An international meeting on retinopathy of prematurity was held in Vilnius, Lithuania (Fig. 1) from September 14-16, 2006. The meeting, entitled, “World ROP Meeting: East Meets West: Can we prevent blindness from ROP?” was the largest international medical meeting ever held in Lithuania. Two hundred sixty participants from over fifty countries (Table 1) attended.

Although there was an international organizing committee, the unusual venue for the meeting was selected because of the special efforts of two Lithuanian ophthalmologists, Rasa Bagdoniene, MD, PhD and Rasa Sirtautiene, MD, PhD (Fig. 2), following the close of the Third World ROP Congress held in conjunction with the American Academy of Ophthalmology in 2003. The meeting site was viewed as a bridge between East and West and emphasized engaging those countries where ROP was becoming a problem because of improved survival of premature infants (Table 2). The meeting date also coincided with the 225th Anniversary of Faculty of Medicine of Vilnius. To emphasize the importance of the meeting to its host country, the proceedings were opened by the Honorable Valdas Adamkus, President of Lithuania. The conference was dedicated to Arnall Patz, MD, because of his pioneering studies of ROP. Dr. Patz, who was unable to attend, opened the first scientific session of the conference by digital video.

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Following the opening session, the meeting syllabus was divided into eight additional sessions, each with a specific theme. These were: Session 2: Pharmacological Treatment of ROP; Session 3: Etiology and Pathogenesis; Session 4: Diagnosis and Differential Diagnosis of ROP; Session 5: Screening for ROP; Session 6: Peculiarities of
Zone1 ROP; Session 7: Treatment of Acute ROP; Session 8: Treatment (Surgical) of Stage IV and V ROP; Session 9: Outcomes and Rehabilitation. A listing of the lead authors' names and e-mail addresses and the titles of their posters or papers is online at www.iovs.org/cgi/content/full/48/10/DC1. Further information as to the public availability of these abstracts is currently under discussion. Abstracts are available at www.balticconference.com/rop2006/, as of September 2007. Continued access through this link is not warranted.