

A Missed Toast at the SFEMG-QEMG 2012 Dinner on the Bosphorus

We enjoyed ourselves very much on that evening, but the noisy boat was just not a proper place for speeches. So a late toast we owe to Dr. Mustafa Ertaş is placed on this Web Page.

Mustafa has talked and written about Erik, Don and myself as of the Three Musketeers. We, the Three Musketeers of two Millenia - with Mustafa as the substitute for d'Artagnan - are not exactly brothers in sword but rather brothers in the needle. Nevertheless we do share some of the features of Alexandre Dumas' characters. One similarity is that we are advising the professional chivalry of our time on the dangerous sneaking of *anti-MuSK antibodies*. In our nearly daily sharp encounters we have punctured the bodies of thousands of individuals, including members of the high society, without ourselves ever being hurt. In fact, we do it as a piece of cake, with our legs crossed (see Figure). Our skilful routine has attracted some curiosity at various places over the world and we have been asked several times to show how it is done.



We have always practiced open confrontation, and reports are being written nearly on a daily basis about the circumstances and results of our honest fight for truth in each individual case. It must be emphasized that we have always carefully avoided inflicting serious injuries upon our counterparts in the contest. Three books have been written on our accomplishments. We came slightly too early with the last one since it was not *20 years after*, but only *16 years after* the

previous one. Our DVD, short for *Done With Dignity*, which just came out, is a number 9 among the films on the Three Musketeers. The first one was made in 1921, i.e. 91 years ago, when the armamentarium was much less sophisticated.

Let me finally add how appropriate it was to hold this meeting in Istanbul. The young man who picked me and my wife Tatjana at the airport, said to us: *don't ever forget that Istanbul is the Umbilicus of the World*. D'Artagnan of our day, i.e. Dr. Mustafa, who is a master in the new use of a traditional rapier (with a needle-sharp tip) follows the famous example of the original d'Artagnan's strike, called the *umbilical prick*. This is because he managed, in a series of ingenious moves, to get the point of his sword directly into the centre of his opponent's body. Much like d'Artagnan with his sword, Dr. Mustafa rarely if ever misses a body with his needle. Indeed, watching him at work it may feel as if the whole human body is a giant umbilicus. Dr. Mustafa deserves our congratulations, but also thanks and a toast. Thanks also to his extraordinary assistants who hosted our tournament in this magnificent city. Mustafa, we all wish you additional thousands of happy days filled with sharp and precise pricks!

With best regards to the Fellows of the World SFEMG-QEMG knighthood,
Joze Trontelj