

IMCZ NEWS



APRIL / MAY 2018



EDITORIAL

I was honoured to be elected as the new IMCZ club President at our recent AGM in February. One of my goals is to expand the club membership, which will hopefully result in the membership directory growing in the coming years. Many expats come to Zug for work and this will undoubtedly continue, given the attractive conditions on offer to international companies moving to Zug. Companies in turn bring newcomers to the Zug area and it is these newcomers who we can target for club membership. Whilst we have been first and foremost a social club, this does not mean we should not reach out to our local business and networking contacts, in order to encourage them to join the club. I certainly intend to do so myself within my Landis+Gyr and Siemens communities. We have a fascinating diversity of professionals and entrepreneurs amongst us, some retired but many still active, with interesting business stories to tell and career experiences to share with others. I have several colleagues seeking new positions and I believe our club can help these individuals. Our Special Stammtisch events provide a great platform to introduce new companies and share new business ideas. Of course, we should still foster and nurture the social side of our club, continuing with our cultural and family hiking events. I believe the IMCZ can offer a unique blend of social and business networking activities. After all, our motto is "IMCZ, for business, networking and fun". I would like to encourage every one of you to reach out to your contacts and invite someone new to our Stammtisch to "test out the beers" as our past President Roger Brooks so aptly puts it!

We will again be holding our traditional signature events during 2018, including the Summer BBQ and the New Members Receptions, culminating with our legendary Burns Night next January. I hope to see plenty of Special Stammtisch events this year and am sure that our very active and energetic Events Coordinator, Enrico Dell'Angelo, will not disappoint. Please do let him know if there are any special events you would like to see. The regular Stammtisch on Thursday evenings at the City Garden Hotel remains as our club watering hole, unless we are diverted to the waters at the Park Hotel. During all these events we will continue to uphold our traditional values, showing respect to each other and showing tolerance for our different cultures and points of view. Half the fun in the club is to be had in the enjoyment of our cultural differences.

One of the interesting aspects of our club is that we have many members who rarely appear at the events. We are of course most grateful for their continued loyalty, membership and financial support and it is thanks to them that the rest of us can continue having fun. However, it would be great to meet more of them, so if any active members know a "sleeping" member, please encourage him to come along!

During my first year as president, I will be very much dependent on the experience and support of the other board members, who do so much to keep the club running smoothly. I would like to extend my thanks to the whole board for their ongoing effort and commitment to the club. Their work makes it a good place for everyone to meet and have fun together. We are seeking new board members. In particular, we are seeking a new Newsletter Editor to take over from Muthana, who has done an outstanding job as Newsletter Editor during the past seven years. Muthana has promised to support the new incumbent as Co-Editor during the first year. Please do apply if you have an interest in Newsletter publishing. There is always PR, Outreach and Stammtisch Coordination work to be done as well.

I would like to express my thanks to the many club members who have come forward to organize activities, such as bowling, skiing and Burns Night. We are very grateful for your initiatives, and we would love to see more club members come forward to promote further activities within the club. I encourage you all to use this directory to reach out and meet other like-minded individuals who share the same interests. Look up one of your hobbies and see if there isn't a "critical mass" of members out there with whom you can collaborate. With your help, we can make the club an even more fun place to be. Thanks for your support!

Bill Lichtensteiger, President

Introducing... New members THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Marek Slotwinski

Marek was born and raised in Poland. He completed his studies and graduated with a BSc in mechanical engineering in Poland. Soon after graduation he immigrated to South Africa and worked there with ESCOM, an electric power generating company. Later he changed jobs and worked for Atlas Aircraft Corporation. Soon after the ANC came to power and cut all military spending in 1994, he started working on property development, building gated condominiums for the rich and nervous white SA community. Later in 2002 he immigrated with his wife and two sons to Australia. He continued to work with property development but on a much smaller scale; his wife worked in the pharmaceutical industry. His sons grew up, graduated from university and then left home. They moved to Switzerland this year. They live in Lucerne, his wife works in Zug, but he is responsible for assimilation. Marek likes wine and food and enjoys good company and intelligent conversation whilst starting a new chapter of his life in beautiful Switzerland.



New Members continued on page 2...

IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE 1

- Editorial
- New Members

EVENT NEWS P.3

- Annual General Meeting
- Future Events
- Investment Opportunities
- ExpatExpo

HEALTH P.5

- Insulin: A Burner of Fat?

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY P.6

- Space Exploration, Facts & Fiction

TRAVEL AND LEISURE P.8

- Southeast Asia
Singapore & Thailand
- Ayurvedic Spa, a little known
Paradise in Southern India
- New York City

SPORTS P.12

- Joe's Ski Hacks:
little things that will
make your ski day easier
- Kegeln Report

HUMOUR P.15

TIDBITS P.16

- Member's Marketplace
- IMCZ Rates
- Corporate Space



Introducing... New members THE IMCZ WELCOMES:

Christian Hill

Chris hails from Australia and was born in a small beach town close to Sydney. He completed his apprenticeship as a boat-builder. In his early twenties, after gaining as much experience as he could in Australia, he set his eyes on getting a job with an America's Cup sailing team. He took a job with a Chinese team to build a boat for them in mainland China close to Hong Kong. They planned to go with the boat and team to Spain to provide technical support during the America's Cup racing in 2007. While in Valencia he met his Swiss wife who was working for the Swiss team Alinghi. They spent the next few years travelling and working all over the world with sailing teams for the America's Cup and Volvo ocean race as well as a few other projects before setting back in Lucerne in 2014. He is self-employed now and is working all around Europe. In Switzerland he is working for sailing teams and boatbuilding companies specialising in carbon fibre racing boats. He loves living in Switzerland and, when he has enough spare time, he enjoys some of his many hobbies and interests, which include anything outdoors and adventurous. Switzerland is certainly the ideal place for such activities.



Steve Knight

Meet Steven who hails from a tiny corner in Scotland known as Brechin. After considerable prodding he finally found the time to write his bio. He lives in Zurich and does the "opposite" commute every day. Although he concedes that Zug is a special place, while always on the lookout for local hidden treasures – he asks you to please feel free to advise him. Before moving to Zurich from Scotland over two years ago, he graduated from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh and Strathclyde Business School Glasgow; where he earned both his MA then MSc in Business Economics, and Economics respectively. A self-proclaimed "late bloomer" - prior to, and throughout, his studies he served a total of 10



years as a Soldier and Officer training in the British Army; Music and Ceremonial. Highlights of this exciting period include; extensive travel, performing for high profile dignitaries and royalty, many key "tattoos" around the world such as Edinburgh, Basel, etc. As some may have observed by now, he is an advocate for most things Scottish. He is working now in Finance and Insurance. When he finds time he enjoys; Skiing (learned in Scotland; disclaimer), Scuba diving, Squash, Theatre, Music, Outdoors, Hiking, Shooting, and Whisky! It's in and around these areas – where there may or may not lie some ambiguous talents. Meeting many interesting members within the club, has been a highlight of his last few months in Zug. He very much looks forward to meeting more members, and indeed learning more about you all at a Stammtisch in the near future.

Yaz Loukhal

Yaz is a French national, who recently moved to Zug after living in London for more than 25 years. He grew up in France but moved to the US to finish his studies. He then moved back to France and the Benelux where he started working in the software industry. After spending some time in Dubai, he opened the East European markets for his employer. Finally, he moved back to London where he worked for various start-ups before moving into recruitment. In his recruitment business he deals mainly with technology start-ups and helps various Private Equity companies in Germany, Switzerland and the UK to find new management resources for their portfolio companies. Most of his clients are repeat clients, who always come back when they have challenging searches. Additionally, Yaz has helped more than a dozen European start-ups open up US operations and find sales and other resources for their new offices; and the same for US companies wishing to move to Europe. Yaz is a passionate photographer and has been to all seven continents searching for the perfect shot. He knows that Switzerland's landscape is going to be a treat! He adores food and is always looking for recommendations. He is a keen sportsman and goes regularly to the gym. He also loves jogging and hiking. Yaz is keen to meet interesting members and start new friendships!



Alan Cattell

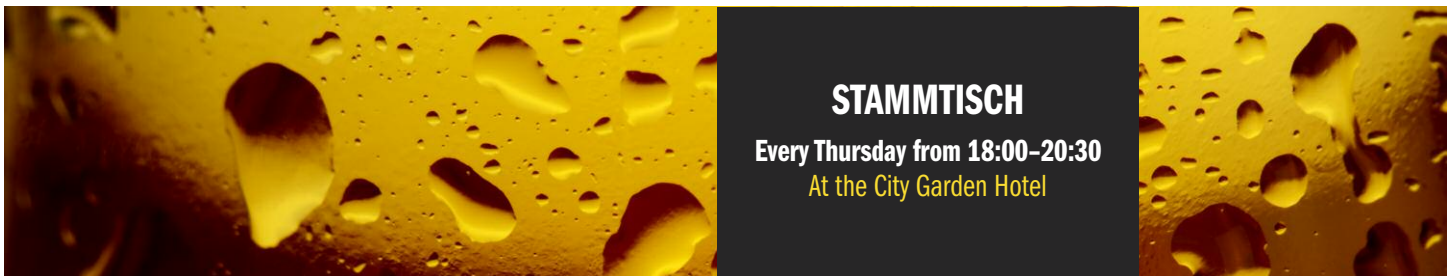


Alan hails from Glasgow, Scotland, but has been living in Zug for the last 25 years. He studied Physics with focus on solid state, covering superconductivity, quantum heat transport etc, but moved later into industrial research and development and worked on display technologies, bio-medical sensors and other multi-disciplinary topics. He moved to Switzerland to work for what was then Landis & Gyr and experienced the ownership transitions to Electrowatt, and then Siemens. He survived all the upheavals but with less hair. He has travelled extensively on business in Europe, Asia-Pacific and North America and enjoyed being in different places, meeting and working with people from different backgrounds and cultures. However, now that he is retired, he is happy not to be suffering from jet-lag on a near weekly basis. Alan is married with two children and four grandchildren. His passion is sailing, which luckily is also his wife's. Since retirement, he and his wife try to spend as much as possible afloat. They do mostly coastal-hopping with overnight anchorage or mooring. They also do longer passages of (so far) up to 5 days. When not sailing he enjoys taking the grand-kids to Karate and Ice hockey practice...

Daniel Qin



Daniel was born and raised in Tianjin, China; he studied environmental engineering both in China and Germany. For the past 12 years he has been living in Germany, but plans to move to Switzerland shortly. He holds both Chinese and German citizenships and describes himself as a "start-upper". Active both in China and Europe, he was involved in founding businesses in Medical, Game, and Fintech areas, He was involved in developing the recent Wecash App, which is one of the leading micro-lending platform in China with 100 Million registered users. He is moving to Zug now in order to develop a new Fintech company. He is married to a German lady and has two kids: a boy and a girl. His hobbies include football, tennis, swimming and golf. He wishes have more practice with golf and would like to learn how to ski. He enjoys meeting people and is looking forward to become an active member of the club.



STAMMTISCH

Every Thursday from 18:00-20:30
At the City Garden Hotel

<h2 style="margin: 0;">IMCZ</h2> <h3 style="margin: 0;">BOARD MEMBERS</h3> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Thumbnail biographies of board members can be found on our website www.imcz.club under 'About Us' section</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">PRESIDENT Bill Lichtensteiger 079 378 63 26 President@IMCZ.club</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">VICE PRESIDENT NEWSLETTER EDITOR Muthana Kubba 079 340 25 92 Newsletter@IMCZ.club</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">SECRETARY Roy Havermann 032 512 39 60 Secretary@IMCZ.club</p>
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">TREASURER Ilham Yüksel 079 955 22 87 Treasurer@IMCZ.club</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">EVENTS' ORGANISER Enrico Dell'Angelo 079 311 78 08 Events@IMCZ.club</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">WEBMASTER Roger Brooks 079 583 9935 webmaster@imcz.club</p>



AGM, ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM this year took place on Thursday February 8, 2018 at the same venue as the Stammtisch, City Garden Hotel, Zug. Well over 20 members were present, refreshments were served during the apero and meeting proceeded as planned. Both the minutes of the meeting as well as the President's annual report for 2017 are shown below.

After the old board was discharged, the new board was elected as follows:

1. **President • Mr. Bill Lichtensteiger,**
2. **Vice President • Dr. Muthana Kubba**
3. **Secretary • Mr. Roy Haverman**
4. **Newsletter Editor • Dr. Muthana Kubba**
5. **Webmaster • Mr. Roger Brooks**
6. **Treasurer • Mr. Ilham Yüksel**
7. **Events' Organiser • Mr. Enrico Dell'Angelo**



2017 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

When I sat down at a table in the Parkhotel restaurant in the fall of 2007 with a half dozen IMCZ members, I had no inkling that the Stammtisch would soon grow to a regular attendance of 20 or more. Much of that growth was thanks to the efforts of David LeBow, who assumed the presidency the following year after having served on the board already for two years. Just as little could I imagine serving on the IMCZ board myself, much less for 6 years.

Welcome to our 39th Annual General Meeting, and thank you for attending. It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve you as President for the past two years. I am grateful for the trust you have placed in me, the interest you have shown in the club, and the support you have offered the board, the club and its activities.

High Points

In 2017 we welcomed 3 new members to the IMCZ Board, Roger Dixon as Newsletter Co-Editor, Enrico Dell'Angelo as Events Coordinator and Roy Haverman as Membership Coordinator.

Roger Dixon has not only helped Muthana (who has been editing our newsletter for a record 7 years) with editing, he has also improved our publication process and helped to keep the (bowling) ball rolling, albeit with 9 pins instead of ten! Thanks also to our regular newsletter contributors, such as Remo Jutzeler, Joe Dow and Christian Wagner.

Enrico recently helped provision our Burns Supper, which was well attended and well received. Thanks also to former IMCZ board member John Stuart who resumed his previous role of Master of Ceremonies and helped in many other ways to make this a successful event, and to former president Bas Veenendaal, who provided valuable support despite his absence.

Enrico will tell you more about the events of the past year, but he deserves special mention for organizing our Italian-themed summer party in August without any subsidy.

Roy has presided over a stable membership and Stammtisch attendance.

Goals of 2017

At the beginning of last year, we set a number of ambitious goals. Some of those which we achieved are:

- A balanced budget: We reduced costs, by reducing newsletter frequency to every second month, among other measures.
- A variety of Special Stammtisch presentations, thanks again to Enrico.
- A cooking event organized by Detlef Jungfleisch; thanks, Detlef!
- Increased outreach: thanks to our membership in Zug Tourism, we were able to better promote our Burns Supper. In addition to those already mentioned by name, thanks are due to all the Board Members, volunteers and participants who made our club fun and attractive in 2017.

Of course, there were also some goals that we missed.

- More member-organized events.
- Community outreach: many communities have stopped holding the "Neuzuzuger" parties which used to provide an opportunity for clubs to present themselves.

Goals for 2018

2017 will be my 11th year in the IMCZ and my 7th year of service to the club as a board member. Unfortunately, increasing professional demands prevent both Andy Habermacher and Andrew Schofield from continuing to serve on the board. Since our web platform, Groupspaces, is gradually disintegrating due to lack of maintenance, we are forced to once again migrate to another platform this year. I will therefore resume my previous duties as Webmaster. The board proposes Bill Lichtensteiger as an able and worthy successor as President. Assuming you approve, Roy Haverman has agreed to take over Bill's role as Secretary.

For this year, we retain our unmet goals from 2017, of which the most important is to increase membership. In addition, we plan to:

- Promote more member-organized activities. Besides bowling and cooking our members share many common interests, such as cycling, golfing, hiking, music and wine.
- Increase attendance at our special events.

Call to Action

At the risk of repeating myself, this is your club. You have the power to reshape it to your needs and wishes, if not by organizing an event or interest group, at least by participating in the events we have, or by letting us know what you might find more attractive. We already have a few things planned, but it is all in vain without your input and involvement.

The club is a great platform for sharing interests. Perhaps you have an expertise or a hobby to share with us.

Of course, we are already planning for this year's summer party. Traditionally we have a particular country as a theme. In recent years, the themes were:

- Italy
- Germany
- India
- UK
- USA
- Switzerland

What would you like to have as a theme this year? In recent years we have had our summer parties catered, but we would like to return to the traditional BBQ. It has occurred to us to invoke one or more countries known as masters of BBQ, such as:

- Australia
- New Zealand
- South Africa

Any who are willing to help organize this summer's festivities (whether you are connected with the countries mentioned or not) are cordially invited to contact Enrico.

Most important of all is that we make our presence known. If you enjoy the club, let your friends who might be interested know! They are welcome to join us at our Stammtisch without obligation to "test the waters" (or the beers, if they prefer ;-)

If you see an opportunity to present the club to those in your community or at your place of work, please do so, or let someone on the board know, so that we can organize a presentation.



FUTURE EVENTS

- **THURSDAY 5TH APRIL 2018 • 18:00–20:30**
Stammtisch at the City Garden Hotel, Zug
Come along. Enjoy a cool beer and meet interesting people.
Contact: Mr. Enrico Dell'Angelo

- **THURSDAY 12TH APRIL 2018 • 18:45–20:00**
Presentation by Mr. Cristian Violatti
Author and former editor of the online Ancient History Encyclopedia, on "From Dawn to Dusk: Rise and Collapse of Civilizations"
Contact: Mr. Enrico Dell'Angelo

- **FRIDAY and SATURDAY 13TH and 14TH OF APRIL 2018**
Zugersee Bierschiff.
Drop in for a cool beer and great ambiance on board the MS Rigi, anchored at the Bahnhofsteg in Zug from 4:00 pm till 11:00 pm on both day.
Organized by IMCZ member Kurt Petak. More details here.

- **SATURDAY 21ST APRIL 2018 7:00 to SUNDAY 22ND APRIL 19:00.**
For wine lovers, visit to Château de Pommard Burgundy, France.
Location Pommard near Beaune, France. Cost depending on number of participants. Important: please register before April 8th 2018.
Check the full programme
Contact: Mr. Enrico Dell'Angelo

- **THURSDAY 28TH JUNE • 18:00 to 20:30**
"Meet and Greet" Joint meeting with the ZIWC members
at the City Garden Hotel.
Contact: Mr. Enrico Dell'Angelo

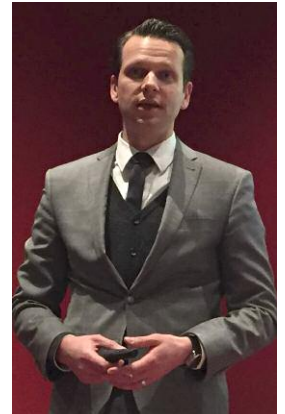
- **WEDNESDAY 23RD MAY 2018 • 19:30**
Luzern KKL 3rd Gala Konzert with Bernard Haitink Excellent classical music moments: Robert Schumann, Joseph Haydn, Johannes Brahms.
Please see details:
https://issuu.com/festivalstringslucerne/docs/fsl_saison1718_online_bro_es
and the club's website www.imcz.club/calendar
This concert will be presented by a member of the orchestra at a Stammtisch.
Contact: Mr. Enrico Dell'Angelo

- **SUNDAY 17TH JUNE 2018 • 18:30**
Luzern KKL 4th Saisonkonzert Rudolf Buchbinder, Klavier & Leitung and Daniel Dodds, Violine & Leitung. Operas of Ludwig van Beethoven, Stephan Hodel
Please see details:
https://issuu.com/festivalstringslucerne/docs/fsl_saison1718_online_bro_es
and the club's website www.imcz.club/calendar
This concert will be presented by a member of the orchestra at a Stammtisch.
Contact: Mr. Enrico Dell'Angelo

Investment Opportunities

On Thursday March 8th, 2018 we were treated to an interesting presentation organised by IMCZ member Bruno Bachmann, and made by **Mr. Pascal Schuler**, Head of Direct Investment & Financial products of Credit Suisse (Switzerland) Ltd. An excellent, well attended presentation with lots of ideas and concrete recommendations for realistic investment. There was also a comprehensive questions and answers session. On the conclusion of the presentation, the participants were treated to a pleasant apero courtesy of Credit Suisse.

Agenda	
18.45	Welcome Tania Mobayed E&E Team and RA/TH Desk Zug
18.50	Credit Suisse House View Pascal Schuler Head of Direct Investments & Financial Products
19.05	Selected Investment Ideas and Solutions Pascal Schuler Head of Direct Investments & Financial Products
19.20	Q&A



ExpatExpo

Once again, the IMCZ had a stand next to the ZIWC stand in this annual event, at the Lorzensaal in Cham. There were games, chocolates and copious literature on the stand. We won at least one new member and 11 prospective ones. Thanks are due to all IMCZ members who helped man and manage the stand. A [short clip](#) is included in the Gallery section on our website.



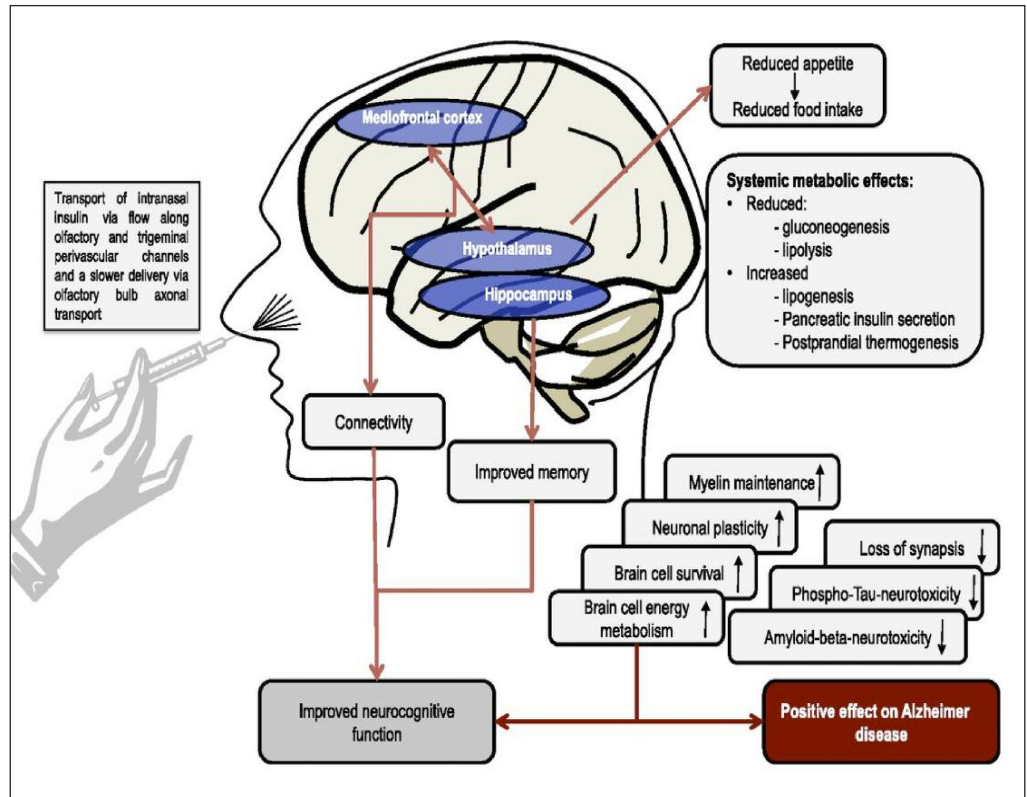
www.expats-expo.info

By, for and about
English-speaking
Switzerland

Insulin: A Burner of Fat?

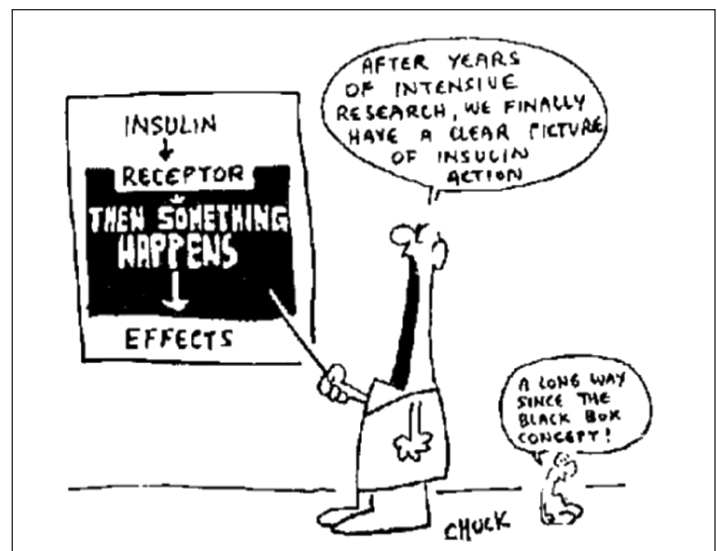
Contributed by IMCZ member Remo P. Jutzeler van Wijlen, Head R&D Sponser Sports Food Ing. Appl Food Sciences, MAS Nutrition & Health ETHZ

At first sight the headline reads like a paradox. Insulin, the most important anabolic hormone, is also a catabolic stimulus, in the burning of body fat? After all, insulin acts in the blood as an anabolic signal, and for example, supports muscle protein synthesis and the storage of energy in the form of glycogen from blood glucose, while suppressing the lipid metabolism, i.e. the burning of fat. In recent years, research on neural and endocrine signals to the brain when maintaining energy balance has made some remarkable discoveries in identifying the messengers, which report the level of energy stored as body fat. The systemic levels of the two hormones insulin and leptin are proportional to body adiposity and decrease during fasting, resulting in feeling hungry and enabling food intake to be triggered. Food intake increases the concentration of insulin, not only in blood as a reaction to increased blood glucose, but prior to the appearance of glucose in the blood, also in the brain, which is called cephalic phase response. Independently of insulin's ability to stimulate glucose uptake from the blood in peripheral cells, the cephalic insulin response seemingly plays an important role in modulating calorific intake. Cephalic refers to detectable physical responses to the expectation and not the actual delivery of food to the brain lasting for about 10 minutes.



The function of insulin as a satiating signal in the brain and the blood is well established, and at least its role in glucose metabolism is well known to diabetics. Insulin and glucose levels in the blood are interdependent and balance in a range according to food intake and phases of fasting. In the central nervous system insulin acts to reduce food intake; but its response and fasting levels are also related to adiposity and vary between individuals with a normal weight and individuals who are obese. Intranasal administration has been demonstrated to increase central insulin without it being absorbed into the blood stream. Thus, the nasal route offers a promising possible treatment against adiposity.

In a study from 2004 (Hallschmid et al, Diabetes), the administration of intranasal insulin for 8 weeks four times a day resulted in ≈1.3 kg body weight and fat loss in men, but not in women. Plasma leptin (another major satiety signal) dropped as well by an average of 27%. In contrast, the women treated with insulin surprisingly did not lose body fat, but gained ≈1.0 kg due to a rise in extracellular water. Since the female participants were measured at an identical time in their menstrual cycle, any menstruation-related confounding effect on the results could be ruled out. In 2008, another study confirmed gender-dependent differences in the anorexigenic (hunger-depressing) effect, whereas it found a more sensitive reaction in women than men on the improvement of memory function (Benedict et al, J Clin Endocrin Metab). In fact, therapeutic intranasal insulin provision with different forms of cognitive decline and diseases such as Alzheimer's have become subjects of a newer field of research, since brain insulin is also critically involved in memory processing. Even more so, based on the



number of studies related to each of these two fields of research – adiposity vs. cognitive decline – the latter seems more promising, leaving the former seemingly as an interesting anecdote of neurophysiological research targeting weight control. Nevertheless, research with intranasal insulin application in different forms of diabetes are still being performed, but with inconsistent or negative results.

Space Exploration, Facts & Fiction

With the onset of Muskism and his Falcon Heavy rockets and threats to occupy and colonise planet Mars, people are baffled. Is this science or science fiction? Certainly a critical appraisal of the state and art of space travel is called for.



The [Apollo programme](#) of the Sixties was politically motivated to demonstrate the superiority of free market economic and democratic systems as opposed to communist planned economies. The Soviets had succeeded in putting a man into Space and Yuri Gagarin became the first human to escape Earth's gravity by going into orbit on 12th April 1961.

In the wake of several unsuccessful rocket starts by the US in order to catch up with Soviet superiority in rocketry, the late president of the USA, John F. Kennedy announced in a [famous speech](#) on 12th September 1962 that the US would put a man on the moon and bring him back alive within ten years. In fact, it took seven years for [Neil Armstrong](#) to announce his unforgettable statement as his feet touched the moon's surface on 20th July 1969, "*That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.*"

Needless to say, this was a fantastic scientific achievement and an unparalleled engineering feat. The magnitude of this achievement becomes even more apparent when one takes into consideration the computer technologies and semiconductor devices available at the time. They were very primitive compared with today's state-of-the-art technologies. Remember, that the total computing power available at the time for the whole programme was a fraction of what a smart phone has today. However, this phenomenal technical achievement was achieved 46 years ago. There have been no more trips to the moon since 1972. The reasons for this are many. First and foremost, it is extremely expensive and the financial burden was simply too great to continue with it. Secondly, the scientific value of the project was much in doubt. Once the challenge had been met, there was nothing else to do in a bone dry, extremely hostile environment. There was simply no point in going to the moon and back at colossal cost to the taxpayer. Additionally, we must not lose sight of the fact that the whole programme was, in the first place, a politically-motivated military exercise, and cost was not an object. With the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s, early 1990s, Apollo's fate was most certainly sealed.

Rocket Technology

Needless to say, space technology and space travel depends wholly on rocket technology. Basically there are two types of rockets: liquid fuelled and solid fuelled ones. Additionally, rockets can be of one stage, two stages or three stages. In a multi-stage rocket the first stage at the bottom is fired first, and when the predetermined height has been reached, it is ejected to reduce deadweight and the second stage can then be fired and so on.

The rocket used for the Apollo programme was called [Saturn V](#) (pronounced Saturn Five), it was and still is the most powerful rocket

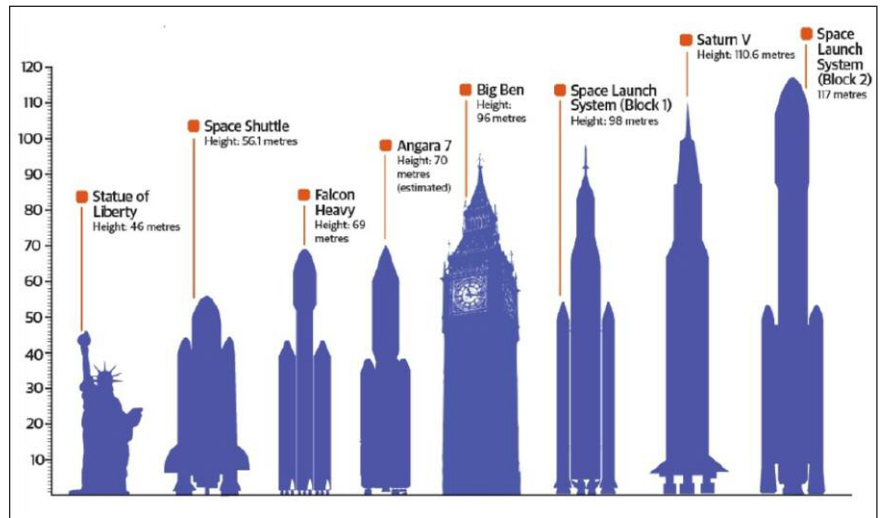
Contributed by IMCZ honorary member and Newsletter Editor Muthana Kubba

ever built till today. It was a three stage, liquid fuelled rocket, and the total cost per launch was US\$185 million in 1969 US Dollars (corresponding to US\$18 billion in 2016). It was used for the lunar programme from 1967 until 1973; the last launch was on May 14, 1973. Fully fuelled it weighed 3000 tonnes and was capable of putting 140 tonnes into low Earth orbit. The thrust it generated at sea level was a colossal 3510 tonnes.

After six-manned US landings on the moon, Apollo 17 was the last with the Lunar lander Challenger on board. On 11th December 1972, the Apollo programme was retired.

In the four and a half decades since the last Apollo rocket was fired, rocket technology has come a long way and made very big strides. Elon Musk with his SpaceX programme, was the first to think of and implement recovery and reuse of the first stage of the rockets, thus reducing the overall cost by a huge margin as well as being better environmentally.

Elon Musk's star rocket is the [Falcon 9](#) rocket. The 9 refers to the fact that it uses 9 Merlin engines for the first stage and can put a payload of 23 metric tonnes into low Earth orbit, and 6.3 tonnes into a geostationary orbit at 36000 km above the Earth, in an expendable mode, i.e. when the first stage is jettisoned after burn out. In recovery mode, where the first stage lands safely back on Earth, its payload is 8.3 tonnes as opposed to 23 tonnes.



The rocket which has been hailed as the Mars rocket is called [Falcon Heavy](#), and the enterprise which is developing it with the ultimate aim of making a journey to Mars possible, is called [SpaceX](#). Needless to say it is the brain-child, of who else, Mr Elon Musk. The basic building block of this rocket is again the [Merlin Engine](#), a specially developed rocket engine by SpaceX. It is fuelled by RP-1 and LOX. RP-1, which simply stands for Rocket Propellant-1, and LOX, which stands for Liquid Oxygen. The Rocket Propellant is a highly refined form of Kerosene, not dissimilar to ordinary jet fuel. The 3 metre long engine weighs only 630 Kg, but can develop a thrust of 50,000kg in vacuum.

The [Falcon 9](#) uses nine Merlin engines for the first stage and three Merlin engines for the second. It is now used for regular



delivery of both cargo and supplies to the ISS, the International Space Station. The novel feature of this rocket is that the first stage is recoverable, at a price. The current full thrust version can put a payload of up to 8300 Kg into a geostationary Earth orbit at 36000 km when in expendable mode, but only 5500 Kg when in recovery mode during the first stage.

The Falcon Heavy uses a modified and strengthened Falcon 9 complete with second stage plus two Falcon 9 first stage only as booster rockets strapped to the main rocket. Thus 27 Merlin engines would be used for lift off first stage and three engines would launch the rocket into space in the second stage. It is designed to carry humans into space beyond low Earth orbit, in particular to the Moon and Mars. On its maiden launch on 6th February this year, Musk used his Tesla Roadster as a dummy load, and hurled it into orbit.



Falcon Heavy reusable two side boosters land in unison at Cape Canaveral on Feb 6, 2018

Reaching for the Skies, Parking Orbits

The **International Space Station (ISS)** has been orbiting the Earth at an orbit of 400 Km above Earth's surface since 1998 and it completes one rotation around the Earth every 93 minutes. Its purpose has been to study space environment and its effect on the human body for long periods of time, and to develop techniques and technologies to deal with such an environment.

When considering a manned space journey to Mars, as Mr Musk has been threatening to do, the ISS is not the right location for such an undertaking. Scientific thinking is now considering a parking orbit around the moon instead. It would be a much more suitable platform for developing and testing equipment and instruments as well as exposing humans to an environment very similar to what they would face when they are on a journey to Mars.

Furthermore, a space station around the moon would be the right place to assemble and start the journey to Mars. In this way, the various components needed to go to Mars and back can be assembled gradually from there as opposed to having to complete everything on Earth and shooting straight up to Mars. Basically, there is no advantage in using the moon's surface as a base station for a journey to Mars.

A huge amount of fuel would be saved by choosing a parking orbit instead, since landing on the moon and taking off again is very expensive in terms of fuel. What is more, the environment on the Moon is even more hostile than that of a parking orbit.

Deep Space Gateway, DSG

This term was coined at the 68th International Astronautical Congress (IAC) held in Adelaide, Australia in September 2017, where most players with ambitions of going to Mars had gathered. According to NASA, the DSG is expected to include a crewed spaceport in lunar orbit from which

missions to the surface of Mars could be staged. NASA's expectations for the DSG are that all major players could be involved, including, but not limited to Elon Musk. The key space contractors, Lockheed Martin and Boeing, are in extensive discussions with NASA on the project. As some of you may already know, NASA has awarded study contracts for the DSG power and propulsion systems to three leading contractors. These contracts supplement the contract awarded in 2016 for the habitat modules. The new mission is expected to be an international effort much like the ISS. In fact ESA, the European Space Agency, is supplying the service module for NASA's **Orion** capsule. Lockheed Martin has since prepared a detailed study for a Mars Orbit station.

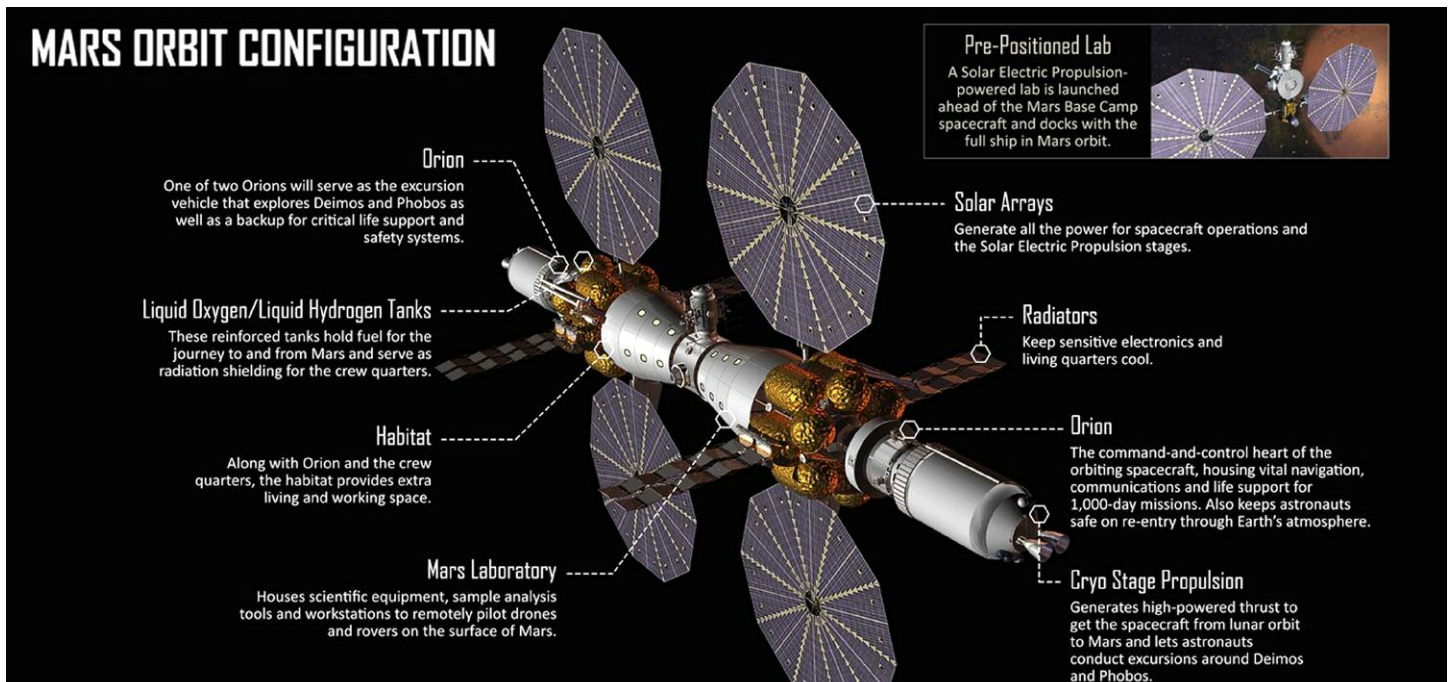
Realistically speaking, an actual manned mission to Mars is not going to materialise any time soon. Depending on funding and world political stability, we are at least two decades away from seeing a man on Mars. Alas, I will probably not live long enough to see it happen.

Further reading

Can SpaceX and Musk achieve their Mars Dream
<https://eandt.theiet.org/content/articles/2016/10/can-spacex-and-musk-achieve-their-mars-dream/>

IET magazine, Have a Rocket..will Travel
<https://eandt.theiet.org/content/articles/2018/01/have-rocket-will-travel-back-to-the-moon-and-beyond/>

SpaceX Mission to Mars
<http://www.spacex.com/mars>
 (BFR = Big Fu..ing Rocket) Editor





Southeast Asia • Singapore & Thailand

Contributed by IMCZ Webmaster Roger Brooks

We left Singapore last year without any expectation of ever returning, but found an intriguing cruise departing from Singapore which visited Thailand, Vietnam, Taiwan and Hong Kong. We flew to Singapore this time with Swiss instead of Singapore Air Lines, as we found the schedule more convenient, departing Zürich in the evening and arriving in Singapore early in the evening of the following day.

Singapore

Even though we had visited many of the high points on our previous trip (see [IMCZ newsletter of April/May 2017](#)), we opted for two nights in Singapore, as that only gave us one full day. We found a hotel midway between those we had

(followed by Malay and Indians). The rooftop bar at the hotel Jen afforded an excellent view of the Marina Bay Sands, where a light show and a display of fireworks illuminated the night sky in celebration of the Year of the Dog, which began on 16 Feb.

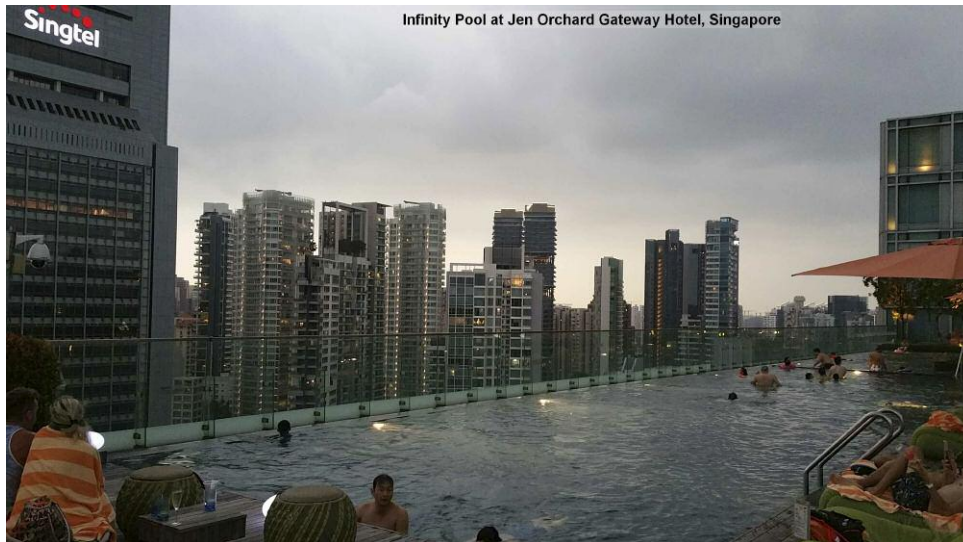
Fort Canning Park

One of my reasons for selecting the Hotel Jen Orchard Gateway was its proximity to [Fort Canning Park](#), which we visited the day after arriving. As the name suggests, it was previously the site of important fortifications, and served as a command and training center for the Singapore armed forces until the 1970s, after which many of Singapore's military

The eponymous fort was built in 1859 and demolished in 1907, after which it was replaced by a bunker, known as the [Battlebox](#). It was in this bunker that the commanders of the British, Indian and Australian forces made the momentous decision to surrender (Singapore) to the Japanese during the second World War, an event which Winston Churchill described as "the worst disaster and largest capitulation in British history". We enjoyed strolling through the botanical gardens and lunch at the Fort Canning Hotel before returning to our hotel.

In the afternoon we visited a couple of the nearby Shopping Centres, enormous by Swiss standards, then took a stroll through the nearby neighborhood of Emerald Hill, a conservation area featuring well-maintained and restored two-story houses designed in the early 20th century nestled between the skyscrapers. Many of the houses are decorated with Chinese motifs, and the bar on the corner is named "[Peranakan](#)" a term used for the descendants of Chinese immigrants who came to Singapore from the 10th to the 17th centuries.

The following day we boarded the Celebrity Millennium at the Marina Bay Cruise Terminal and after a day at sea, arrived in Thailand.



Infinity Pool at Jen Orchard Gateway Hotel, Singapore

stayed at on the previous trip. The Hotel Jen Orchard Gateway is not as imposing as the Marina Bay Sands, where we stayed on our first visit, but it features its own "infinity pool" on the roof, where we enjoyed a couple of beers and a snack after arriving.

installations were moved underground. Fort Canning Park is now the site of one of Singapore's largest fresh-water reservoirs.

The hill is thought to have been occupied by the local Malay royalty in the 14th century. In the 19th century it became the site of the residence of Stamford Raffles, who established Singapore's first botanical gardens there. The functionaries of the British colonial government also resided there, earning it the name "Government Hill".

Ko Samui

Our first port of call in Thailand was the well-known island resort of Ko Samui. We took a tour around the island, visiting two Buddhist temples, the beach at Chaweng Noi, the Tarua Samui Seafood Bar, a farm and the Na Mueang Waterfall.

Big Buddha Temple

The first temple we visited was [Wat Phra Yai](#), on Fan Island, a sacred area belonging to the

When we planned the trip, we didn't realize that we would arrive on the principle day on which the lunar or [Chinese New Year](#) is celebrated in Singapore. This is a big deal as the largest ethnic group in Singapore is Han Chinese



Orchard Gateway Shopping Centre, Singapore





Guanyin, a Goddess of Mercy and Compassion



Budai, a laughing Chinese Buddha

second temple, the Wat Plai Laem. The **Big Buddha** was constructed in the early 1970s and is roughly 12 meters high and 10 meters wide, atop a 75-step staircase.

Wat Plai Laem

Nearby, the **Wat Plai Laem** features representations of both Chinese and Hindu deities. The main public areas are built on artificial islands in an artificial lake. The dominant statues are those of **Guanyin**, a Goddess of Mercy and Compassion and of **Budai**, a laughing Chinese Buddha. Both statues are surrounded by smaller shrines dedicated to **Ganesha**, **Vishnu**, **Shiva** and **Sakka**, and the main temple between them features murals depicting episodes in the life of the Buddha. The monastery, on the land opposite the temple, is not open to the public.

After driving along Chaweng beach, we paused briefly for refreshment at the Tarua Samui Seafood Bar, which features live fish swimming in tanks at low prices, as well as a stunning view of the Gulf of Thailand. Turning back east toward the port of Nathon, where our ship was anchored, we stopped at a farm to see trained monkeys picking coconuts as well as the traditional preparation of the coconuts.

Na Mueang Waterfall

Our last stop before returning to the ship was the Na Mueang Waterfall. Coming from Switzerland we didn't find the waterfall impressive. The nearby spirit houses and open-air market seemed more interesting. We were a bit depressed to see an elephant tethered with chains and ropes so as to restrict its radius of action to a few meters.

Laem Chabang

Next, we reached the port of Laem Chabang, the nearest deep-water port to Bangkok. The ship remained in port for two days to give passengers the opportunity to visit Bangkok and remain overnight. Since we had already visited Bangkok a few years earlier, we opted instead to take a couple of day trips southward.

Nong Nooch

On the first day, we visited Nong Nooch, the site of extensive botanical and sculpture gardens, as well as folklore and elephant shows. The folklore show was quite spectacular, consisting of a

series of dances with traditional elements, portraying various customs from ancient court rituals to modern Thai boxing.

We found the elephant show less impressive, but the elephants were at least having more fun than the one we had seen at Na Mueang. We later learned that, because of human de- and obstruction of their national habitat, this is probably the best life a Thai elephant can expect.

The pièce de résistance was the **Tropical Botanical Garden**, which occupies nearly 300 hectares, and has been open to the public for nearly 50 years. In addition to the many gardens in different styles, which feature all kinds of tropical plants as well as a large bonsai collection, there are numerous sculptures. Most of these depict animals, real or fanciful, ranging from snails to dinosaurs, but there were also some very creative ones made of flowerpots.

The Sanctuary of Truth

The next day we visited the Sanctuary of Truth, which is situated on a small peninsula on the shore of the township Na Kluea in the northern part of the city of Pattaya. The building can perhaps best be described as a Buddhist cathedral. It is over 100 meters tall and covers about 1/3 of a hectare. It is built entirely of wood, using wooden pegs instead of screws or nails.

It is both covered and filled with exquisitely detailed carvings, depicting figures from the religions and mythologies of Cambodia, China, India and Thailand. We could watch some of the workers painstakingly carving these motifs according to carefully prepared drawings.

Its construction was initiated in 1981 by the Thai businessman **Lek Viriyaphant**, but it may never be completed. The projected date of completion has been postponed from 2025 to 2050, and although the wood is selected and the structure designed to withstand the local weather conditions, it is likely that some of the wooden elements will need replacing by the time it is finished. Due to Thai restrictions on logging, much of the wood is imported.

Floating Market

Another major attraction in Pattaya is the **Floating Market**. This is quite different from the floating markets that we saw on our 2012 visit to Bangkok. While those we saw in Bangkok were quite chaotic and dynamic, and probably closer in spirit to their 18th century antecedents, the Pattaya market was quite stable and orderly, more like a shopping mall on stilts. The floating market in Pattaya claims to be the largest in the world, and appears to be a very popular destination with Asian tourists as well as us westerners.

Although most of the market is fixed in place, there were a few boats ferrying tourists around and even some in which the vendors were cooking food for sale. In addition to the





enormous variety of foodstuffs, which we had expected, there were also handicrafts and manufactured goods on sale. We declined to sample the food, but I did acquire a new belt for the equivalent of about SFr. 15.

Gems Gallery

Both of our Pattaya excursions finished at the **Gems Gallery**, which claims to be the largest jewelry store in the world. Gems Gallery has four store locations, in Bangkok, Chang Mai, Pattaya and Phuket. The Gallery in Pattaya has a large area exhibiting a profusion of jewelry, as well as a café and a smaller area in which other items, such as souvenirs, clothing and (crocodile) leather goods are offered. The main gallery also includes several very large, well-

maintained saltwater aquaria, stocked with a variety of tropical fish.

It is possible to see some of the jewelers at work here, and to special order jewelry with particular stones. I have never seen such a wide variety of gemstones offered in a single place. There is even a theme-park-like ride, "Gems Discovery", similar in spirit to the **Swiss Chocolate Adventure** at the **Lucerne Transport Museum**. Gems Discovery shows how gemstones are formed, mined, cut, polished and finally, made into jewelry.

Sail-Away

On our South American cruise on the Millennium's sister ship, the Infinity, we were

privileged to be invited up to the bridge (see **IMCZ Newsletter of May, 2014**) while we were at sea. On this cruise, we were even more privileged to be invited up to the bridge to observe our departure from Laem Chabang. While the hotel service staff plied us with champagne, one the ship's naval officers, Macan, explained how the ship's main electric engines (**azipods**) are used in concert with the bow thrusters to maneuver away from the pier. So, well informed and entertained, we made our way down the Gulf of Thailand toward Vietnam, which will be the subject of my next article.

Ayurvedic Spa, a little known Paradise in Southern India

Contributed by IMCZ member Wolfgang & Regina Lierke

In my life I have travelled to many countries and have collected countless impressions but I have never experienced anything comparable to our stay in Meiveda, a small resort in Kerala. It was absolutely wonderful! Coming with no expectations at all, I experienced every day of our stay as a long row of presents.



It started off with the wonderful smile of the driver Babu, who picked us up at the airport. He brought us safely through an exotic new world, in many ways so much different from the one we had just left. Time then went by much too fast and the two weeks we spent in Meiveda seemed by far too short.

All of the staff without exception was highly professional, very motivated, friendly and helpful at all times. Any wish we had was immediately fulfilled to our full satisfaction and always with a wonderful smile. Being aware that some of their lives might be not as easy, with their families and loved ones living far away, I have great respect and thankfulness for their performance.

The doctors, Nisha and Meldy, have great knowledge of Ayurveda, which they shared with us on many occasions. The daily massage treatments they prescribed were made

unforgettable by a highly professional and very friendly staff. Trusting ourselves to their hands, our health and general well-being improved tremendously during the two weeks of our stay.

Yoga teacher Mr. Joy gave wonderful lessons in the morning and meditation sessions during sunset. Many of the guests were privately treated by him for a variety of problems. His therapeutical experience and knowledge of yoga made a strong impression on me. We are very thankful for the many suggestions and personal help he gave to us.

We very much enjoyed the absence of television and radio, with internet provided at the reception area only. This way we had a lot of time to meet and talk to members of the staff and other guests or just to relax on our terrace sunbeds, in one of the hammocks between the coconut palm trees or at the wonderful beach.



I myself am not a vegetarian, but there was absolutely nothing I missed during all of the tasty meals we enjoyed. The chief cook Anoop had an endless repertoire of different dishes and a great talent. My wife enjoyed watching his performance and explanations of Ayurvedic cuisine.

Normally I am used to exploring the surroundings of places I visit. This time my desire to go anywhere else was very minimal.



On small excursions we met farmers and fishermen living near by and were always greeted with friendly faces and smiles. Occasionally we were even invited to have a look at the houses, they live in.

The highlight of our stay was the fourth anniversary of the resort, which happened to be on my wife's birthday. Even though there was lots of other work with preparations, Regina was treated to a special surprise by most of the staff in our room. We were overwhelmed and will certainly never forget this occasion.

Many of the guests we met had been to Meiveda more than once, wishing to come back as soon as possible. Some had been to one or more comparable places in India and all of them assured us that they liked Meiveda better than any other place for food, treatments and especially because of its wonderful staff.

As we left our little paradise, returning to European winter, we too became part of the constantly growing group of people, who wish to be back as soon as possible.

Further reading/watching

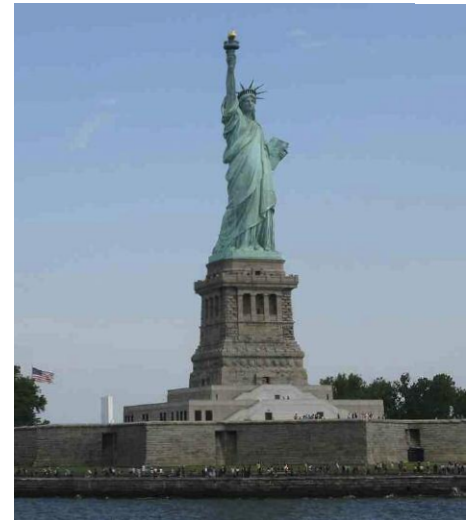
<http://www.meiveda.com>

<http://www.vimeo.com/251003881>



New York City

Contributed by IMCZ member Nico Lo Cascio



With an estimated population of 8.5 million, New York is the most populous city in the United States, however, it is often said that New York with its vast ethnic diversity, dense population and entrenched habits, is not the United States. Indeed it is a world of its own.

The first native New Yorkers were the Lenape people, who hunted, fished and farmed in the area between the Delaware and Hudson rivers. In 1626, the settlement's governor general, Peter Minuit, purchased the larger Manhattan Island for 60 guilders in trade goods such as tools, farming equipment and clothes. Fewer than 300 people lived in New Amsterdam when the settlement moved to Manhattan. It came under British control in 1624 and was renamed New York after King Charles II granted the lands to his brother, the Duke of York.

The city grew quickly and in 1760 the population surpassed 18.000 (now called New York City). Its 8.5 million people live today in the five boroughs. From 1785 to 1790 New York City served as the capital of the United States. The city recovered quickly from the war and became one of the nation's most important ports. Cotton trade played a big role. The cotton was sent to East River docks by southern planters from where it was shipped to Manchester and other English industrial cities. Then, textile manufacturers shipped their finished goods back to New York.

For the growing needs of the city, infrastructural improvements were made. In 1811 the "Commissioner's Plan" established an orderly grid of streets and avenues. And in 1837 began the construction of the Croton Aqueduct which provided clean water. A few years later, the city established its first municipal agency: the New York Police Department.

An increasing number of immigrants, first from Germany and Ireland and then from Southern and Eastern Europe changed the face of the city. They settled in distinct ethnic neighbourhoods and started businesses,

joined trade unions and political organisations and built churches and social clubs.

In 1895 the residents of Queens, the Bronx, Staten Island and Brooklyn voted to consolidate with Manhattan to form a five-borough "Greater New York". After the consolidation, New York City covered an area of 360 square miles with a population of 3.350.000 people.

After World War II, due to deindustrialization and economic changes, New York lost part of



its population. However, with the Hart-Cellar Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 people from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America immigrated in the United States and many of them settled in New York City.

On September 11, 2001, New York City suffered the deadliest terrorist attack in the history of the United States. The terrorists destroyed the twin towers of the World Trade Center and nearly 3.000 people were killed.

In the wake of the disaster, the city remained a major financial and touristic magnet with more than 40 million tourists visiting each year.

Famous places to visit are the Statue of Liberty located in New York Harbour. (The monument was given by France to the US in October 1886, to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence).

The Empire State Building in New York City, which held the record as tallest building anywhere for more than 40 years, is still an important icon of New York City.

The United Nations Secretariat building is considered the headquarters of 192-member states.

There are lots more of interesting buildings and places, such as the Rockefeller Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Times Square and Brooklyn Bridge. Central Park is the biggest, and many other parks invite to relax. If you like ethnic food you will find a great variety and surely not remain disappointed. New York hosts important museums, libraries and concert halls. It is the visitor who has the choice.

Thanks to the city's diversity and vibrant intellectual life it remains the cultural capital of the United States.

Further reading

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_York_City

Joe's Ski Hacks: *little things that will make your ski day easier*

Contributed by IMCZ Sports' editor Joseph Dow



As I stood alone on the slopes of Nättschen under a gorgeous blue sky, surrounded by lots of snow and soaring peaks, I pondered how we could make a ski event or even skiing in general easier for our club members. Peter (Widdup) and I had tried to organize an **IMCZ Ski Race Day** at **Andermatt**. This would have been a unique opportunity for club members to learn the fundamentals of ski racing under the expert instruction of Peter's highly-qualified teachers from **Alpine Sports Andermatt** in a calm setting on a private, closed course.

Unfortunately, no one showed any interest. The conditions that this event had to be held on a weekday (a Friday) and members needed to sign up and commit to the modest fee in order to rent the race piste were probably significant factors in the lack of participation. Maybe the term "race" scared some people away, although it was meant to be fun and easy and not World Cup level. However, last season we had a single ski day on a weekend and still found only light turnout with people showing up last minute without prior registration. Regrettably, this mindset and course of action will severely limit any future event we might attempt to plan.

In the past, the club has had wonderful, well-attended multi-day ski trips to St. Moritz, Flims Laax Falera, and Crans Montana. It seems we need to improve communication, collaborate with other organizations (e.g., ZIWC, British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce, American International Club of Zurich, etc.) and generate more enthusiasm like we had for those earlier trips.

For the fall, I have proposed the return of the **IMCZ Ski Show**, which has been well-attended in the past. Hopefully, that event will generate the excitement we need and can help gauge enthusiasm for an IMCZ 2019 ski event, whether a single weekend day or something more elaborate.

Now to the point of this article: *If you want to ski in Switzerland, here are some of my ideas and things to make your experience easier and more comfortable . . .*

Getting to and from the hill:

✓ **Travel via the SBB** – Take the train. I really hate to drive on icy roads and Switzerland's extensive train connections can be a relaxing way to get to any mountain. The SBB has the **Snow'n'Rail** program, which can be used in conjunction with your **SwissPass** for discounts on tickets, transportation and avoiding long lines at the ticket counter. The only drawbacks are longer travel times and limited options for storing gear (i.e., not all stations have lockers).

www.sbb.ch/de/freizeit-ferien/freizeitangebote/snowrail.html

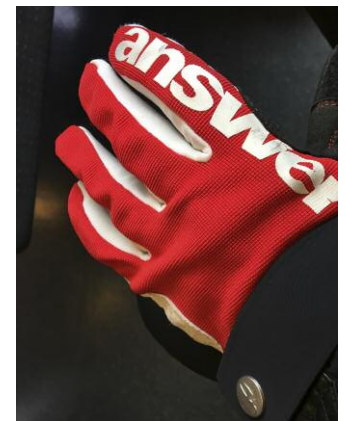
✓ **How to transport your skis & boots** – When you travel by train, you really don't want to carry a lot of extra gear with which you can't ski and need to find a place to store. I don't use any ski or boot bags. The best way to securely carry your equipment is to use ski tip ties and boot toggles. **FastStraps** are "spring-loaded" fasteners, which keep the skis secured in a solid manner when used on the ski tips along with a traditional tip tie in the middle above the binding toes.

<http://faststrap.com/skistraps.htm> For ski boots, you don't want those straps that dangle the filthy boots against your clean ski jacket, so a toggle is the way to go and **Ski Tool** is the best one I've found. <http://skitoolcompany.com/>



✓ **How to carry your gear while you ski** – Lockers are not always an option, whether at a train station or the ski area itself. The Swiss pack company **Exped** makes ultralight backpacks and waterproof storage sacks with which you can ski comfortably. For resort skiing for a day, I recommend the Summit 25 & waterproof Splash

15 as well as their waterproof drybags to keep wet shoes separated inside your main pack. www.exped.com/switzerland/en



✓ **approach gloves** – You don't want excessive wear on your ski gloves from the metal ski edges while getting to and from skiing. Mountain bike full-fingered gloves are the perfect solution. A fully-insulated glove going from the train to the hotel or lift station is rarely necessary and these relatively inexpensive gloves have thick reinforcements right where needed.



✓ **approach shoes** – Similarly, you don't usually need a boot just to get from the train station to hotel or lifts. A waterproof/water-resistant sneaker is a good choice. **On, Salomon, Lowa**, etc. make some lightweight trail runners that can be carried in your pack inside a waterproof sack. One note: take care with knobby soles on ice. Unfortunately, On has discontinued their limited Cloudbunner Winter Edition, which was the perfect example of this type of shoe. www.koala.ch/de/cloudbunner-winter-edition-243939.html

On the slopes:

✓ **removable mid-layer top** – Something with a full zip provides versatility. It can be a jacket, a sweater or a vest with the material being down, merino wool, fleece or another synthetic. All the skiwear makers have these garments. I like **Toni Sailer, Mountain Force, Kjus, Icebreaker**, etc. www.tonisailer.com/ch/en_ch/malcolm-black/, eu.icebreaker.com/de/mens-jackets-vests If you get too hot, it can be easily stored in your Exped pack.



✓ **bandanas & neck gaiters** – A bandana backed by an insulating layer can give a lot of warmth and protection in a small package. I use a **Buff Polar Bandana**, which is really versatile. www.buffwear.com/buff-adult-headwear/bandana-buff At **Alpine Adventures Andermatt**, Meta makes a handmade version, which is really nice and I'm sure Peter could bring some up for sale, if we have a fall ski show. www.alpinesportsandermatt.com

✓ **carbon ski poles** – As I mentioned numerous times before, I suffered from a lot of wrist pain from pole plants on icy terrain in my native New England. This issue ended in 1992 when I got my pair of Goode carbon composite poles and that same pair is still going strong, despite the unavailability of the baskets. **Leki** www.leki.com/uk/product-area/alpine-skiing/poles/3066/comp-16c/ or **Komperdell** www.komperdell.ch/de/poles/alpin/produkt.php?id=146_2209_02 are available brands that make carbon shaft poles here in Switzerland.

✓ **sock rash guard liners** – A lot of people get irritated shins from the ski boots. Most of the time, this is due to movement from an ill-fitting boot, but people with sensitive ski can also get irritation from sweating inside the boots. I recently had this bad experience after walking a lot from the hotel to the lifts in warm weather in Verbier. **HOC SOCX** www.hocsocx.com makes a rash guard sock liner, designed for protection against contact with field hockey shin guards. Next season, I plan to try these to see if they are a solution for skiers, too.



So, you still have time to ski, this season, with Engelberg going into late May. Have fun!

THINK SNOW!!! THINK SNOW!!! THINK SNOW!!! THINK SNOW!!!

If you have questions about skiwear or equipment or want a recommendation, feel free to send me an email: [jjdow\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:jjdow[at]hotmail.com).



Kegeln Report – February/March 2018

Contributed by IMCZ Member Roger Dixon

In February, the Hotel Zugertor was the venue. Prior to Kegeln we enjoyed our, by now, traditional pre-match dinner at Chez Ladure. Five of us enjoyed some very competitive games. The scores were quite respectable, given that the lanes were not in particularly good condition. In the end Roger made the most of Beat's absence by coming out just on top, ahead of Markus. As usual the Kegeln was accompanied by a torrent of joking & laughter. The leading results were:

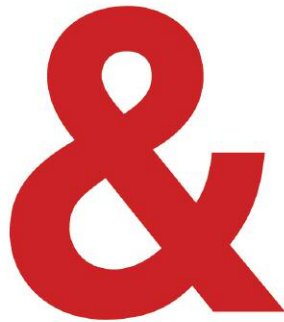
Game	First	Second	Third
1	Markus	Roger	Stephen
	Score Balls	Score Balls	Score Balls
	535 10	530 11	540 15
2	Christian	Roger	Markus
	Score Balls	Score Balls	Score Balls
	555 11	535 11	545 13
3	Roger	Markus	Christian
	Score Balls	Score Balls	Score Balls
	510 13	515 14	500 14
Overall	Roger	Markus	Christian
	Score Balls	Score Balls	Score Balls
	1575 35	1595 37	1565 41

In March, we returned to the Linde in Steinhausen after not having been there for quite some time. The first challenge of the evening was to find the alternative route to the Linde, as the main road was blocked off. The Securitas man on guard was apparently able to gain valuable English practice re-routing people. He now certainly knows the expression "turn right"! This time there were 6 of us, with Christian & Barbara still not able to participate, after their medical issues. However, we had a new participant, Stella from Chicago, who joined our other

US lady Janis from "Borston", sorry, Boston, New England, a long-time attendee at the 10-pin bowling events. Beat was back and predictably came out on top, heading off whirlwind Wolfgang and Roger. As a consequence of the better condition of the Linde lanes, the four games were polished off in record time and the scores were as follows.

1	Beat		Stephen		Stella	
	Score	Balls	Score	Balls	Score	Balls
	530	9	550	10	545	10
2	Wolfgang		Roger		Beat	
	Score	Balls	Score	Balls	Score	Balls
	540	6	515	7	510	8
3	Wolfgang		Beat		Janis	
	Score	Balls	Score	Balls	Score	Balls
	580	6	510	7	500	14
4	Beat		Roger		Wolfgang	
	Score	Balls	Score	Balls	Score	Balls
	505	8	555	10	13	14
Overall	Beat		Wolfgang		Roger	
	Score	Balls	Score	Balls	Score	Balls
	2035	32	2035	36	2100	39

After much discussion as a group, we have decided to carry on the Kegeln activity as a group of friends and no longer publicise it as an IMCZ event. The reasons behind this are that it is not subsidised by the club and indeed seems to have little resonance among club members. In fact, some of our players are not club members. We have several ladies amongst our regulars and most of them are not members of ZIWC either. We do not, per se, require a formalized structure and also do not believe that our Kegeln group will necessarily lead to the club acquiring new members. Thus, this Kegeln Report will be the last. Thanks to all those who took the time to read our updates. Adieu!!!



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Talking Dog

A son moved away to go to college, taking leave of his family and the family dog, Blue. A few months later, his father got a call from his son.

“Dad,” he said, “there’s an amazing program here that teaches dogs to talk!”

“That’s amazing!” his dad said.

“How can we get Blue into that program?”

“Simple, just send \$2,000, and I will get him into the course” replied the son.

So his father sent \$2,000.

About two-thirds through the semester, the boy called home again. “So, how’s Blue doing, son?” his father enquired. “Awesome! Dad, he’s talking up a storm... But you just won’t believe this. They’ve had such good results with talking; they’ve begun to teach the dogs how to read.”

“Read?” exclaimed his father. “No kidding! How do we get Blue into that program?”

“Just send \$4,500. I’ll get him into the class.” The money promptly arrived.

At the end of the year, before going home he left Blue with a nice family and went home without it. His excited father said, “I just can’t wait to see Blue and talk with him, or even see him read something”. “Dad,” the boy said. “I have some grim news. Yesterday morning, just before we left to drive home, He suddenly turned to me and asked, ‘So, is your dad still seeing that little redhead barmaid at the pub?’” The father groaned and whispered, “I hope you shot that bastard before he talked to your mother!”

“I sure did, dad!”

“That’s my boy!”

The lad went on to be a successful lawyer.



Excited Kid

A crowded airliner was about to take off, when suddenly the peace was shattered by a five-year-old boy who picked that very moment to throw a wild temper tantrum. No matter what his frustrated and embarrassed mother did to calm him down, he continued to scream furiously and kick the seats around him.

Suddenly, from the rear of the plane, an elderly man in the uniform of an Air Force General walked slowly up the aisle. Stopping the flustered mother with an upraised hand, the white-haired, courtly, soft-spoken General leant down, motioning toward his chest, and whispered something into the boy’s ear.

Instantly, the boy calmed down, gently took his mother’s hand, and quietly fastened his seat belt. All the other passengers burst into spontaneous applause.

The General made his way slowly back to his seat. One stewardess caught up with him and touched his sleeve. “Excuse me, General,” she asked quietly, “Could I ask what magic words did you use on that little boy to calm his down?”

The ex-General smiled and gently confided, “I showed him my pilot’s wings, service stars, and battle ribbons, and explained that they entitle me to throw any passenger out the plane door, on any flight I choose.”



Driverless Car

A guy was hitchhiking one late evening, but no cars passed by and he kept going till it became dark. Unexpectedly, a violent thunderstorm suddenly materialised. Powerful gusts blew and hail filled the street.

It was hardly possible to see a couple of feet ahead.

Luck struck at last and a car came by, moving very slowly. Without thinking he opened the passenger door and slipped in. Looking around, he was shocked to find out that there was no driver, but the car was still moving, albeit very slowly.

He couldn’t make out what was happening and waited apprehensively as the first right curve in the road was approaching. Scared, and just before the car hit the road plank, a hand appeared through the window and moved the steering wheel. He was paralysed with terror watching how a hand appears every time they approached a curve.

Gathering strength, he got out of the car and ran all the way to the next town. Wet and in shock, he went into a bar and asked for two shots of tequila. After settling down, he started telling everybody about the horrible experience he just been through.

About half an hour later two guys walked in the same bar and one said to the other: “Look, that’s the asshole that got in the car while we were pushing it!”



Strategy

Two beggars were old friends. They were panhandling in different districts of town. Ted brings home \$10 to \$20 every day, but his friend Eddie, bring home a bagful of \$10 notes each day. In fact he was doing so well that he managed to pay back the mortgage on his house and even buy a car.

One day they got together to compare notes and find out what does Ted do wrong. Ted says, “I put on my worst torn cloths and carry a sign that reads, “Six kids, no job”. Eddie laughs and says, “I put on my best clothes and carry a sign that reads, “Need only \$10 to move back to Mexico”



Morons

One day a college professor of Psychology was greeting his new college class.

He stood up in front of the class and said, “Would everyone who thinks he or she is stupid please stand up?”

After a minute or so of silence, a young man stood up.

“Well, good morning. So, you actually think you’re a moron?” the professor asked.

The kid replied, “No sir, I just didn’t want to see you standing there all by yourself.”

Door Knockers





Members' Marketplace

Are you **selling** your yacht (harboured in Piraeus)?
 Your Aston-Martin old-timer with the roll top roof?
 A gorgeous view of the Bay of Biscay,
 with a little bit of house attached?
 Or are you cashing in the half of your stamp
 collection that is finally worth something?
 Perhaps you're **looking** for all of these things?

Then ADVERTISE here, in the IMCZ News;

The Members' Marketplace is reserved for unformatted advertisements of 150 characters (approx. 3 lines) of text.

These are free of charge to IMCZ members.

Advertisements must be submitted as illustrated below.
 Longer advertisements cost CHF 30.-

Example: FOR SALE: gorgeous view of
 Bay of Biscay with stunning sunsets and high waves.
 Wee house (12 rooms), dock and yacht included.
 Call Bill at 041 123 45 67.

Do you like writing? I wrote a book in German about a
 Swiss expat and am now looking for someone to
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 Call Christian on 041 710 40 12.

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The IMCZ newsletter is delivered bi-monthly to about 200 members representing 20 nationalities. IMCZ members have personal or professional interests in both the international community and in the canton of Zug.

Format: A4 vertical, full color.

Ad content delivery:
 electronic by e-mail, .pdf, .jpg, .gif

Advertising Rates:

- Full page, A4 vertical (19 x 27.7 cm), Fr. 200.-
- 1/2 Page, A5 horizontal (19 x 13.5 cm), Fr. 110.-
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- 1/3 Page, horizontal (19 x 9.2 cm), Fr. 85.-
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Extra costs may be incurred for typesetting, special formatting, etc.
 IMCZ Members receive a 20% discount on advertisement costs.

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