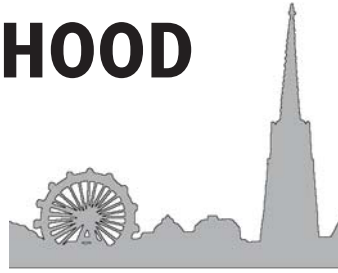


EUROPEAN CHILDHOOD OBESITY GROUP (ECOG)



**Childhood Obesity:
New Insights and
Consequences**

**Second Announcement and
Call for Abstracts**

**29th September –
2nd October 2005
Vienna**



INVITATION

Colleagues, guests, and friends,

It is a great pleasure and privilege to invite you to participate in the 15th Workshop of the European Childhood Obesity Group (ECOG), which will be held in Vienna September 29th until October 2nd 2005.

The Scientific Programme Committee and the Local Organising Committees tried very hard to compile an attractive program with professional highlights and social events to be remembered.

The main topics will be Diabetes type II, appropriate treatment programs and prevention. Furthermore all other aspects of obesity will be covered in main sessions as well in free communication – session and poster-walks. You are kindly invited to submit an abstract (guidelines enclosed).

Due to the fact that EU activities in that field will be enforced, we invited the EU-commissions for health to participate and all ministries to send us their view “What is to be done against obesity in childhood”.

In regard to the social program we prepared nice opportunities to get involved in Vienna’s cultural life: You will participate on a Philharmonic concert in the famous “Musikverein” and will have the chance to see the paintings from famous artists in a special exhibition in the wonderful “Albertina”. We hope that the well-balanced blend of scientific challenges and tourist highlights will convince you to come to Vienna.

We look forward to welcoming you all in Vienna in September 2005!

Kurt Widhalm
President of ECOG

COMMITTEES AND ORGANISERS

PRESIDENT

Prof. Dr. Kurt Widhalm, Vienna

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

S. Dämon, Vienna
S. Dietrich, Vienna
D. Weghuber, Vienna
C. Franz, Vienna
D. Zaknun, Vienna

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

I. Lissau, Copenhagen
A. Pietrobelli, Verona
C.E. Flodmark, Malmö
L. Moreno, Zaragoza
M. Wabitsch, Ulm

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

MONDIAL CONGRESS
Operngasse 20B, A-1040 Vienna, Austria
Tel.: (+43/1) 588 04 160
Fax: (+43/1) 586 91 85
e-mail: Ecog2005@mondial.at
<http://www.mondial.at/english/congressmgmt/ecog2005/>

EXHIBITION

MAW – International Exhibition & Advertising
Freyung 6, A-1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel.: (+43/1) 536 63 0
Fax: (+43/1) 535 60 16
e-mail: maw@media.co.at, www.maw.co.at

DATES TO REMEMBER

Deadline for receipt of Abstract	May 31st, 2005
Abstracts acceptance	July 8th, 2005
Deadline early bird registration	July 15th, 2005
Deadline regular registration	August 31st, 2005
Deadline cancellation of registration	August 30th, 2005
Deadline hotel reservation	June 15th, 2005
Deadline cancellation of hotel booking	June 15th, 2005

THE PROGRAMME AT A GLANCE

Start	End	Thursday, Sept. 29 th , 2005	Friday, Sept. 30 th , 2005	Saturday, Oct. 1 st , 2005
09:00	09:30		Session Diabetes	Session Vascular Pathology
09:30	10:00			Coffee
10:00	10:30	Satellite Symposia		
10:30	11:00	"Prevention of	Coffee	Free
11:00	11:30	obesity in the	Session Metabolism	communications
11:30	12:00	first years of life"		
12:00	12:30	Free		
12:30	13:00	communications	Lunch	Lunch
13:00	13:30		Poster	Poster
13:30	14:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
14:00	14:30	Session	Session	Session
14:30	15:00	Nutrient requirements	Psychology	Prevention and Political
15:00	15:30	and food habits		actions/strategies
15:30	16:00	Coffee	Coffee	
16:00	16:30	Session	Free communications	
16:30	17:00	Physical (In)activity	Treatment	
17:00	17:45	Keynote lecture		
17:45	18:00			

PROGRAMME

Thursday, September 29th, 2005:

- 10:00 – 12:00 **Satellite Symposium – Strategies of obesity prevention during the first years of children’s life**
- 12:00 – 13:00 **Free communications**
- 13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:00 – 15:30 **Nutrient requirements and food habits**
N. Battistini (Modena, ITA):
“Growth – Healthy status and active food model”
L. Moreno (Zaragoza, ESP):
“How to measure food habits in adolescence? – The European perspective.”
B. Sherry (Atlanta, USA):
“Using food habits and other strategies to prevent pediatric overweight.”
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee**
- 16:00 – 17:00 **Physical (In)activity**
A. Must (Boston, USA):
“The role of physical activity and inactivity in youth on the development of obesity”
K. Froberg (Odense, DEN):
“Physical activity and Fitness and its relations to cardiovascular disease risk factors in children”
- 17:00 – 17:45 **Keynote lecture**
M. Roden (Vienna, AUT):
“Possible mechanisms for the development of T2DM”

PROGRAMME

Friday, September 30th, 2005:

09:00 – 10:30 **Diabetes**

S. Caprio (New Haven, USA):

“Definitions and pathophysiology of the metabolic syndrome in obese children and adolescents”

S. Wiegand (Berlin, GER):

“Impaired glucose tolerance/type 2 diabetes mellitus – a new field for pediatrics in Europe”

T. Reinehr (Datteln, GER):

“Type 2 diabetes in youth – how to detect and how to treat it”

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee**

11:00 – 12:30 **Metabolism**

A. Pietrobelli (Verona, ITA):

“Adipose tissue and metabolic effects – new insight into measurements”

C. Agostoni (Milan, ITA): “How much protein is safe?”

C. Erlanson-Albertsson (Lund, SWE):

“Low carbohydrate diet and metabolism”

12:30 – 13:00 **Lunch**

13:00 – 14:00 **Poster / Lunch**

14:00 – 15:30 **Psychology**

C. E. Flodmark (Malmö, SWE): “The happy obese child”

P. Warschburger (Berlin, GER): “The unhappy obese child”

C. Braet (Leuven, GB):

“Psychological profile to become and to stay obese”

15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee**

16:00 – 18:00 **Treatment / Free communications**

D. Molnar (Pecs, HUN):

“New drug policy in ped. Obesity”

G. Prager (Vienna, AUT):

“Persistent adolescent obesity: bariatric surgery or gastric pace maker?”

L. Groop (Malmö, SWE):

“Heterogeneity of type 2 diabetes focusing on children”

K. Widhalm, C. E. Flodmark, E. Poskitt, D. Molnar:

Pro and contra: dialogues

PROGRAMME

Saturday, October 1st, 2005:

- 09:00 – 10:00 **Vascular Pathology**
U. Hoffman (Boston, USA):
“New methods for detecting preatherosclerotic lesions”
O. Raitakari (Turku, FIN):
“Obesity in Childhood and Vascular Changes in Adulthood
– Insights to the Cardiovascular Risk in young Finns Study”
- 10:00 – 10:30 **Coffee**
- 10:30 – 12:00 **Free communications**
- 12:00 – 13:00 **Lunch**
- 13:00 – 14:00 **Poster / Lunch**
- 14:00 – 17:00 **Prevention and Political actions / strategies**
- 14:00 – 14:30 **Keynote lecture**
B. Gutin (Augusta, USA):
“The Medical College of Georgia FitKid Program: an
after-school approach to prevention of child obesity”
M. J. Müller (Kiel, GER):
“Lessons of the KOPS project.”
I. Lissau (Copenhagen, DEN):
“Nutrition Policies: The battle against sugar and fat in
school and after school”
J. James (Bournemouth, GB):
“Prevention of childhood obesity by reducing softdrinks”
K. Widhalm (Vienna, AUT):
“Summary of actions of the health ministries of EU”
Panel discussion: “Which actions are necessary?”
M. Kyprianou [EU health commissioner, Brussels, B],
A. Pietrobelli, I. Lissau, L. A. Moreno, J. James, B. Gutin,
M. J. Müller

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION INFORMATION

GENERAL INFORMATION

Abstracts may only be submitted by authors who have registered online, via the Congress website. Abstracts by authors who have not registered will be rejected.

Authors of rejected abstracts may cancel their registrations free of charge until **July 15th, 2005**.

POSTER SESSIONS

Participants are requested to submit abstracts online to the Congress Secretariat until April 29th, 2005. Please note, that abstracts will be accepted only if submitted online. For online submission, please refer to <http://www.mondial.at/english/congressmgmt/ecog2005/>.

Abstracts will be approved according to their scientific merit and should be based on previously unpublished data. Abstracts must be submitted in English. Submission of an abstract constitutes a commitment by the author(s) to present at the Congress if accepted. Abstract acceptance and programme scheduling will be communicated to the corresponding author's e-mail address. Hard copies of abstracts will NOT be accepted. Authors will be able to draft the abstracts online and may return to the site as necessary to edit the texts of the abstracts. Authors are free to finalize their texts and submit their abstracts at any time before the **May 31st, 2005** deadline. No changes will be possible after this deadline.

A highly qualified panel of reviewers will oral assess all submitted abstracts. Selected abstracts will be accepted as poster presentations or free communications.

Notification of acceptance and information regarding presentations will be forwarded to the authors by **July 8th, 2005**.

TOPICS

Authors are requested to assign one topic only to every abstract submitted. If an abstract relates to more than one of the topics below, please choose the most appropriate one.

- Diabetes
- Metabolism
- Vascular Pathophysiology
- Physical (in)activity
- Psychology
- Prevention

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION INFORMATION

GUIDELINES FOR ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Abstracts have to be written in English and comply with the following instructions:

- Use single line spacing
- Preferred font: Arial (12 pt)
- The title should be in bold print 14 pt, flush with the left margin and should clearly reflect the information included in the abstract. Titles should not be more than 85 characters.
- The authors' names have to be in a new line. First name and surname should be in bold print 12 pt followed by the name of the institution and the country, which should be in italicised 12 pt.
- No university degrees or appointments should be included.
- Underline the name of the presenting author.
- The text should be in justified alignment and 12 pt.
- The text should be structured in the following sections and include the following information:

AIMS: the primary purpose of the article

METHODS: data sources and study selection

RESULTS: methods of data synthesis and key findings

CONCLUSIONS: including potential and research needs

REFERENCES (optional)

- The abstract text should not exceed 1.700 characters.
- Abstracts must be written in standard and grammatical English and should present new results as well as be of scientific value.
- Abstracts should be written in clear and simple language avoiding repetition. Abstracts must be in their final form so as to exclude the need for corrections in proof.
- Abstracts should not contain Tables, Figures, Halftone illustrations or legends.
- Abstracts will not be edited.
- Abstracts not conforming to the required format will be rejected.

If, for some valid reason, you are unable to submit in the above format or encounter any problems with your online abstract submission, please contact the Congress Secretariat:

MONDIAL CONGRESS

e-mail: ecog2005@mondial.at

For Non-Members an abstract submission fee of EUR 40.00 is required.

OFFICIAL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

KURSALON – RECEPTION

included in the registration fee

Thursday, September 29th, 2005

18:00

The Herbert von Karajan Centrum sees itself as a cultural institution whose goal it is to preserve the musical legacy of the conductor in a central archive and make it available to the public on the one hand, and to continue the pursuit of the maestro's various interests and special projects on the other. Promoting young artists, supporting interdisciplinary research and developing technical recording systems were pursuits integral to Herbert von Karajan's life and work. Since the founding of the Centrum in 1995, these ideas have been reflected in its music and medicine activities.

MUSIKVEREIN – GLÄSENER SAAL

additional costs of EUR 30,00

Friday, September 30th, 2005

19:30

Glass hall Musikverein Vienna

There are many music societies but only one Musikverein. Music lovers throughout the world know it as the centre of Viennese musical culture, as the focus of the international concert circuit and as the Eldorado of classical music. The Musikverein – a resonant name, a scintillating idea.

As a venue for events from concerts to luxury banquets, the Glass Hall / Magna Auditorium is not only the largest of the Musikverein's 4 new halls but also the most flexible in terms of usage.



ALBERTINA – WORLD FAMOUS ART GALLERY – EXHIBITION OF SPECIAL PAINTINGS AND GALA DINER

additional costs of EUR 60,00

Saturday, October 1st, 2005

18:00

The palace that towers high above the city, holding the world-famous graphic collection of the Albertina was built from 1742 to 1745 and extended from 1801 to 1807. The origins of the site on which the Albertina is situated today reach much further back into the past than the collection itself. You will have the chance to see the paintings from famous artists in a special exhibition in the wonderful "Albertina".

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Please register online at

**<http://www.mondial.at/english/congressmgmt/ecog2005/>.
a secure and rapid way to register and/or book your hotel
accommodation**

or fill in the attached registration form and fax or land-mail it to:

MONDIAL CONGRESS

Fax: (+43/1) 586 91 85

e-mail: ecog2005@mondial.at

Please fill in one congress registration form per delegate and accompanying person.

You will receive a personalized badge when collecting your registration documents. During the Congress, this badge must be clearly visible at all the times and grants access to the Scientific Sessions and the Commercial Exhibition.

For group registration, we kindly ask you to contact MONDIAL CONGRESS to arrange details.

REGISTRATION FEES (IN EURO)

Please read all REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS below.

	Early Bird (by July 15 th , 2005)	Regular (by August 31 st , 2005)	Late / On-Site (after August 31 st , 2005)
<input type="checkbox"/> Full fee	€ 400.–	€ 450.–	€ 550.–
Young Scientist*	€ 300.–	€ 300.–	€ 300.–
Abstract Submission**	€ 40.–		

*Young Scientists need to submit an abstract and be not older than 30 years old (date of birth before 1st January 1975). ID card required.

**Only for Non-Members

PARTICIPANT'S REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES (Members, Non-Members, Trainees)

- Admission to all scientific sessions
- Admission to poster- and commercial exhibition
- Conference materials (congress bag, final programme, abstract volume, badge)
- Coffee breaks on 4 days
- Luncheons on 4 days
- Reception on Thursday, September 29th, 2005
- Certificate of attendance

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Please note that registrations can only be accepted and confirmed upon receipt of the completed registration form and full payment. For payments please refer to "TERMS OF PAYMENT".

The date of the remittance order (as stamped on the slip) shall be decisive for early-bird and regular registration (i.e.: for early-bird registration, the remittance has to be ordered by July 15th, 2005).

As soon as the Organising Secretariat has received your payment, a letter of confirmation will be mailed. Confirmations will be e-mailed if an e-mail address is provided on the registration form. This option is highly recommended as it helps avoid time consuming correspondence. Otherwise, confirmations will be faxed or land-mailed.

Please present your letter of confirmation at the registration desk upon arrival.

ON-SITE REGISTRATION

Thursday, September 29 th , 2005:	12:00 – 18:30
Friday, September 30 th , 2005:	08:00 – 18:30
Saturday, October 1 st , 2005:	08:00 – 16:00

CANCELLATION POLICY

Refunds – less EUR 50.– administration fee – will be granted to delegates unable to attend, provided written notice is received by MONDIAL CONGRESS by April 30th, 2005.

No refunds will be granted for cancellations received after August 30th, 2005.

No refunds are granted for Abstract Submission fee.

Amounts will be reimbursed after the Congress.

All Programme Details (Scientific and Social) are subject to changes!

HOTEL INFORMATION

Please book your hotel online at

<http://www.mondial.at/english/congressmgmt/ecog2005/>.

(hotels are described, including photos, maps and distance to the venue)

or fill in the attached hotel booking form and fax or mail it to:

MONDIAL CONGRESS

Operngasse 20B, A-1040 Vienna

Tel.: (+43/1) 588 04 160, Fax: (+43/1) 586 91 85

e-mail: ecog2005@mondial.at, www.mondial.at

HOTEL RATES

Hotel category	Single room	Double room	Deposit per room
4* Hotel	€ 80.- to 175.-	€ 154.- to 181.-	1 night
3* Hotel	€ 75.- to 158.-	€ 115.- to 201.-	1 night

All rates are quoted in Euro (€), per room, per night, including breakfast and all taxes.

1) Arcotel Boltzmann****

Double Room Deposit 156.00, Tarif 156.00

Double Room For Single Use Deposit 145.00, Tarif 145.00

Single Room Deposit 130.00, Tarif 130.00

2) Arcotel Wimberger****

Double Room Deposit 154.00, Tarif 154.00

3) Alexander***

Double Room Single Room Deposit 84.00, Tarif 84.00

4) Hotel Excellence****

Double Room Deposit 120.00, Tarif 120.00

Double Room For Single Use Deposit 95.00, Tarif 95.00

Single Room Deposit 80.00, Tarif 80.00

5) Mercure Josefshof Wien****

Double Room Deposit 175.00, Tarif 175.00

Double Room For Single Use Deposit 175.00, Tarif 175.00

6) Mercure Wien Zentrum***

Double Room Deposit 201.00, Tarif 201.00

Double Room Single Use Deposit 158.00, Tarif 158.00

7) Post***

Single Room Deposit 75.00, Tarif 75.00

Double Room Single Use Deposit 100.00, Tarif 100.00

Double Room Deposit 115.00, Tarif 115.00

8) Rathauspark Hotel****

Double Room Deposit 181.00, Tarif 181.00

Double Room For Single Use Deposit 181.00, Tarif 181.00

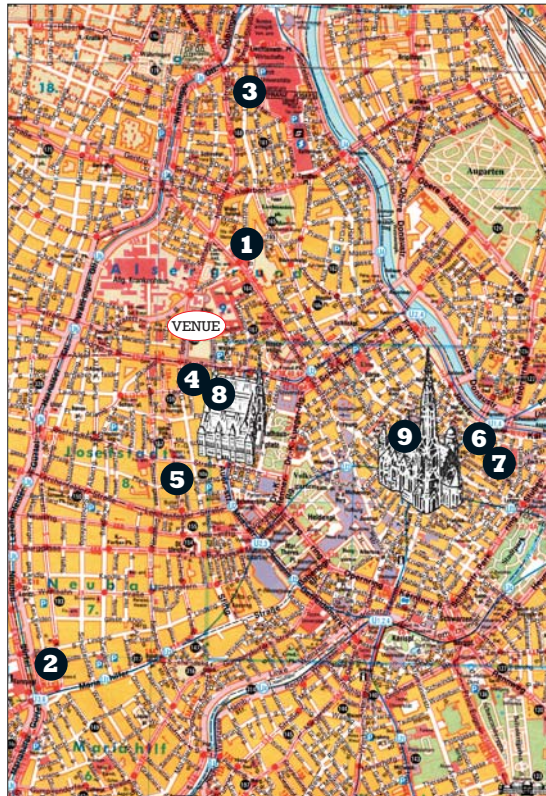
Single Room Deposit 126.00, Tarif 126.00

9) Wandler Hotel***

Double Room Single Use Deposit 112.00, Tarif 112.00

Double Room Deposit 142.00, Tarif 142.00

HOTEL INFORMATION



MONDIAL CONGRESS has secured a sufficient number of hotel rooms in 4***star and 3***star hotels. The rates in brackets indicate the rates which are quoted in Euro (€), per room (Single Room-SGL / Double Room-DBL / Double Room Single Use-DSU), per night, including breakfast and all taxes.

For more detailed information on hotels, please refer to the website <http://www.mondial.at/english/congressmgmt/ecog2005/>, where hotels are described, including photos, maps and distance to the venue.

DEADLINE FOR HOTEL BOOKING

Please note that the deadline for hotel booking is **June 15th, 2005**. After this deadline, reservations will still be handled, MONDIAL CONGRESS cannot, however, guarantee hotel accommodation.

HOTEL INFORMATION

INSTRUCTIONS ON HOTEL BOOKING

Please note that hotel bookings can only be accepted and confirmed upon receipt of the completed registration form and the deposit payment required per room – For payments please refer to “TERMS OF PAYMENT”.

As soon as the Organising Secretariat has received your payment, a letter of confirmation will be mailed. It will confirm the name of your hotel, the room rate per night and the duration of your stay. Confirmations will be e-mailed if an e-mail address is provided on the registration form. This option is highly recommended as it helps avoid time consuming correspondence. Otherwise, confirmations will be faxed or land-mailed.

If the hotel category requested is no longer available, MONDIAL CONGRESS will do its utmost to offer similar accommodation. This may, however, mean a change in price category.

The number of nights booked is binding and will serve as the basis for your hotel invoice. Please note that, in case of early departure, the hotel is entitled to charge all nights booked. The balance between the deposit and your total invoice must be settled directly with the hotel.

GROUP REGISTRATION (10 or more rooms)

is done via individual contracts. **For group registration, we kindly ask you to contact the Congress Secretariat to arrange details:**

MONDIAL CONGRESS

Operngasse 20B

A-1040 Vienna

Tel.: (+43/1) 588 04 176

Fax: (+43/1) 586 91 85

www.mondial.at

e-mail: ecog2005@mondial.at

CANCELLATION POLICY

For cancellations received by June 15th, 2005, an administrative fee of EUR 35.– will be charged. For cancellations received after June 15th, 2005, deposit payments shall be forfeited. Only written cancellations may be accepted.

Amounts due will be reimbursed after the Congress.

TERMS OF PAYMENT

The total outstanding amount should be made in advance in EUR (payments on other currency will not be accepted) in favour of WFSBP 2005 and only by the following procedures:

1. Payment by Credit Card

Visa, Eurocard/Mastercard and Diners will be accepted.

The cardholder's name, card number, expiration date and an original signature MUST be on the booking form. No other credit cards will be accepted

2. Bank Transfer

Account number: 50671 104 003
Account name: ECOG 2005
Name of bank: Bank Austria-Creditanstalt
Bank code: 12000
Address of bank: Julius Tandler Platz 2, A-1090 Vienna/Austria
BIC: BKAUTWW
IBAN: AT77 1200 0506 7110 4003
Remark: "Free of charge for MONDIAL CONGRESS"

For transfers from outside of Austria please use IBAN (international bank account number) and BIC (bank identification code) to minimize bank fees. NOTE: Please instruct your bank to carry out the transaction "free of charges for the recipient". Bank fees will be charged to the participant.

Reisebüro Mondial Ges.m.b.H. & CoKG acts as an intermediary and shall not be held liable for any loss or damage to persons or property, for whatever reason, notwithstanding liability for transport and other service enterprises. Only written agreements shall be valid. The place of jurisdiction shall be Vienna.

FLIGHTS

ALL-INCLUSIVE FLIGHT ARRANGEMENTS

In co-operation with Austrian Airlines/Star Alliance and other IATA carriers, MONDIAL CONGRESS offers economical all-inclusive flight arrangements to the participants of this Congress.

Please note that full pre-payment has to be effected before the flight ticket(s) can be issued – for details please refer to "TERMS OF PAYMENT" on page.

For attractive, tailor-made offers, please contact MONDIAL CONGRESS!

EXHIBITION

The Organising Committee of the 15th Workshop of the European Childhood Obesity Groups invites you to exhibit at the Congress in Vienna, Austria.

MAW – Medizinische Ausstellungs- und Werbegesellschaft
International Exhibitions and Advertising
Freyung 6/3/3, A-1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel.: (+43/1) 536 63-42 or -34
Fax: (+43/1) 535 6016
e-mail: maw@media.co.at

CONGRESS VENUE

CAMPUS – GENERAL HOSPITAL VIENNA

The congress will be held in the Hörsaalzentrum of the General Hospital Vienna, which is located at the campus of the old General Hospital Vienna.

CONGRESS INFORMATION

BADGES

You will receive a personalized badge when collecting your registration documents. During the Congress, this badge must be clearly visible at all the times and grants access to the Scientific Sessions and the Commercial Exhibition.

CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION (CME) CREDITS

The Scientific Program will be accredited by the Austrian Chamber of Physicians according to the EUROPEAN CONTINUOUS MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMME.

CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

For official delegates to the Congress, an Attendance Certificate will be included in the Congress bag.

INSURANCE

Delegates are advised to arrange health and accident insurance prior to travelling to the Congress.

The Congress Organisers will not assume any responsibility for accidents, losses or damages, as well as for delays or modifications in the programme, caused by unforeseen circumstances. No claims for indemnification from the organisers shall arise for contractors or participants in case of cancellation, for any reason, of the entire Congress.

LANGUAGE

The official language of the Congress will be ENGLISH.

LUNCHES and COFFEE BREAKS

Lunch snacks and coffee breaks are included in the registration fee and will be served in the exhibition area. In addition, the venue provides a self-serve restaurant on cash basis.

LETTER OF INVITATION

On request, the Congress Secretariat will be pleased to send letters of invitation to individual scientists. Invitations of this kind are intended to assist potential delegates to raise their travel funds or obtain visas. They do not imply any commitment or responsibility on behalf of the Congress to provide financial support.

GENERAL INFORMATION

VIENNA

Vienna, a city with about two million inhabitants, is situated at the heart of Europe. Owing to its geographic and geopolitical location, Vienna has become a centre of international events. It is a popular conference venue. Vienna hosts one of the United Nations headquarters and is home to a number of other international organisations. Vienna's ever-changing history has left an indelible mark on the city, a mark also manifested in a rich cultural heritage. Viennese writers, musicians, artists, and scientists have influenced many aspects of our modern world. Vienna offers old historical palaces and modern shopping centres, traditional hotels, Austrian food and haute cuisine, typical Viennese coffee houses and restaurants, outstanding opera performances, classical concerts and open-air festivals, antique shops and elegant boutiques – all joined in incomparable Viennese harmony.

CLIMATE

In SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, average temperatures in Vienna vary between 10 and 20 degrees Celsius.

TRAVEL BY PLANE

73 international airlines offer scheduled services to Vienna. There are several daily flights between Vienna and the main European capitals and business centres. Austrian Airlines, the country's flag carrier, connects 116 cities worldwide with Vienna. This airline offers modern aircrafts and award-winning in-flight service. Vienna International Airport at Schwechat, 19 km (12 miles) from the city centre, is state-of-the-art in every respect.

An information desk will be set up at the airport to welcome you.

TAXI

Taxis are available at the international arrivals.
Average fares to the centre of Vienna EUR 35.– to 40.–

ACCESS BY BUS/TRAIN

Bus: At 20-minute intervals, the Vienna Airport Lines depart to the city centre between 05:30 and 24:00 daily. Cost: approx. EUR 6.–, duration: approx. 20–30 minutes.

Train: The Schnellbahn leaves at 10–30 minute-intervals between 05.00 and 22:00 daily. Cost: approx. EUR 3.–, duration: approx. 30 minutes.

ACCES BY ROAD

Autobahn A4 from the Airport to Vienna (-> Wien). The city centre and the Austria Center Vienna are signposted.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PASSPORTS AND VISAS

Passport-holders from countries in Western Europe as well as from North America and Australia will not need a visa to enter Austria. For some nationalities, visas can be issued at the airport in Vienna upon arrival. Others may have to apply before. If in doubt, please check with your nearest Austrian embassy, consulate (www.austria.org), or your airline.

LANGUAGE

The language spoken in Austria is German. Most Austrians speak English, some also speak Spanish, French or Italian and are happy to help visitors. The official language of the Congress is English. No simultaneous interpretation will be provided.

ELECTRICITY

Austrian networks supply 220 V and a frequency of 50 Hz. Plugs are continental-style two-pin. A plug adaptor should be taken along, if incompatible electric/electronic gadgets are to be used.

LOCAL CURRENCY

The official currency in Austria is EURO (€).

BANK AND EXCHANGE

Most Austrian banks will change traveller's cheques as well as cash. Banking hours in general are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 08:00–12:30 and 13:30–15:00, Thursday 08:00–12:30 and 13:30–17:30. Automated cash dispensers are located outside most banks, cash can be withdrawn there 24 hours a day. National and foreign Maestro cards (cash cards) as well as Mastercard, American Express, Visa and Diners are accepted. Credit cards are also accepted by numerous hotels, restaurants, shops and gas stations. Money can be changed at the airport, at banks, exchange bureaus and larger hotels. Please ask about charges before changing money – these may vary considerably.

TIPPING

Service is usually included in the prices in bars and restaurants, but tips are welcome.

RESTAURANTS

Vienna's restaurants range from gourmet-type restaurants to informal restaurants and Heurigen (Austrian wine taverns). There are also many international restaurants in the city, offering a choice of almost any kind of cuisine. In Austria, lunch is generally served between 12:00 and 14:00, dinner around 19.00.

GENERAL INFORMATION

SHOPPING

Shopping hours are Monday to Friday 09:00–18:00 and Saturday 09:00–17:00. Except for some tobacconists and small supermarkets at petrol stations and at the main railway stations, shops are closed on Sundays. Luxury shops for an elegant clientele can be found in the pedestrian zone along Graben and Kärntnerstrasse (underground U1, U3/Stephansplatz). Street entertainers and outdoor cafés contribute to the special atmosphere of this area. Another well known shopping area is Mariahilferstrasse (underground U3/Neubaugasse). Visitors from non-EU countries should ask for VAT refunds when purchasing goods.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION IN VIENNA

Vienna offers an efficient and modern public transport network of underground lines, trams and busses.

Bear in mind, that taking the underground is much faster, safer, and more reliable than catching a taxi.