



# Newsletter

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

July 2012

## News by the President ISS/SIC



*G ran  kerstr m  
President ISS/SIC and ISW 2013*

We all have in close memory the Yokohama ISW 2011 Congress, so successfully run by the ISS/SIC together with the local organizers, as the first International Conference that took place in Japan after the Tsunami and Fukushima disaster. We are grateful to everybody who made this happen, and especially to our many faithful members who attended and completed the outlined program. To run the meeting was crucially important for the ISS and made it possible for our organization to help and pay respect to our Japanese colleagues and the Japanese people in a difficult situation. Although the Yokohama Congress is less than a year ago, we now have before us an equally important challenge when we prepare for a successful ISW 2013 Congress in Helsinki. We should try to reach even higher attendance in Helsinki, and do all we can to even increase the ISS membership till this meeting. For this purpose we want the ISS to take an increasing bur-



*Uspensky Orthodox Cathedral, Helsinki, completed in 1868*

July 2012

den of responsibility for teaching of basic and specialized surgery also between the biennial meetings, and help promote humanitarian surgery according to variable needs in developing countries.

### Helsinki ISW 2013 program

The planning for the next Conference, ISW 2013 in Helsinki is now well underway. For this meeting we have the generous offer from the Finnish group of surgeons to run the ISS/SIC Conference jointly with the yearly Finnish Surgical Society meeting. This will allow a comprehensive and very interesting program, which although yet preliminary has already been thoroughly planned by efficient work of the local organizers lead by Ari Leppäniemi, together with the Finnish group of surgeons, and the ISS office, as well as the the integrated and associated Societies of the ISS/SIC. Exciting ISS/SIC, Martin Allgöwer and Grey Turner lectures are planned. The Martin Allgöwer lecture with the title "Surgery and computer Sciences: inventing the future" will be given by Professor Jacques Marescaux, Strasbourg, the founder of the highly recognized IRCAD Institute develop-

ped for expert teaching and hands-on training of minimal access surgery, with now also similar training centres developed in Taiwan, and Brazil. The Grey Turner lecture with the title "Radiotherapy for rectal carcinoma in 2013" will be given by Professor Lars Pålman, Uppsala, who is recognized world-wide as leader in the treatment of colorectal disease. In addition, there will be ISS/SIC sessions of general interest, together with extensive and very interesting programs from each of the integrated societies; IAES endocrine, IATSIC trauma and intensive care, IASMEN metabolism and nutrition, BSI breast, ISDS digestive surgery, and several other participating societies; WOFAPS pediatric surgeons, APIMSF military surgeons, FELAC latino-american surgeons, a.o. This will comprise a multitude of free paper sessions, symposia, state of the art lectures, named Honorary lectures for the Integrated Societies, luncheon sessions, Clinical Skills sessions for trainees, and poster sessions. There will also be several important contributions and sessions by the Finnish pediatric, vascular, urologic, plastic, thoracic, hand, as well as plastic and reconstructive surgeons. Many sessions will occur in collaboration between the different Societies, and with

the Finnish groups of surgeons involved. The participation by the many different specialized groups will assure high professional level presentations displaying where the frontiers of surgery stand today, and there will also be several sessions focused on general/essential surgery, as well as discussions on how to maintain quality of surgery in resource poor, and economically restricted settings.

The ISS/SIC continues to feel as an important responsibility to strongly support the role of women in surgery, and we are proud to announce the contributions from the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) to the program in Helsinki. The AWS, with over 1700 members in 15 countries, is the largest world-wide organization for interaction and exchange of information between women surgeons. The AWS will present a Networking Breakfast, and two very interesting AWS main sessions: "Surgical practice: maintaining excellence in economically challenged times", and "Career advancement and leadership challenges for women". These sessions are likely to raise considerable interest and become very important for the future of the surgical profession.



Senate Square with Tuomiokirkko Cathedral, Helsinki, built in 1852



*Havis Amanda Statue at Market Square*

The need of teaching in developing countries will be addressed by two highlighted main sessions by the ASAP (Alliance for Surgery and Anaesthesia Presence) organization. The sessions are entitled "The burden of surgical disease" and "Humanitarian aid", and will address unmet surgical needs, safe surgery, anaesthesia, maternal mortality, treatment of trauma and surgical delivery in a humanitarian setting, and other issues of importance for humanitarian surgery, in which the ASAP membership has a well-recognized role.

We have all reasons to look forward to Helsinki ISW 2013 and can expect a really interesting meeting, and should already now thank Ari and his Finnish colleagues for the great work they have done with the planning and organization together with the ISS office.

As described in this Newsletter by the Dean of the ISS Academy, Bill Thomas, future work of the ISS Academy has been consolidated, and ways to implement a long-term role for worldwide teaching have been formulated in agreement with representatives of the integrated Societies in the Academy Faculty. The educational activity is planned to comprise formal international courses in general and essential surgery, specialized courses already run independently by the integrated Societies, as well as specialized courses according



*Government Building at Market Square*

to variable needs in developing countries. A long-term goal of the Academy will be to contribute to general and essential surgery education on humanitarian grounds, as well as specialized surgery according to variable needs in the developing world.

IATSIC has long experience of education, and will continue to play an important role for worldwide trauma management in collaboration with WHO. IATSIC and WHO have co-published the Guidelines for Essential Trauma Care for low-and middle-income countries, and a follow-up publication Guidelines for Trauma Quality Programmes, which has focused attention to trauma quality in both developed and developing countries. President-elect of IATSIC, Charles Mock, has held the first staff position on Trauma Care at the WHO head-quarter, and was recently followed on this position by Manjul Joshipura, who initiated the ISS/IATSIC National Trauma Management Course (NTMC) in India, where now more than 5000 physicians have been trained. The teaching material of these courses has been used for WHO teaching in several countries, and Dr Joshipura has initiated a WHO led Global Alliance for the Care of the Injured in which ISS/SIC is a Core Participant. IATSIC has provided a large number of Definitive Surgical Trauma Care (DSTC) courses worldwide, and will continue the efficient course activity. In addition, as depicted in this Newsletter by

President Selman Uraneus, the IATSIC will also have a new and interesting focus on acute care surgery as an umbrella discipline. The IAES representative of the Academy, Rob Parkyn, together with the BSI President, Polly Cheung, and the Malaysian College of Surgeons has organized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Deputy Director of the Malaysian Ministry of Health, Hisham Abdullah, with plans for the IAES and BSI to provide teaching in Malaysia together with local surgeons over the next 5 years. This teaching has been met with enthusiasm by ISS and BSI members, as well as local Malaysian surgeons, and can stimulate other members to participate in similar activity together with the ISS and its integrated Societies in other parts of the world. The teaching activity, together with local doctors can be vital to increase the membership, and may via the close membership relations of the integrated Societies help assure that the Academy teaching goals can be reached to acceptable costs. The ISDS is by Marco Patti and Alberto Ferreres planning a course for young surgeons and trainees in Buenos Aires, "Management of complications in digestive tract surgery", in interaction with the Academy. Academy general skills courses are also planned in Poland, Thailand, and other places, and interactive courses with the Academy will have possibility to involve any of the integrated Societies. Other courses will continue to be presented independently by the integrated Societies.

### **Standards of Surgical Education**

Standards of Surgical Education vary between countries, and not only developing countries need surgical skills courses. A current trend towards increased specialization in many countries has raised questions whether surgical education in such cases always fulfils requirements of optimal training. Especially practical training in general and emergency surgery may be deficient in such programs. The ISS Academy may possibly help define basic standards for education, and when needed offer to provide skills courses in general and essential surgery in both developed and developing countries.

### **Younger surgeons**

Of great importance for the future of ISS is to increase the possibilities for younger

surgeons and surgical Trainees to attend our biennial ISWs, and now ISW 2013 in Helsinki. They represent the important group of the future that should contribute to discussions about education, and how education possibilities differ between countries. The surgical Trainees of today and younger surgeons also require global contacts to recognize that the exchange between countries may be a way to improve their own surgical education. For younger surgeons in general, visits to clinics abroad with exposure to a large number of general surgery or trauma patients, may improve the basic training. For already specialized younger surgeons, visits to recognized specialized clinics could provide stimulation for future combination of surgery and research. Most important, just to attend ISW 2013 will give many opportunities to meet and listen to experts, and meet with new international friends among colleagues with similar interest, to share ideas with and possibly visit. These international contacts have for many surgeons been a most awarding and important part of the professional life and this opportunity must now be given to an increasing number of younger surgeons.

Therefore, for ISW 2013 there will be a number of Clinical skills sessions from each of the integrated Societies designed especially for Trainees and younger surgeons. As at previous ISWs, there will be a writers workshop, run by experienced teachers in the membership. Contact with Trainees' organizations will be taken to invite members to ISW 2013 as was done before the Yokohama Conference. In order to stimulate increased attendance, the fee for a Trainee for early registration to ISW 2013 has been set at a really low level.

As before previous ISWs there will be possibilities to apply for Travel Grants to attend the ISW 2013. The ISS-Foundation for Travel Awards was created by Lloyd Nyhus in collaboration with Martin Allgöwer in 1992, and Funds have been raised through voluntary contributions mainly from the membership and from Clinical Chairs of Surgery. Jay Grosfeld has taken over the ISS-Foundation Secretariat in 2002, and we all owe our greatest respect and gratitude to Jay for his admirable work, in directing the Foundation through the years. Jay's presentation of the Travel scholars to

the membership has become an important ceremonial part of the ISW opening ceremony, of which recipients and many members have been very proud, and many scholars have expressed the most sincere gratitude. Travel grants to attend the Helsinki ISW 2013, are planned to be offered for surgeons from developing countries younger than 40 years with evidence of academic productivity in their career. As the possibilities of providing these Travel Awards depend on the gratitude of our membership and Surgical chairs, we ask for continued support for the Foundation of Travel Awards, and hope the expressed intentions of educational efforts by the ISS will further stimulate contributions. Other Travel Awards for attendance at ISW 2013 will be offered by the integrated Societies and will be available for application at their respective websites.

The ISS/SIC membership relies heavily on our older, long-term members who have faithfully always supported our organization and so much contributed to the success through the years. However, we now see the possibility and need to try to further increase our membership,



*North Harbour in Helsinki*

and believe that a newly designed program of education may be an important stimulus for this, especially if teachers on courses are recruited also from a coming generation of younger members. We also want to make serious efforts to recruit an increasing number of young surgeons and Trainees, initially possibly as Associated and ultimately finally as permanent full members, as this will be vital to our membership. For this reason the membership fee for younger surgeons and Trainees has been kept exceedingly low, and should be worth paying since it implies lower costs for meetings and course activity, and a personal copy of the now increasingly important society journal, *World Journal of Surgery*, with continuously rising impact factor.

It is important that all members start planning for ISW 2013 in Helsinki, by already now finalizing research projects that can be submitted as abstracts for presentation at the meeting. Look for the possibility that you or one or several of your younger colleagues may provide oral or poster presentations at the Congress. I can assure that Helsinki will be an extraordinary meeting venue and an experience for all of us, and that ISW 2013 can be a great stimulation for the professional development of our younger members.

Finally, I should like to inform you that the **distinguished Lecture of the International Society of Surgery at the ACS Clinical Congress 2012** in Chicago will take place on Wednesday, October 3, at

08.00. US Chapter President John Clarke will introduce Lecturer **Ari Leppäniemi, Helsinki** (LOC President of ISW 2013) who will give the lecture **“Humanitarian Mission: Can One Surgeon make a Difference?”**

In case you are attending the ACS meeting, take your time on Wednesday morning.

If you have questions or comments concerning this Newsletter or any ideas about the ISS/SIC and its role, do contact me by e-mail at [goran.akerstrom@iss-sic.ch](mailto:goran.akerstrom@iss-sic.ch)

We all in the ISS/SIC look forward to your contact.

Göran Åkerström, President ISS/SIC and President ISW 2013 in Helsinki

## International Society of Surgery Academy (ISSAc)



*William E.G. Thomas*  
*Dean of the ISS-Academy*

### Introduction

As the result of a very innovative decision by the Executive Committee of the International Society of Surgery (ISS-SIC,) the Academy of Education was inaugurated in Yokohama at the International Surgical Week in August 2011. The aim of the Academy is ambitious, but it is to advance Surgical Training and Education around the world, particularly in developing countries. The overall running of the Academy would be the responsibility of the Dean of the Academy supported by a strong International Faculty, containing representatives of each of the Integrated Societies that constitute the ISS as well as surgical educationalists with an international reputation. Furthermore, at the recent Executive Committee meeting in Helsinki, a decision was made to set up a Foundation to allow major donors, institutions and

governments to donate funds to support this vital venture.

### Aims and Intents

The aims and intents of the Academy would be to bring all educational activities within the ISS under one umbrella organisation in order to co-ordinate such activities and allow better use of resources and prevent duplication or gaps. The educational activity would be delivered on two distinct bases:

- Humanitarian grounds in developing countries
- Formal courses run internationally within a clear business framework, and income from such activity would help subsidise and sponsor humanitarian courses in countries and environments unable to finance such educational activity

The long term aim would be to build up a portfolio of courses that would cover all surgical specialties and all levels from trainees to senior surgeons, that could be delivered internationally in a co-ordinated manner. There already exist a large number of high quality surgical courses, particularly those organised by the Integrated Societies, and the Academy's aims would be to encourage these, support these valuable

educational initiatives and to help coordinate their delivery in order to eliminate any existing gaps and prevent duplication in the surgical course portfolio. In no way would the Academy wish to take over the running of such courses, which would remain with the parent organisation, but to 'badge' such activities, offer advice as to delivery, and to list and advertise all such accredited courses, listing these on the Academy portion of the website of the ISS.

### Strategy

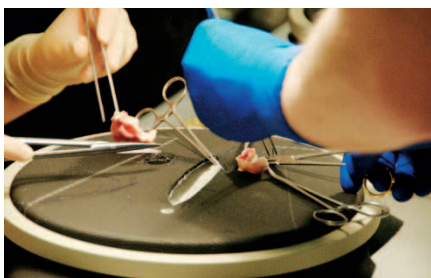
It is vital for the Academy to have a clearly defined strategy for the delivery of such an ambitious program, and in this regard there is to be the first face-to-face meeting of the International Faculty in London at the Royal College of Surgeons at the beginning of June. At this meeting, it will be stressed that the Academy is to be a co-ordinating organisation seeking to liaise with educational institutions around the world, thus supporting all current and on-going educational initiatives, without in any way wishing to remove the autonomy of any of the ISS Integrated Societies or to seek to influence any other major educational institution in their provision of educational activities. However research has shown that there are multiple educational initiatives going on around the world, especially in developing



*Exercise on prepared pig material „how to perform a stomach resection and anastomosis“*



*Training in team-work in the abdominal model*



*Exercise on a stoma model*



*Training in more advanced laparoscopic techniques on a new pelvitrainer*

countries, which are valuable but are ad hoc with no co-ordination and institutions and societies are not aware one another's activities. This has led to unfortunate duplication at times and has also allowed tragic gaps in surgical education to develop. Furthermore, there are huge cultural problems in many developing countries, with well-meaning individuals not realizing what is required and simply delivering what they believe to be of value. Many of the indigenous trainers could tell us what is required, and one of the main aims of the Academy is to seek out such advice and make it available to all those delivering such educational activities overseas.

### **Funding**

There is no doubt that bringing all the ISS educational activities together on one web

site would provide a huge positive incentive to donors to support surgical education. Many major donors from industry are keen to support such education world-wide, but as such activities are currently so disparate, they see no co-ordinating force and thus a fragmented portfolio is presented. The bringing together of all such activity on one website and under one umbrella would undoubtedly assist in fund raising for such a vital program. The funds raised would then be available to the Integrated Societies and would be distributed under the leadership of the Faculty of the Academy. The formation of an international Foundation, based in Switzerland where the headquarters of the ISS/SIC is sited, would further add credibility to the initiative and allow tax deductible gifts to be made towards surgical education around the world.

### **Conclusion**

This initiative has had support from several of the major international surgical educational institutes, as well as the Integrated Societies of the ISS/SIC. Indeed at a recent meeting at WHO in Geneva, the Academy was strongly supported and many humanitarian organisations have welcome the formation of the Academy as it is seen to be an excellent vehicle for the co-ordination of such activity. It is to be hoped that all members of the ISS/SIC will see the value of the Academy, seek to support it in its endeavours and indeed contribute towards the delivery of its educational activities. It is hoped that some of the activities will income generate in their own right, and this, along with donations, will help support the humanitarian initiatives. In the past as a profession, we have made serious cultural mistakes in education overseas, but the Academy will seek to obtain guidance and advice in order to ensure that vital and limited resources will be used wisely and productively.

W E G Thomas  
Dean of the ISS-Academy

## Report by the General Treasurer



*Sats Pillay*  
*General Treasurer*

The newly introduced system of collecting annual dues on-line by the PayPal system has been inaugurated by the end of 2011. This allowed to provide the members with the invoice for their 2012 dues electronically to the recorded e-mail address. In addition to this new electronic payment process, paper copies of invoices have been sent as well as not all e-mail addresses were available. The new system for the electronic submission of invoices was

started quite successfully but will need to be updated continuously.

The Treasurer and the Administrative Office in Lupsingen are well aware that payment of the annual dues on the PayPal System will not be possible for all members for various reasons. Therefore the opportunities of a regular banking transaction from account to account will remain as in the past. However, in view of the very high banking charges for checks (30 to 50 Euros per check), we can no longer accept them.

In case you have received a reminder for open dues, we kindly invite you to honour it and to react immediately so that we can reactivate your subscription to *World Journal of Surgery*.

Voluntary Donations to ISS-Foundation by any person regardless whether she/he is a member or not, companies or institutions

are highly welcome. Please contact the ISS/SIC Administrative Office in Lupsingen, Switzerland or Jay Grosfeld, the Secretary Treasurer in case you are donating from USA. The authorities of the State of Illinois have approved the ISS-Foundation to meet the criteria for tax exemption.

Invoices for the 2013 annual dues will be forwarded together with the next Newsletter in November so that the payment schedule and the subscriptions to WJS can be maintained as before.

## Report by the ISS/SIC Administrative Office

You will have noted that this Newsletter appears in a new format and also layout. The Executive Committee has approved the new setup hoping that it will attract your attention. Besides providing news of general interest to all ISS/SIC Members, the Integrated Societies and the ISS-Foundation and ISS-Academy are also reporting about their activities. Finally our Society Historian, Doris Liebermann-Meffert is providing some historical aspects that are of interest but not so well known under **“Did you know that ...”**

In case you are interested in obtaining the **history book** (from 1903 until 1999) you may purchase it for the price of Euros 25.- respectively US Dollars 32.- from the Administrative Office. Please inform by e-mail.

The Administrative Office in Lupsingen has also invested quite some work on the new homepage at [www.iss-sic.com](http://www.iss-sic.com) which offers new and interesting means and tools

for activities to the members. We have to admit that not all issues and problems have been solved fully but we are very confident that this will soon happen. Nevertheless an ongoing process of updating will be necessary. You are kindly invited to submit your

suggestions and comments to the new form and format of our Newsletter.

Victor Bertschi and Chris Storz



*ISS/SIC Office Building (Ground Level) at Seltisbergerstrasse 16 in Lupsingen nearby Basel, Switzerland*

## News from ISW 2013 in Helsinki



Ari Leppäniemi  
President LOC

The Local Organizing Committee headed by Ari Leppäniemi and the Professional Congress Organizer in Helsinki have met already at several occasions at which the Finnish Surgical Society (FSS) was represented as well. FSS has given up its regular annual meeting in November in favour of ISW 2013. The scientific program of all sessions set up by the LOC-FSS and ISS/SIC with its Integrated Societies with

the many highlights is very sophisticated and proofs of a high quality. After some minor updates, it is available on the Congress and Society Homepage. Take your time and have a look at it ([www.isw2013.org](http://www.isw2013.org)).

Before and during ISW 2013 many pre-congress and congress workshops, organized by the various Integrated Societies will take place.

Finland, for most delegates a destination you have not been before, offers great opportunities not only to explore the Nordic Culture but also to experience the friendliness of its inhabitants. Those interested in the visiting the former socialist countries such as St. Petersburg in Russia or Tallinn in Estonia will find ideal opportunities for a visit. The LOC will put together some very interesting tours and events for your relaxation before or after the congress.

Monday evening is reserved for a special Finland evening. Details will also soon be available on-line at the congress homepage.

**Mark the Congress dates of Sunday, August 25 to Thursday August 29 already now in your agenda in red.** The Organizers are very much convinced that it will be a very memorable time you will spend in Finland.

And, not to forget, prepare already now your abstract for electronic submission via the congress homepage. The gates are open and the **Deadline for the submission of abstracts, January 7 2013 will be maintained strictly.** Once opened, the abstract submission file will allow you to make continuously updates until deadline.

International  
Surgical Week

ISW 2013

25-29 August 2013, Helsinki, Finland



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY  
OF SURGERY (ISS/SIC)



FINNISH SOCIETY  
OF SURGERY

**Important dates**  
Abstract submission deadline:  
7 January 2013  
Early registration deadline:  
30 April 2013

[www.isw2013.org](http://www.isw2013.org)

Organized by International Society of Surgery in co-operation with Finnish Society of Surgery



# Report of the ISS/SIC Foundation



Jay Grosfeld  
Secretary-Treasurer ISS-Foundation

The ISS Foundation Board of Directors met in Helsinki, Finland March 16-17, 2012. At the time, a decision to provide travel grants to sponsor scholars from developing countries to attend ISW-2013 in Helsinki was approved.

The scholars will be selected from a competitive group of grant applicants. Travel scholar candidates from developing countries must be less than 40 years of age and provide evidence of ongoing academic productivity in their careers. Previous grant winners will be ineligible for a second award. The due date for grant submission is December 31, 2012. Information concerning application for the travel grants will be published in the World Journal of Surgery starting with the July 2012 issue.

The Foundation plans to formally introduce the travel scholars to the participants of the Helsinki meeting at the opening sessi-

on in August, 2013. A special reception to honor the travel scholar recipients is also planned. Ari Leppaniemi, President of the Local Organizing Committee in Finland is arranging visits to some of the Finnish Hospital Departments of Surgery for the travel scholars.

The ISS Foundation Board discussed additional methods of acquiring funds for the Foundation and other possible future projects. The Foundation acknowledged the generous support of the Travel Scholar program from a group of American Surge-ry departments.

There were a number of changes in the membership of the Foundation Board of Directors. Professor Kenneth Boffard will assume the role of Foundation President. Professor Olle Ljungqvist was elected an at-large board member representing IAS-MEN and Dr. Napadol Wora-Urai was added to the Board as ISS- President-Elect.

## Current ISS-Foundation Board of Directors:

- Kenneth Boffard, South Africa – ISSF President
- Jay L. Grosfeld, USA –ISSF Secretary-Treasurer
- Göran Akerström, Sweden - ISS Presi- dent

- Napadol Wora-Urai, Thailand - ISS President Elect
- Sathiya Pillay, South Africa - ISS Treas-urer
- Jean-Claude Givel, Switzerland - ISS Secretary General
- Stephen Deane, Australia - at large (IATSIC)
- Olle Ljungqvist, Sweden - at large (IASMEN)
- John Hunter, USA - Editor World Jour- nal of Surgery
- Victor Bertschi, Switzerland (ex-officio member)

The ISS Foundation is grateful to the mem-bers of the ISS-SIC for their thoughtful contributions to the Foundation during this past year. Projects such as the travel schol- ar program would not be possible without your generous support. I hope that we can look forward to your continued support in the future. For those ISS members that have never contributed, now is the time to consider making a gift to the Foundation. For North American members, remember that the ISS-Foundation is recognized as a charitable organization [501C(3)] by the US Internal Revenue Service and gifts to the foundation are tax exempt to the extent permitted by law. The ISS-Foundation needs your support.

Jay L. Grosfeld  
Secretary-Treasurer-ISSF



ISS-Foundation President Ken Boffard and Secretary-Treasurer Jay Grosfeld with Travel Scholars 2011 in Yokohama

## The late Professor Yasuo Idezuki and ISS/SIC



*Yasuo Idezuki*

*Past President and Honorary Member ISS/SIC*

It is with great regret to announce you that Professor Yasuo Idezuki, MD, FACS, Past President of the ISS/SIC(1995-1999) passed away at his home after a long illness on January 1st, 2012. It was a big shock for the Japanese members of ISS/SIC.

Professor Yasuo Idezuki started his activities in ISS/SIC since the ISW 1977 was held in Kyoto, Japan. At this first ISW held in Japan, he presented his paper on "Treatment of Esophageal varices" and joined as an active member of ISS/SIC in 1981. The Kyoto Meeting was really a big event unforgettable for us because both of us have individually presented a paper. Activities of Japan Chapter of ISS/SIC, however, had been slow down after the first ISW 1977 was over. At that situation, Professor Idezuki was appointed as the 1st Councilor and National Delegate of Japan in 1991 and successfully hosted ISW 1995 in Lisbon as the Congress President. Furthermore he had served as the president of ISS/SIC in 1995 -1997 and the president of foundation of ISS/SIC in1997-1999. The great works he had done during this period of time have been highly evaluated.

At the time of Acapulco meeting in 1997 when I had been working as Secretary General, National Chapter of ISS/SIC, I had a great opportunity to attend the Councilor meeting of ISS/SIC in order to express our opinion to invite ISW to Japan. At that moment, I was so much impressed in his dauntless firm attitude and a careful consi-

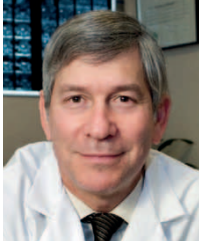
deration paid for every chapter as the President of ISS/SIC. I believe that Professor Idezuki always kept a deep consideration how ISS/SIC should be. Around one week before he passed away, he did ask me in his bed to get a booklet in which the history of the ISS/SIC is written from the ISS/SIC Office. Therefore I immediately e-mailed to ISS/SIC office and asked to send it to me, because I was not sure that the booklet in my bookshelf was the one he wanted to see. And the booklet ISS/SIC immediately sent to me was finally placed in his hand in the Hospital. He saw it and said that this was the one I wanted to have with a loud voice probably due to defective hearing. And he asked me to keep it in the office of Japan Chapter of ISS/SIC. I really felt his deep passion for ISS/SIC at that moment.

Taking the opportunity of the last ISW 2011, 2nd Congress for Japan Chapter of ISS/SIC which was held at Yokohama under the Presidency of Professor Kenneth Boffard and Local Presidency of Professor Masahiko Watanabe, a number of active Japanese young surgeons will join in activities of ISS/SIC resulting further prosperity of ISS/SIC. It is the one what the late Professor Idezuki strongly expected.

The guidance and enthusiasm Professor Yasuo Idezuki extended for us will be remained in our heart forever.

Tatsuo Yamakawa  
Past Councilor ISS/SIC

## News from IAES



Robert Udelsman  
President IAES



Geoffrey Thompson  
Secretary-Treasurer IAES

### ISW 2013 in Helsinki

We are delighted to inform you that Caj Haglund (Helsinki, Finland) and his staff are completing the final arrangements in anticipation of our meeting to be held in Helsinki from Sunday, August 25 to Thursday, August 29, 2013. As these plans mature, you will be sent hotel information and we urge you to book your rooms early.

The IAES Program Committee has organized a preliminary schedule that includes: Interesting Case Presentations, multiple free paper sessions, a luncheon session on the Optimal Management of Cushing's Syndrome, a State-of-the-Art lecture on Minimally Invasive Endocrine Surgery by W. Chung (Republic of South Korea), the IAES Peter Heimann Lecture on Primary Hyperparathyroidism by J. Bilezikian (New York),

a luncheon session on Prophylactic Central Lymph Node Dissection, the IAES Presidential Lecture on the History of the IAES by R. Udelsman (Connecticut), a combined IAES/WOFAPS session on Hereditary Endocrine Tumors and Pediatric Endocrine Surgery, a State-of-the-Art lecture on Endocrine Hypertension, a luncheon session on Neuro-monitoring and Laryngology, and a Clinical Skills Afternoon Video session for trainees.

In brief, the meeting promises to be outstanding and engaging for both the newly emerging endocrine surgeon and our seasoned colleagues.

### ISS-Academy / INTEREST

The IAES has also been actively engaged in several important initiatives. We have enthusiastically supported the President

of the ISS/SIC, Göran Åkerström, with the enhanced global role of our parent society. The ISS-Academy has been created to form a central focus to support global educational initiatives, particularly in developing countries. William E.G. Thomas (Sheffield, UK) has been installed as the inaugural Dean of the ISS-Academy and he has already made enormous contributions.

We are also delighted that Rob Parkyn (Adelaide, Australia) will represent the IAES to the ISS-Academy. Rob Parkyn has also continued his leadership role in INTEREST (International Endocrine Surgery Teams) and is playing a lead role for the IAES. He has organized a Memorandum of Understanding with the Malaysian Ministry of Health and the Malaysian College of Surgeons Academy. Hisham Abdulla, the Deputy Director of Health in Malaysia, witnessed the signing ceremony in Kuala Lumpur recently. The MOU, organized collaboratively with Breast Surgery International (BSI), sets out plans for the IAES and BSI to send teams to Malaysia over the next 5 years under the "umbrella" of the ISS-Academy. Polly Cheung (Hong Kong), President of the BSI, has also offered her guidance, assistance, and leadership to bring this teaching project to Malaysia. Members are encouraged to review the IAES web site as further details regarding INTEREST will be posted soon.

The IAES is delighted that we have recruited an outstanding group of 13 new members.

The IAES is doing extremely well due to the talent and support of our 524 members representing 57 countries. We look forward to seeing you in Helsinki.

Robert Udelsman  
President IAES

Geoffrey Thompson  
Secretary-Treasurer IAES



Rob Parkyn (3<sup>rd</sup> left) and Hisham Abdullah (3<sup>rd</sup> right) witnessing the signing ceremony in Kuala Lumpur

# News from IATSIC



Selman Uranüs  
President IATSIC

Dear Members and interested Readers of the IATSIC Newsletter,

If a professional society is to prosper, it must continually examine its goals and the paths to those goals. As a society ages, so does its membership, especially those at the top. A tendency may develop to stick with the tried and true, and complacency, with attitudes of “we have always done it this way,” and “it always worked before” may set in. IATSIC, founded in 1989, is – still – a prosperous organization with high standing in its field. But if we want it to remain so, after nearly a quarter of a century, the time has come to think about where we are and where we are going, with attention and sensitivity to new developments and trends.

Surely we are all aware of acute care surgery and the issues surrounding this new and growing field of specialization that has become accepted or is being introduced in many countries, with a main aim of providing the same quality of care for both trauma and non-trauma surgical emergencies. Although it is still controversial and there are problems that have yet to be resolved, acute care surgery as a specialty in its own right does seem to represent the future and the time has come to incorporate it as such into IATSIC. Doing so would also attract younger physicians for whom acute care surgery can play a role in their career choices, decisions and development, giving them a place where their needs and concerns could be voiced, and steps toward meeting them initiated.

One specific measure to avoid obsolescence is to broaden our scope and make adjustments in our emphasis. This will already be reflected in the scientific program

for the IATSIC congress in 2013, with one-third of the program devoted to acute care, one-third to trauma, and the final third to intensive care and nutrition. With this structure, we will not neglect anything we have offered so far, but with the addition of acute care surgery will attract new specialists, including not only surgeons but also gastroenterologists, hepatologists and others who are involved in non-traumatic surgical emergencies. Nutrition has rightfully come to receive more attention, especially in the postoperative course, and by including it with intensive care, we will open IATSIC to yet another group of specialists whose work impinges on acute care surgery.

A new focus in IATSIC on acute care surgery as an umbrella discipline will also provide the surgical community with a much needed forum where information and experience with the new specialty of acute care surgery can be exchanged, and where controversial issues can be considered and resolved by specialists at the highest international level.

I would be very interested in hearing your thoughts on this subject. Please write to me and let me know how you think we should **widen the perspectives of IATSIC.**

Finally, I would like to tell you how our preparations for the scientific program of the upcoming **ISW Congress in 2013 in**

**Helsinki** are coming along. We will begin three days of our exciting scientific program with Sunrise Video Sessions. From 7:30 to 8:15 a.m., you will have a wake-up call with eye-opening videos on today’s hottest topics. Then, in 15 main sessions, IATSIC will cover what is happening right now in trauma and emergency surgery. Our aim is not just to have internationally recognized specialists lecture on their special topics, but to allot sufficient time for free papers and posters. Once again this year, there will be prizes for the best paper and poster presentations as chosen by an expert jury. As usual, the prestigious Trunkay Trauma Lecture will be a highlight of the meeting – speaker to be announced! During the General Assembly, you will hear about what has been happening in our society and have the opportunity to vote on the most important decisions. As has become tradition in recent years, Wednesday afternoon will be reserved for Trainee Sessions.

Dear IATSIC Members, a top scientific program in a beautiful setting for our social activities is awaiting you in Helsinki, so don’t let this wonderful opportunity go by. I look forward to seeing you in person in Helsinki.

Selman Uranüs  
President IATSIC



Helsinki South Harbor with Town Hall and President's Palace at Market Square

## News from IASMEN



*Olle Ljungqvist*  
President IASMEN

IASMEN is looking forward to ISW 2013 in Helsinki, Finland. IASMEN is an organization that has its focus on metabolism and nutrition in surgery. Recently, it has become obvious that controlling metabo-

lism and securing proper nutrition is key to improving outcomes in surgery. Our mission is to further develop these aspects of surgical care and make sure that our colleagues get this information to support them improving practice. A typical development from this basis is the program often called Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS), that helps surgeons to improve practice by using evidence based treatments in the preoperative care.

IASMEN will have four sessions of its own and will share a further four sessions with other integrated societies to help spread these important informations. The four IASMEN sessions will include a session devoted to preoperative care, the Patino lecture and best of IASMEN prize paper session, a free paper session and a poster session.

We are particularly pleased to announce that the Patino lecture will be delivered by Professor Marco Braga from Milan Italy, and will address the subject of immune regulation by nutrition in the surgical patient.

The other four shared sessions will cover nutrition and metabolism in the critically ill obese patient, in trauma and critical care protocols, metabolic surgery and ERAS. IASMEN will also be running a pre conference workshop on implementing ERAS.

It promises to be an exciting ISW in 2013 and we look forward to welcoming you to our sessions in Helsinki.

*Olle Ljungqvist*  
President IASMEN

## News from BSI



*Polly Cheung*  
President BSI

Dear friends,

BSI has prepared an exciting scientific program for the coming International Surgical Week in Helsinki 2013 under the directorship of Professor Cheng-Har Yip and Dr Marjut Leidenius. The highlight of this year's program is on Oncoplastic Breast Surgery. Our Veronesi Lecture will be delivered by Professor Werner Audretsch from Dusseldorf Germany, a pioneer in the field.

Our international faculty includes:

- Sarkis Meterrisian (Canada)
- Omar Youssef (Egypt)
- Tina Jahkola, Marjut Leidenius, Sinikka Suominen, Minna Tanner (Finland)

- Polly Cheung , Sharon Chan (HK)
- SVS Deo, R Badwe (India)
- S Nakamura (Japan)
- CH Yip (Malaysia)
- Mikael Hartman (Singapore)
- Justus Apffelstaedt, Ines Buccimazza (South Africa)
- Kerstin Sandelin (Sweden)
- CS Huang (Taiwan)
- Hiram Cody, Jay Harness, Shawna Wiley (USA)

The preliminary program is as follows:

### Course and workshop:

Ultrasound course aims to provide surgeons with the basic principles and hands on practice of ultrasound and ultrasound guided breast biopsy in breast surgery

Breast Oncoplastic Surgery Workshop aims to provide surgeons with the updated information in the field as well as video showing on the techniques from our international faculty.

### Symposia:

- Screening and risk assessment in breast cancer
- Tailoring treatment to tumour biology and staging
- Improving breast health outcomes in countries with limited resources
- Extended breast cancer care

### Debates:

Resection margin showing no tumour at inked margins are sufficient in breast conserving surgery

Breast reconstruction is contraindicated in women who will require radiotherapy post-operatively

Other programs include case discussions and poster presentations, lunch symposium on new technologies for breast cancer management.

You are invited to register early, send in abstracts for competition in Awards for Best Oral and Poster Presentations. Application for young surgeons from developing

countries are encouraged as we offer a maximum of 8 awards to subsidize your travel to participate in the BSI scientific program. Participants are also invited to bring up cases for discussion in our breakfast sessions by our expert panel.

In addition to the scientific program of ISW in Helsinki, Breast Surgery International has for the first time, joined IAES (International Association of Endocrine Surgeons)

in conducting a postgraduate course in Breast and Endocrine Surgery in Malaysia in the coming November 2012. It is our mission at Breast Surgery International to help develop quality breast care in developing countries. We welcome proposals from fellow members of BSI for such courses in future.

Polly Cheung  
President BSI

Application to:  
Scientific Secretariat  
ISW 2013, BSI award  
c/o ISS/SIC  
Seltisbergerstr. 16  
CH- 4419 Lupsingen  
Switzerland  
tel: +41 61 815 9666  
fax: +41 61 811 4775  
e-mail: surgery@iss-sic.ch

## News from ISDS



Marco Patti  
President ISDS

ting during the Digestive Disease Week in San Diego, California. The theme of the meeting was patient's care and technical aspect of challenging operations, with the goal of decreasing complication rates. These joined sessions have been held annually and they are a testimony of the collaboration of these two leading organizations over the years. Another joined session will be held in November in Buenos Aires during the Argentinian College of Surgeons.

The International Society for Digestive Surgery and the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract held a joined breakfast mee-

The program for the 2013 meeting in Helsinki is shaping up nicely. Surgeons from all over the world will cover the evaluati-

on and treatment of esophageal, gastric, hepatic, biliary, pancreatic, and colorectal benign and malignant disorders. In addition to the conventional sessions, many state of the art lectures have been added to the program. World known experts will discuss critical issues in the field of gastrointestinal surgery. One afternoon will be dedicated to the trainees present at the meeting, with focus on education and training in GI surgery.

Marco Patti  
President ISDS



Participants of ISDS at Breakfast Meeting at DDW in San Diego 2012.

(l. to r.) CM Lo, Past President; Alberto Ferreres, Chair Membership Committee; WL Law, Representative Membership; Giovanni Zaninotto, Councilor; Marco Patti, President

## Did you know.....?

### The young Belgian surgeon Charles Willems and the story of founding the ISS/SIC, the first international Society of Surgery, the “Société Internationale de Chirurgie”



Dorothea Liebermann-Meffert  
ISS/SIC Historian

The introduction of antiseptic methods by Lister which combated effectively wound infection, and the controllable pain relief using ether by Morton, opened the gate to a tremendously wide field of operative possibilities and improvements, both in the second half of the 19th century. Surgeons became rapidly aware of the changing face of surgery by great innovations. The **necessity to communicate with each other**, to exchange experience and to improve the art and science of surgery was recognized. Communication initially, however, was too slow for the rapid evolution in the progress of surgery. Travelling was tiresome, complicated and time consuming in the era before airplanes and rapid road and rail transport existed. Nevertheless, a small number of young privileged surgeons maintained the ancient tradition of visiting foreign universities. They took time off and travelled to surgical centers in Europe, anxious to learn the new surgical achievements, skills and techniques. But this opportunity was available only to a minority of surgeons.

**National surgical societies and conferences were established** in most European countries. Similar plans were made in the USA, Germany and France for founding of societies on an international basis because it appeared necessary

to establish contacts by gathering experienced surgeons from all over the world who could discuss worldwide surgical progress. However, the second half of the 19th century was also a period of growing self-confidence and nationalism. A number of surgeons believed that the development of surgery throughout the world should be independent of politics. They strongly believed in the French saying „la science n`a pas de patrie !“. And the idea was rejected.

The prominent American surgeon William Williams Keen reports later in his memories that in the late eighties he made a serious effort to initiate a movement for an international surgical congress. He negotiated with John S. Billings, who in 1888 was the first president of the triennial Congress of American Physicians and Surgeons, and other leading surgeons in the U.S. as well as with the European surgical authorities. Following Keen they all approved the idea, and would have materialized, but for the attitude of the British surgeons. The system of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, however, did not match this concept of an international society of surgery. Keen noted that finally he had to „abandon the scheme“.



Charles Willems 1865-1930

In contrast to all the arguments, a small group of surgeons in Belgium did not understand this decision and provided other plans. These were the doctors Antoine Depage, Jules Lorthioir, Jean Verhoogen, Arthur Gallet and among them **Charles Willems, the most active supporter of the international idea**, the not even 30 years old (!) surgeon of Gent. During the national congress of the Société Royale Belge de Chirurgie in 1899, the group has discussed and decided to inquire the practicability for founding an international surgical society until the next national congress. On September 1902, three years la-

ter, the basic requirements of the founding proposal were accepted by the members of the Belgian group. Next, a committee of surgeons was set up to whom the authority was transferred for organizing the structure of the new society, and to prepare the first international congress.



Theodor Kocher, 1841-1917

The first congress of what the committee named the „Société Internationale de Chirurgie (SIC)“ took place another three years later - 1905 - in Brussels under the congress president Theodor Kocher of Berne, Switzerland. During this congress Willems reported about the work of the committee and also referred to the names of the members of this committee. At the same time, he talked about the successful termination of the undertaking: the **foundation of the „Société Internationale de Chirurgie (SIC)“** the later named International Society of Surgery (ISS). He expressed his gratitude to the members of the committee for their executed work and he announced to whom the official functions of the SIC had been delegated. At the oration of the opening session of the congress of 1908, Willems established that the “Société” – in spite of the initial „prophesy of doom“ during the period of its founding - has accomplished painstaking and successful work and has found its place in the international world of science.

Charles Willems held the position of the SIC president until his death in 1930.

#### Charles Willems' personality and career

Willems was born 05.12.1859 in Gent (Belgium). He received his medical education at the University of his birth town Gent, graduated 1884, took the MD degree and wrote a thesis as special Doctor of surgical science. Later, having obtained the title of a Professor, he became Head of Surgery at

the University Hospital La Biloque at Gent in 1907, a position he held until 1914. In addition, during the Balkan War 1912-1913, Professor Willems served as Head of an important military hospital and ambulance at Belgrade in Serbia. In 1914, scarcely back from the Congress of the SIC in the USA, he was appointed Director of the famous Military Hospital d'Hoogstaede. Being at this place until 1918, he demonstrated his talents as organiser and in emergency treatment. Willems published all the work and experience of this period in a Manual of War Surgery of which the two editions were well received. Subsequently, he held the position of Chairman and Professor of Surgery of the University Clinic and Policlinic in Liège, Belgium, from 1918 to 1930. During the years his major professional interests concerned General Surgery, War Surgery, Health and administrative activities.

**Charles Willems received multiple honors.** Some of these were the appointment as Titular Member Royal Academy of Medicine of Belgium, Corresponding Member Academy of Medicine Paris, Commandeur de l'ordre de Léopold, Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur (France).

Being President of the Royal Belgian Society of Surgery in 1902 Willems was instrumental in founding the „Société Internationale de Chirurgie (SIC)“. He was nominated its first President, an office which he held

for 28 years; and he served, at the same time as Delegate of Belgium.

In February 8, the Secretary General Leopold Mayer of the SIC announced that Charles Willems had passed away on January 19, 1930 at Liège, Belgium, at the age of sixty four years.

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Helsinki Esplanade Park with Statue of Johan Ludvig Runeberg