Report Professor Dr. Roland Gugler, Karlsruhe

In continuation of the project started by Professor Martin Wienbeck to establish *Postgraduate Courses for Gastroenterology and Gastrointestinal Endoscopy* Professor Gugler spent three weeks in Kabul (Afghanistan) during the time of June 9 until June 29, 2005. This trip was of particular importance in the light of the tragic death of Professor Martin Wienbeck on April 27, 2005. The project is under the coordination by DAMF e.V. and is financially supported by the DAAD.

The stay in Afghanistan had three main purposes:

1. **Opening and supervision of endoscopy units in three main provinces**: Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Kunduz. After the end of a one year postgraduate course in Kabul physicians in these provinces had to organize endoscopy units in theit hospitals including rooms, setting up of endoscopy equipment and – most important – receiving recognition by the management in their hospitals. In all three centers this was achieved and demonstrated by appropriate opening ceremonies of the endoscopy units. In addition, a series of endoscopic procedures were performed under the supervision by Professor Gugler and Dr. Sediqi. The endoscopists in the provinces showed active engagement.

2. **Cooperation with the Ministry of Public Health**: Meetings were arranged with the Minister of Public Health and several leading authorities of the ministry to demonstrate the strong intention to continue the project. A Memorandum of Understanding was prepared with the Minister of Public Health defining the commitments of the Wienbeck Foundation and the Ministry of Public Health in close cooperation with DAMF und DAAD. This MOU was signed on June 28, 2005.

3. **Supervision of activities of therapeutic endoscopy in AliAbad Hospital**: A number of therapeutic endoscopic procedures were carried out under the supervision of Professor Gugler and preparations were made to establish new procedures.

In Summary: This trip was successful to set up endoscopy units in three provinces, to intensify cooperation with the Minister of Public Health and to further develop therapeutic endoscopy in Kabul.

Prof. Dr. Roland Gugler
Karlsruhe, 13.07.2005