europe and other continents (a lot of people will not attend if they have to travel very far or will go to a major conference only every 2-3 years) 2recycling facilities for paper could be provided (cans and food waste was recycled- very good!)
the social evants are very extravagant and should be scaled down in size and cost.
Staff for hotel booking were not very helpful at times
Please cosider having small tables,or benches available to have lunch at when viewing posters and exhibits. It was most difficult to drap your bag and purse over each shoulder and try to eat a sandwich and drink water or coffee standing up. being able to sit oat least stand and place your lunch on a bar type table would be helpful or better yet a place to sit and eat your lunch in comfort then go view the exhibits and posters.
I was surprised to see no hand sanitizers, especially by the lunchtime buffet line. People arrived at the lunch area after having held the escalator railing and after shaking hands with people from all over the world, then would hold the serving utensils and their sandwiches. A worldwide pandemic could have been accelerated from an international medical meeting! The note pads provided were inadequate- it is hard to read what one writes on graph paper. Otherwise the meeting was well organized.
august is the wrong month for a meeting
Please provide places to sit at lunch. It is very hard to eat, balance one's food and drink, and hold a meaningful conversation while standing.
Registration fee should be less.
people from kennes were very bad: i culd not assist to workshops on the first day beause they didn't find my payment but they didn't make any effort to find it; Chance for san francisico is a very beautifull city but i'll never pay anymore for workshop or course if it's still organised by Kennes. I'll come in toronto but I'll visit the city during workshops and courses!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Abstract Book - USB

My USB memory stick did not work - neither did some of my colleagues, although I still think we should have them

In this Abstract USB, computer virus was existed. my vaccine program removed it. If you want to change paper abstract book to electronic one, pay more attention about computer virus.

General Comments
Scientific Programme
more debates
I would prefer not to have sessions on Saturday. Annual Meeting should finish on Friday!
We need to give more credit to RCTs in the program. Many 8 min oral presentations were of lower quality than the 2 (!) min poster presentations. There should be key note speakers on PFMT, as this is recommended first line treatment for SUI. It has never been a key-note at the ICS
Main oral communication presentations could be shorter in order to allow more people to present in this format
Many nurses I spoke to felt there was not enough emphasis on a nursing perspective and much of the scientific jargon was beyond our understanding. Nurses generally have a limited background and understanding of research terms and it is an area that our professional body needs to address. This makes the program difficult to understand from a scientific level, the workshops on the other hand are very practical, informative and give us a chance to interact more with the key note speakers and audience and were very beneficial to my practice, thank you
more oral presentations and specially state of the arts would be preferable instead of too many poster sessions
I think parallel sessions could be better planned. For example few delegates would want to attend both BPH and Childbirth sessions. Often in SF I wanted to be in more than one session at once.
We take turns attending- no other reason. Longer discussion time on posters.Screen outside on meet the experts. Kindle screen to rent or lend if you make the abstract book on line only. A month after congress still possibility to read the whole papers would be appreciated. Thank you again it was great./ Ingrid Rouné
new topics - new procedures e.g. AJUST, ELEVATE, PROSIMA...
Workshops
Reduce the level of overlap during simultaneous workshops and educational courses.
I think that it would be very useful to become a copy of the ICS Workshops (on a DVD or CD format), since it is not always possible to attend to various of these interesting courses and workshops. I found those very usefull from the 2005 ICS in Montreal, but never saw them again in later ICS meetings.
Having a list of email addresses in order to contact the speakers to attain a copy of their lecture would have been good as I have tried to contact one of the speakers through the chair and have not obtained a response.
Number of workshops may be reduced with more podium opportunities.
Posters
I would love for there to be a mandatory time for presenters to stand by their posters. Also, a real press room with computers and personnel who can help us find speakers would be helpful.
This year it was recommended to the authors of posters to be at the posters during the breaks. This does not work. It should be broken up in parts, like the authors of poster 1-100 should be at the posters during break 1, posters 101-200 during break 2 and so on.
There were many good unmodulated posters. On the other hand I felt there were many worthless oral presentations.
Registration/Organisation
smaller venue gives more contacts and better communication (see Heidelberg and Florence)
Please allow the participants to register and pay for the preconference without the scientific meeting. You lost some folks by not allowing this feature
it should be easier to bring guests such as spouses and family members to meetings. (re:non-prohibitive pricing).

decrease the fee for the family member to attend the meeting or by day fee to allow them attend the meeting
always offer reduced registration fee for nurses/physiotherapists etc. as we do not get funding and do not get paid much.
ensuring that people pay extra for the gala dinner is important (and possibly the initial reception); if costs can be reduced it makes the meeting more accessible to self funded or lower income individuals.
For the meet the expert, please, send a mail that we need to book before.
Abstract Book - USB
I think the non commented abstracts ought to be printed. Now you leave all this work free to copy and the author can not refer to any publication. If all accepted abstract were printed, the "green" version of the abstract book suggested above is acceptable.
Include posters in the Abstracts USB
Print abstract book is not essential, provided online/CD distributed abstracts are easy to download in full to be able to browse throughout rather than having to search for specific topics/keywords
I would like to suggest that all abstracts accepted (including the abstracts "read by title") could be included in the proceedings
General
More Joint meetings with IUGA and also broader participation by e.g. pelvic gastro-intestinal surgeons and other specialists with an interest in pelvic pathophysiology.
allow the company to provide the sample or souvenirs
more available places "to meet the experts"