

## Abstract for IACD Session at World congress

### Hair Transplantation: New Innovations and Their Pitfalls

“Hair transplant surgery is actually a field that does not evolve very rapidly – it takes 12-18 months to evaluate the results of changes in techniques and procedures. The sample size should be fairly large and some consequences may even take 20 years before becoming evident.”

Actually the previous statement is supposed to be the truth: In reality some very significant changes are being made without studies and without a serious and open evaluation of the consequences. As the *younger Unger* I will present the voice of caution to provide balance to my father’s overwhelmingly positive presentation of new developments in our field.

FUE (follicular unit extraction) has become the “new way”, while elliptical excisions are the “old”. But really FUE is just a modification of the *really* old technique of punch grafting. The consequences of the widespread use of the new FUE punch grafting are only beginning to be evident. It is most definitely a good tool to use when the patient is the right candidate and a dangerous one if used incorrectly. Dense packing of grafts in a limited area of the eventual recipient area is another evolution in hair restoration and it is appropriate for very few patients over the long term. In general, there is a lack of attention being paid to long term surgical planning. Websites, social media and maybe even photoshop are driving patient expectations higher and higher and the results shown in before and after photos are often only realistic for a minority of patients.

Here is the voice of caution!