



International Society of Surgery (ISS)
Soci t  Internationale de Chirurgie (SIC)

NEWSLETTER

September 2002

Letter from the President



Peter J. Morris

It is hard to realize that it is already more than one year since the Centennial Congress in Brussels and more importantly not even one year away from the next Congress in Bangkok! Arrangements for the Bangkok congress are moving along apace and the programme is taking shape. Enclosed you are receiving a copy of the Preliminary Program booklet which just came out of the printers in Thailand. The same is also available on our web page at the following address:

www.iss-sic.ch

where periodical updates will be given. Please also take note that the submission of abstracts for the first time will only be possible on-line. In order to avoid any disappointments, the secretariat must ask you to follow strictly the guidelines for the submission of abstracts as published on the ISS/SIC website. Submissions other than via by the web page, such as by regular mail, fax or e-mail to the address of ISS/SIC will not be accepted.

The ISS/SIC is meeting together with the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand and it promises to be a first class World Congress of Surgery. Make sure the dates are in your diary and don't forget that, for

those of you not familiar with that part of the world, it is a splendid occasion for a family holiday before or after the congress, be it viewing the exotic temples of Bangkok, doing an elephant safari or lying under a palm tree on a beautiful island beach.

On another subject altogether we do need to increase the numbers of our members under the age of 45!



Mythical Kinnarree (half human, half bird)

Distinguished as we may all be, do not forget that the Society needs to have as the bulk of its membership the next generation of surgeons. You are familiar with the arguments in favor of membership, which I have rehearsed with you before. But can I ask every member to introduce at least one new member under the age of 45 in the next twelve months (of course this does not mean that you cannot propose members over the age of 45!). Don't forget that membership brings with it the World Journal of Surgery which makes it very good value.

Let me finish by saying how much I am looking forward to seeing you in Bangkok in August 2003.

Peter J. Morris, FRS
President ISS/SIC



Kinnarree on the ISW03 Logo

Message of the Congress President ISW03 and ISS/SIC President elect



J. Rüdiger Siewert

Recipe for a Surgical Congress

- Take a sufficient number of scientifically attractive topics all relevant to everyday concerns to provide the general surgeon with the pick of training on the market today. Keep him up-to-date under the motto "Practical tips from practitioners for the practitioner". The topics have to be dealt with by internationally renowned experts who guarantee that the ingredients are the freshest and the best available.
- Take a few currently controversial topics and let some committed researchers lead the discussion so that also highly specialized surgeons have something to get their teeth into.
- Allow young surgeons a good deal of time to talk about their own results and experiences and to get into heated discussions with an auditorium



A typical Thai meal

which shares their interests. Defining where one stands is the motto here.

- And then garnish the lot with a few “invited lectures” by the surgical “élite”.
- A side-dish that can be recommended is an accompanying programme rooted and grown in the same region as the congress venue. It should have its allures but not be too overpowering so that freedom remains for individual tastes and initiatives.
- But no recipe can succeed without good cooks. The ISS provides the facilities, the well-equipped kitchen (Congress Centre) and the pots and pans, so to speak. The integrated and participating societies are also invited to think up special courses and are responsible for their own menus. The proverb “too many cooks spoil the broth” does not apply in this case.
- Using this recipe we can look forward to getting a first-rate surgical menu in Bangkok. It will be to everyone’s taste and well worthwhile keeping the period from the 24th to the 28th of August, 2003 free for.
- Enjoy your meal in Bangkok!

J. Rüdiger Siewert
Congress President ISW03

Message from the Secretary General



Felix Harder

By the time you will read this Newsletter, we will be just over half way between the Brussels meeting and the forthcoming one in Bangkok from August 24 to 28, 2003. And the prospects look very good. The co-operation with the Local Organizing Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand (RCST) is excellent. In fact RCST will hold its own 28th Annual Scientific Meeting within the International Surgical Week (ISW). The BITEC Convention Center in Bangkok features the most up to date technology, is extremely versatile with large and bright rooms that will satisfy any wishes speakers, moderators or discussants may have. The BITEC is situated on the express way and it may be easily reached by shuttle buses. In fact, that express way and the sky train have much improved the traffic situation in Bangkok. Beautiful hotels at different price levels and locations are available. Please consult the Preliminary Program for further details.

The Preliminary Program ISW03

All the societies participating at the ISW have prepared attractive scientific programs (see included Preli-

*BITEC Convention Center
at night*



minary Program) with interdisciplinary symposia, special lectures and main sessions. The US-Chapter is presenting a special "general surgical panel" which will be an additional highlight of the congress.

Submission of abstracts

It is up to the members of ISS/SIC and to all those surgeons worldwide who want to actively participate at the ISW in Bangkok to contribute to its full success by submitting an excellent abstract on-line. You will find all the necessary information on the appropriate website

www.iss-sic.ch

In fact the whole submission and reviewing process and the information of authors will be dealt with electronically on the web page only and without any exception. The Deadline for the submission of abstracts and corrections has been set to December 13, 2002.

Social Program at ISW 2003

For the time of the congress as well as shortly before and after, the local organizing committee together with ISS/SIC have prepared an excellent social program. When you plan your trip to the ISW in Bangkok, take the time to prepare a tour in this

absolutely beautiful part of the world, in Thailand or in surrounding countries with the extraordinarily rich culture heritage which many of us are not familiar with. Our web page may be of additional help for your planning. Try to find out with your local chapter if it is planning any group travel in connection with ISW03 in Bangkok.

Official Congress Carrier

The Official Congress Carrier is Thai Airlines which offers special congress airfares to congress participants. However, you are deemed to refer to the Congress Code as indicated on the Thai Airlines Advertisement in the Preliminary Program when contacting your Thai office.

Plan your participation now

While the Bangkok meeting is still almost a year ahead, take the right decision soon! You know how it is: you hesitate, decide to go in the last minute, you miss the abstract deadline December 13, 2002, the low-rate congress fee and airfare arrangement as well as an eventually possible family trip during your vacation season in 2003! Finally you rush alone to the ISW and you could have easily done so much better!

Future Congresses Durban, Montréal, Adelaide

But if you are absolutely certain that Bangkok is out of reach for you in 2003, there is still another surgical attraction ahead: Durban ISW 2005 from August 21 to 25, 2005. South Africa will specially attract all those surgeons who beside participating at ISW 2005 want to enjoy outdoor activities in an overwhelmingly rich surrounding with most beautiful golf courses, scuba diving, windsurfing at endless beaches, high mountain climbing and of course visiting one of the world famous game parks. While Cape Town has quite unpredictable weather conditions in the middle of the South African winter (in



Hill Tribes, Northern Thailand



Rhinoceros in a Game Park, South Africa



The International Convention Center, Durban, South Africa

August), Durban with its subtropical climate on the Indian ocean is most comfortable at this time of year. And for all Europeans: no jet lag! Many important international conferences have clearly demonstrated how safe Durban is. And the Durban Convention Center is superb.

Looking still further ahead, ISW will be held in Montréal, Canada in 2007 and in Adelaide, Australia in 2009. But again: Don't postpone your decision. Make up your mind for Bangkok. Carp diem! You never know! That much for the forthcoming Bangkok meeting and those to follow.

National Postgraduate Course in Chile

From July 11 to 12, the Chilean Chapter of ISS/SIC under the presidency of Professor Italo Braghetto and Professor Attila Csendes has successfully organized a National Postgraduate Course under the auspices of ISS/SIC besides some other organizations. More than 150 participants from all regions of Chile have attended this course. The main topic of the scientific program was: "relevant subjects in digestive surgery: actual controversies". The subjects included in the program, especially morbid obesity, have caused a great impact on the public opinion and discussions were published in the main newspaper and also were broadcasted in the local television news.

ISS/SIC Postgraduate Course in Cuba

It may interest you also, that ISS/SIC has organized a 3 days Postgraduate Course in Havana, Cuba toge-

ther with the ISS/SIC Cuban Chapter from September 18 to 20, 2002 dealing exclusively with surgery of the esophagus and stomach. Prof. J. R. Siewert (Munich) the Bangkok Congress President has set up the program of the Postgraduate Course. A short report will follow in our next newsletter.

ISS/SIC Membership

While we all are proud to belong to the oldest truly international surgical society there is less reason for pride when we analyse the average age of our members. The "Société" and the International Surgical Week offer an excellent opportunity, especially for young surgeons, to be logged into an international surgical network. Not only to meet recognised surgical leaders from all parts of the world in one own specialty, but also in related areas, a necessity that becomes ever more important as we are getting more and more specialized.

New Membership drive

Our President, Sir Peter in this Newsletter urges with good reason every one of us to propose membership to young and promising colleagues and this has to be taken very serious indeed. Therefore please persuade your colleagues to join the ranks of our time honoured Society by completing the also enclosed Membership Application Form. Additional copies and the Membership Lists of all membership countries can be downloaded from our web page:

www.iss-sic.ch

Discount Springer Verlag Books

Springer Verlag New York has informed the Administrative Secretariat that active ISS/SIC members with a current subscription to World Journal of Surgery receive 10% discount off Springer books when referring to the WJS subscription number on the mailing label. Link to <http://www.springer-ny.com/iss> (web browser needs to accept cookies).

Annual dues 2001 and 2002

Finally a word of solidarity among members: As every society, also ISS/SIC has expenses. These need to be covered to a very large part by membership fees in which the personal subscription to World Journal of Surgery and a reduction of the congress fee are included. A good number of members still have failed to pay their dues for 2001 and/or for 2002 and consequently had to be addressed with a reminder. While it is always the others who forget paying the dues, why don't you check anyway for yourself just to be sure before World Journal of Surgery stops coming to you?

Get ready for Bangkok! I am looking forward to meeting you there!

Felix Harder
Secretary General ISS/SIC

Invoices annual dues 2003

Our Administrative Secretariat in Pratteln is preparing the invoices for the annual dues 2003. As decided by the General Assembly 2001 in Brussels, the amount will remain unchanged at USD 120.- respectively Euro 135.- for next year. We are proud to have been successful in keeping this amount steady for a period of 10 years, which was mainly possible because of WJS and a careful management of the finances. To reach this goal was not always easy since not only the tasks of our Society have increased but also the number of active members (paying) has decreased constantly over the past years.

As an active Member you may contribute to reduce costs by promptly honoring the invoice for the year 2003. In the meantime some 80% of all payments (exclusively USA) are being received by Credit Card Mail Orders to our office. Transfers by cheque or banking transaction should only be made through International banks which should guarantee to keep the charges reasonably low.

Please react immediately upon receipt of your invoice – Thank you!

The Administrative Secretariat



Floating Market at Damneon Saduak, Thailand

News from ISS-Foundation



Jay L. Grosfeld

Report by the Secretary-Treasurer

After 14 years of outstanding service as Secretary-Treasurer of the ISS-Foundation, Professor Lloyd Nyhus has passed the baton to Professor Jay L. Grosfeld of Indianapolis, Indiana (USA). Professor Grosfeld visited Chicago and seamlessly moved the Secretary-Treasurer's office of the ISSF to Indiana this year.

Since the Brussels meeting, the Foundation has received a major gift of support from a new Theodor Kocher Benefactor, Professor John Wong of Hong Kong, China. We expressed our sincere thanks to Professor Wong for his very generous support. We are hopeful that other members of the ISSF will follow Professor Wong's lead and consider a similar contribution. This will certainly help promote development of the corpus of the fund. Although the ISSF has received a number of requests for financial support from a variety of individuals, organizations, and integrated and participating societies, the corpus of the fund has not yet reached a sufficient level to be able to respond. At present the Foundation continues to support the ISSF Travel Scholars Fund and is currently evaluating new requests from applicants for the meeting next year in Bangkok, Thailand.

These travel grants permit talented young surgeons from developing countries to attend International Surgical Week and meet surgical colleagues from just about everywhere in the world. This unique opportunity to share knowledge, exchange ideas and subsequently influence the improvement of surgical care in their native countries is an extremely valuable and worthwhile experience.

Contributions to the ISSF in any amount are greatly appreciated. These gifts can be directed individually to our office or through the donor's participating and or integrated society to the ISSF. We look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Jay L. Grosfeld
Secretary-Treasurer ISSF

News from IAES



Shiro Noguchi

Message from the President of IAES

ISS/SIC has become one of the most important scientific societies in the world. However, uneven distribution of the active members seems to be one of the difficult but very important problems. Looking at the Membership Directory published in 2000, some countries have a small number of membership compared to number of surgeons or the size of population of the country. This might, however, be reflecting the present world situation. We have to consider what ISS/SIC can do for surgeons in the world, who need help to keep abreast with the latest development of surgery and the related sciences. In some countries, dues for our society could be too high to pay personally. On the other hand, many advanced countries are confronting weighty problem with the increase of the cost of medical care.

IAES has continued to stimulate worldwide education by supporting Postgraduate Courses in India and also trying to create Internet Teaching System in Endocrine Surgery. In many developing countries the subspecialties of surgery are not well established, however, in the meantime many Asian countries became to have their own Association of Endocrine Surgeons and are also encouraging their members to become members of IAES. Japan, Taiwan and India already had their own domestic Association of Endocrine Surgeons for years. Korea established its domestic Association of Endocrine Surgeons in the last year and played host to the 8th Asian Association of Endocrine Surgeons April 22 to 24 of this year under the Presidency of Prof. Cheong Soo Park. There were many invited guest speakers who attended the Meeting, not to mention the Asian and Oceanic countries but the United States of America and EC countries. These joint activities and mutual stimulation might prompt young doctors to attend ISS/SIC meetings in the future. The development of medical knowledge and techniques is now beyond one person's comprehension. Confronting this situation, easily and cheaply available continuing post-graduate education systems are the necessity for

further development in surgery in general. One of the solutions would be telemedicine, telesurgery and Internet education systems.

Shiro Noguchi
President IAES

News from the Secretary-Treasurer of IAES



Göran Åkerström

Dear IAES and ISS/SIC members,

The program for the IAES conference in association with the World Congress of Surgery 2003 in Bangkok has been finalized. The program includes a Peter Heimann Lecture given by Prof. Dr C. Reiners, Germany, entitled "Diagnosis, Treatment and Follow-up of Thyroid Cancer: How Can Surgery Be Supported by Nuclear Medicine?" and the state-of-the-art lecture by Prof. M. Imamura, Japan, entitled "Diagnosis and Treatment of Gastrinoma". In addition, there will be a symposium on "Thyroid Carcinoma and Primary HPT – What Are the Results of Minimally Invasive Procedures". Luncheon panels will discuss "Adrenal Tumors" and "Secondary HPT", respectively, and an IAES video session will present "Endoscopic Endocrine Surgical Procedures". The conference program is dependent on high quality free paper and poster sessions and IAES members are asked to work hard to submit abstracts for such contributions of similar high quality as has been done in recent IAES conferences.

Travel awards can be made available for young surgeons with accepted presentations.

The IAES has established a special website which now also contains interesting endocrine surgical case presentations which can be discussed in letters to the Secretary-Treasurer. Effort is made to reach our members also via this website which is planned to publish news in endocrine surgery and discussions about surgical techniques. The address to the website is:

www.iaes-endocrine-surgeons.com

This site is also planned to contain announcements about endocrine surgical fellowships.

The IAES membership number has increased and all members are asked to continue to influence colleagues to join our organization and especially try to recruit young surgeons in training with interest in endocrine surgery. The IAES continues to be an important association for worldwide teaching in endocrine surgery, and a large number of dedicated



ISW03

INTERNATIONAL SURGICAL WEEK August 24–28, 2003, Bangkok, Thailand

Congress Venue

BITEC Convention Center, Bangkok

Congress Presidents

J. Rüdiger Siewert, Germany (ISS/SIC)
Chomchark Chuntrasakul, Thailand (RCST)

Deadline for the submission of Abstracts to the
Scientific Secretariat ISW2003:

December 13, 2002

Important Note:

Abstracts have to be submitted by internet,
using the specially designed form on our
homepage at: www.iss-sic.ch

Submissions to our regular e-mail address by
not using the abstract form provided on our
homepage will not be accepted

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members is important for the future role of the organization.

The IAES Office believes that future collaboration with other surgical subspecialties is becoming of increasing interest, and hopes that this will result in combined sessions, where the special treatment of endocrine tumors is presented together with technical development of surgery for non-endocrine tumors. It is likely that such interaction will help to document the important role of the ISS/SIC and its subspecialty organizations in the World Congresses of Surgery.

Göran Åkerström
Secretary-Treasurer IAES

News from the IATSIC President



Stephen A. Deane

I hope this newsletter finds all our IATSIC and ISS/SIC members well. There is a great deal of activity planned for IATSIC over the next couple of years so here is a reminder of some of the Society's initiatives.

IATSIC Program at ISW 2003

The Scientific Committee has emphasised in his program for the meeting in Bangkok in August 2003. The challenges facing the provision of trauma care with a large focus on partnerships and collaborations.

There will be multiple IATSIC sessions, both on our own, and combined with other organisations - ISBI, Ambroise Paré as well as IASMEN, AAST, and FELAC. This will include a wide variety of subjects, both scientific and clinical, which should give something of interest for everyone.

Submission of IATSIC Abstracts

A special time in the programme has been set aside for free papers. Judging by last year, their standard is increasing remarkably. Please give thought to your free papers remembering that the deadline is the

December 2002. Details are available on the ISS/SIC website (www.iss-sic.ch). The best IATSIC Free Paper as well as the best Poster presentation will be awarded a Prize Money and a Certificate.

Standards in the world of Trauma Care

A new Committee was formed at the IATSIC Annual General Meeting in Brussels 2001. The aim is to produce an outline of potential optimal / minimal standards in the world of trauma care with the view of reporting back in Bangkok. This will include guidelines for individuals and groups trying to develop trauma systems and care in resource-challenged countries.

This program is entitled: ESSENTIAL TRAUMA CARE. Its goal is to identify, document and encourage the implementation of low cost improvements in trauma care throughout the developing world. The program defines what trauma treatment services should realistically be made available to injured person. We are then looking to develop ways to influence the availability of these services by strengthening inputs to: training and manpower, supplies and equipment and administration and organisation.

IATSIC is committed to education and improvement of skills in those who have to deal with major trauma. It has invested considerable resources in two long-term education programmes.

Definitive Surgical Trauma Care (DSTC)

The Definitive Surgical Trauma Care (DSTC) Course continues to expand and gain support. This two to three day course is aimed at senior surgical trainees and qualified surgeons, to provide them with the surgical skills and confidence necessary to deal with major trauma.

DSTC Committees aim is to focus on the standardization of the DSTC core syllabus and the essential requirements for IATSIC endorsement. There are a number of Courses planned both this and next year. The DSTC manual has been produced and is near ready for publication.

National Trauma Management Course (NTMC)

The National Trauma Management Course (NTMC) still remains a large part of the IATSIC portfolio. This is a course specifically developed for resource challenged countries, which do not have the infrastructure to provide Advanced Trauma Management. The seventh course has just taken place in India in association with the Indian Academy of Traumatology.

The IATSIC Secretariat

Please send all suggestions for any of the Societies activities or Committees to the IATSIC Administrative

Office. Further details regarding membership applications or Course details should also be directed through the Office.

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IATSIC is the most appropriate international body to now take leadership in promoting internationally recognised basic standards for trauma surgery and hospital care of trauma patients. It is expected that this will also stimulate developments in both pre-hospital care and rehabilitation. In our meetings during International Surgical Week in 1999 and 2001, there was a strong call from delegates from resource-challenged countries for IATSIC to provide leadership and guidance in these areas, enhancing the abilities of local practitioners to achieve change within their local health systems and political processes.

I believe that this endeavour requires strong support from multiple partners and has the potential to make a very significant impact on one of the world's largest treatable health problems.

I look forward to hearing your views and ideas for IATSIC involvement and seeing in all in Bangkok in 2003.

Kind regards and best wishes,

Stephen Deane
IATSIC President

News from BSI



Kerstin Sandelin

BSI is slowly but steadily growing and welcomes all new members to the association! Preparations for the International Surgical Week in Bangkok started in Brussels and are well under way to reach an outstanding level.

BSI Postgraduate Courses

It was with great pleasure that our thoughts about postgraduate training was so welcome by the Thai surgical colleagues who have approached us with suggestions for a suitable agenda.

At present a tentative program for a two day course in conjunction with the Surgical Week is being planned. It will be a collaboration between BSI faculty members and our distinguished Thai colleagues. Last year's course on ultrasound was a success and attracted a lot of local surgeons and other specialists. This time Jay Harness, BSI councillor and author of a newly published textbook on ultrasonography, will organize a course which aims to be a mixture of theory and hands on exercises.

The BSI web page

BSI has failed to keep up and maintain the newly formed web page. Despite cyberspace, the efforts of busy surgeons have limited its development. Improvements are underway and we apologize for some details that have not been updated since the Brussels meeting. Especially our President Roger Blamey and the President Elect, Raimund Jakesz, are not placed in the correct position. We shall work on it!

BSI program at ISW03

The program in Bangkok looks very exciting and deals with topics previously not discussed. A continuous symposium is "Breast surgery in developing countries". Breast cancer is increasing in the developed and in the developing world. We need to consider the different clinical panorama and diagnostic and treatment options available. Again, BSI members are invited to submit papers and manuscripts for presentation/publication. BSI is happy to announce a prize for the best scientific presentation

in breast surgery during the surgical week. This presentation should be accompanied by a manuscript for submission to World Journal of Surgery.

A special BSI social event is being planned for by the continuous enthusiastic efforts of Justus Apffelstaedt!

Your contribution and active participation in ISW03 in Bangkok will benefit to our society and make it stronger and more prosperous.

For any assistance with BSI matters please contact any of the council members and/or officers. Our addresses can be found on the web page

<http://www.iss-sic.ch/bsi/Default.htm>

On behalf of BSI council
Kerstin Sandelin
Secretary BSI

ISS/SIC History Book



Author: Doris Liebermann-Meffert

Co-author: Harvey White

The ISS/SIC History Book which was published in 2001 and presented to the Congress Participants at the Brussels Congress has attracted quite a large readership. In her book, our Society Historian Prof. Doris Liebermann-Meffert illustrates on 400 pages the history of our time honored "Société" in its first Century from the beginning in 1902. This book which includes not only portraits and CV's of most of the important individuals behind the Society also incorporates pictures of important documents and gatherings of the first Century of ISS/SIC. A must for all persons interested in the history of surgery and our Society!

Books are still available at the price of USD 50.- respectively € 55.- including postage at our Administrative Secretariat in Pratteln. In case you should like to receive your copy of this historical document, please provide the Secretariat with the name of your Credit Card Company, the Card Number, the Expiration date and your signed authorization for the amount to be charged. You may of course also send us your cheque or any other means of payment:

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(no abstract submission!)

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is – partly also by handicapped collaborators – produced in
the Graphic Service Center of the WBZ!