

## **5th Council Meeting** **held on 2–5 September 1999 in Orscholz (Germany)**

Delegates from Australia/Queensland; Austria; Belgium/Flanders; Canada/Ontario; Czechia; Denmark; Germany; Great Britain; Hungary; Ireland; Japan; Norway; Portugal; Slovenia; Spain/Cordoba; Sweden; and Switzerland. Prof. Ernst Feldtkeller presented results of a survey of the German AS society which showed that among newly diagnosed AS patients the percentage of females nearly equals that of males. In female AS patients the disease has more often been misdiagnosed in former decades than in males. The following new ASIF research projects have been proposed: A survey on disease triggers and on drug side effects in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Jürgen Braun (Berlin), and a survey on spinal fractures in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Sijef van der Linden (Maastricht). It was agreed that every society having an own web-site includes a link to the ASIF site ([www.asif.rheumanet.org](http://www.asif.rheumanet.org)). The vice president distributed an example of such a link. It was agreed that in articles reprinted or translated from sister societies, the author, his/her institution and address should always be mentioned. The source of the reprint should also be mentioned. A copy of the newsletter issue should be sent to the author. If artwork is reproduced, it is necessary to ask for permission. The president, vice president and secretary have been confirmed. Jean-Pierre Vingerhoed (Belgium), Else-Brit Frøylog (Norway), and Marjan Hudomalj (Slovenia) were elected as additional members of the Executive Committee.



*Participants of the 5th ASIF Council meeting in the rehabilitation clinic  
"Saarschleife" in Orscholz*



*Participants of the 4th ASIF Council meeting in the front of the Roman ruins of  
"Augusta Treverum" (Treves),  
capital of the West-Roman Empire in the 4th century.*