



Newsletter

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

June 2017

News from the President



*Marco G. Patti,
President ISS/SIC &
Congress President
WCS 2017*

Dear Fellow Members, Colleagues and Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to attend the 47th World Congress of Surgery that will take place in Basel, Switzerland, August 13–17, 2017.

Even though the preparation for this meeting in Basel started in January of 2016, we feel that everything is in place to have a fantastic congress:

- The local organizing committee, led by Professor Pierre-Alain Clavien and Professor Nicolas Demartines, has been working very hard to guarantee a unique event from both a scientific and professional point of view. I also want to thank Mr. Bertschi, Mr. Storz, Mr. Iliopoulos and Professor Felix Harder for their work.



Hammering Man in Basel (  Basel Tourismus)

June 2017

- The WCS will take place in a state of the art congress center, conveniently located in downtown Basel, within walking distance from most hotels. Public transportation is very convenient if the hotel of your choice is further away. The city of Basel is a lovely place to visit, and is considered the cultural capital of Switzerland. In addition, because of its geographical location, it is very easy to visit Germany, France or Italy.
 - The program committee has put together a very interesting and broad scientific program. Thanks to the efforts of all the collective members and participating societies, every aspect of surgery – gastrointestinal, endocrine, trauma, metabolic, global – will be discussed by leaders in their respective fields. And for the first time in many years, the International Society of Surgery will function not only as an umbrella society, but will also have an independent scientific program – world known leaders in surgery will present their work in movie sessions that will focus on esophageal, gastric, HPB, colonic and endocrine surgery.
 - During this meeting, the ISS/SIC will focus on the future of surgery, recognizing the importance of medical students, residents and fellows. On Sunday, in collaboration with the Association for Academic Surgery, the International Society of Surgery and the World Journal of Surgery, have organized a Career Advancement Course. This is a unique opportunity for learning the A to Z of an academic career from world-renowned surgeons and editors of major surgical journals. In addition, the World Journal of Surgery, under the leadership of the Editor in Chief, Dr. John Hunter, will sponsor a writer's course that will take place at 7 am Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Finally, the ISS Foundation has sponsored young surgeons from low and middle-income countries, providing fellowships that will allow them to attend the meeting.
 - The best abstracts will compete for rewarding prizes, provided by each individual society. In addition, other abstracts will be recognized, either in podium presentations or poster sessions. The presenters will have the opportunity to submit their work to the World Journal of Surgery for publication.
- In addition to the talks given by the Presidents of the collective member societies, there will be special lectures during the meeting:
 - The ISS/Martin Allgower lecture on Monday
 - The ISS/ACS, the IAES Peter Heimann and the IASMEN José Patiño lectures on Tuesday
 - The BSI Veronesi lecture on Wednesday
 - The ISS Grey Turner lecture on Thursday

I invite you to visit the WCS 2017 web site www.wcs2017.org for further information. In addition, feel free to contact the ISS/SIC office, Mr. Storz and Mr. Iliopoulos will be glad to help.

See you in Basel,

Marco G. Patti
President ISS/SIC



“Dreiländereck” the meeting point of the French, German and Swiss borders. This is where Basel Night happens!
(©Switzerland Tourism)

News from the Secretary General



*Kenneth D. Boffard
Secretary General
ISS/SIC*

On behalf of the Society, we look forward to welcoming you to the 47th World Congress of Surgery in Basel, Switzerland. President Marco Patti has listed our strengths in his Presidential welcome.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the venue had to be moved from the planned site, at relatively short notice, to now take place in Basel. It is a huge compliment to all those concerned, and the Local Organising Committee (LOC), led by Professor Pierre-Alain Clavien and Professor Nicolas Demartines, the previous Administrative Director of ISS/SIC, Mr. Victor Bertschi as the LOC Secretary, and our previous Secretary-General Professor Felix Harder. I would like to pay trib-

ute to them. It's their home town too! Our staff in the office, Mr. Mike Iliopoulos, Mr. Chris Storz, and Ms Denise Eggler Braun have also worked tirelessly to make this Congress a success. We are expecting a very successful World Congress, and both interest and rising delegate numbers support this.

Our Professional Congress Organisers, MCI, are also working hard to make the meeting a success. We had a very difficult task, as we received about 1200 abstract submissions, 50% more than at the last meeting. That meant a huge screening effort from the Secretariat, and from our multiple peer-reviewers, but has, I think, guaranteed a particularly high standard in the free paper and poster sessions.

I would like welcome our two new Councilors-at-large, who have been appointed to the Executive Committee of the Society:

Dr. Hisham Abdullah of Malaysia
Dr. Italo Braghetto of Chile

Both bring a wealth of experience to the Committee, and will represent members in their regions as well.

The Society is made up of its members, and is its members. What makes us unique, is the mix of members from our Collective Members Societies (previously Integrated Societies), who reflect state of the art care in those disciplines, together with our many members – especially from resource challenged environments, who work across the whole field of surgery, anaesthesia, and critical care. It is this remarkable mix of professionals from a wide variety of countries, passion for the care of their patients, and resources which vary from the extraordinary, to heavily rationed, which makes us what we are. Thank you for being part of this.

I look forward to meeting you all, and welcoming you to Basel.

Ken Boffard
Secretary General ISS/SIC



On a rock on the shores of Lake Geneva is Chillon Castle. (©Switzerland Tourism)

To all members of ISS

We have agreed to assist in a survey from the University of Maryland, with a research group hoping to survey physicians from low- and middle- income countries regarding their interests in having international medical volunteers work with them. The survey is being conducted with the aim of gathering information on the needs and priorities of physicians in low- and middle- income countries in order to better align actual needs with services offered.

The ISS/SIC is supportive of the survey. We have on record, full Ethics approval from the University's IRB, and this is available if requested.

Would you be willing to take this survey? It should only take 5 minutes of your time. We will share the results with you as soon as they are available.

Closing date: End of July.

English:

<https://goo.gl/forms/5AaUsiY4BBca3VmS2>

Español:

<https://goo.gl/forms/7PkgVUwUTTnqizdi2>

Français:

<https://goo.gl/forms/LaZqVCuTmY22OPFx2>

Ken Boffard
Secretary-General ISS/SIC

World Journal of Surgery News



John G. Hunter,
Editor in Chief WJS

Since our last newsletter, several months ago, there have been three new developments from the **World Journal of Surgery** that I would like to share with you, the members of the ISS/SIC.

First, we launched a journal club via the social media site Twitter. **Hasan Alam MD FACS** from the University of Michigan, agreed to be our Twitter editor. Every three months, Dr. Alam picks one article about to go online at the World Journal of Surgery, an article that is of interest to a broad spectrum of readers. This article is posted on Twitter and over the next 24 hours a brisk dialogue has been entertained. From these encounters, the papers involved have been heavily downloaded and used both through the social media and scientific community. Join in by following the WJS on Twitter. Our address is **@worldjsurg**

Secondly, we have launched visual abstracts of popular manuscripts. This project was the brain child of **Conor Delaney**

MD FACS from the Cleveland Clinic, a colorectal surgeon. He has engaged two of his star residents **Mohammad Abbass MD** and **Hara Keshava MD** to create a single page graphically pleasing summary of four articles from the World Journal of Surgery each month. These visual abstracts are then "tweeted", one per week, to all the Twitter followers of the WJS, now close to 1600. These abstracts have been tweeted and retweeted around the globe many times and serve as an entree to our electronic face.

Lastly, after 12 years as the editor of the WJS, I have decided it's time to pass the baton. We are looking to our associate editors to find a new Editor in Chief, and will be announcing the results of our search in the not too distant future. Our associate editors, past and present, are a spectacular group of scientists, academicians, writers, and editors. Through the latter half of this year there will be a period of transition, and of the first of January, 2018 I will officially hand over the reins of the journal. The journal will be in excellent hands. Supporting our Editor in Chief, the WJS editorial office headed by **Laura Shearer** will remain in place as will our Publisher, Yvonne Chan at Springer. The leadership of the ISS/SIC has been a great owner and partner to the World Journal of Surgery, and I look forward to seeing the journal rise to new heights with the transition of leadership over the next 6 months.

Enjoy the rest of your spring; I look forward to seeing you in Basel in August. Remember to sign up for the **Writer's Workshop and the Career Development Course**, or have your trainees and junior faculty sign up. Prior attendees have recognized this experience as one of the highlights of the **World Congress of Surgery**.

Cheers! John

John G. Hunter, Editor in Chief
World Journal of Surgery



Fountain with the typical basilisk, symbol of Basel (©Wikimedia - KusiD)

News from the ISS-Foundation



*Michael G. Sarr
Secretary/Treasurer
ISS-Foundation*

Report from the ISS Foundation
(www.ISSFoundation-ISSF.org)

The President of the ISS Foundation, Dr Nopadol Wora-Urai, the President of the ISS/SIC, Dr Marco Patti, and the Board of Directors of the ISS Foundation are happy to provide this short report preceding the WCS 2017. This year, we have been able to support 13 instead of the usual 10

traveling scholarships to deserving individuals early in their career who we hope will take home many of the educational points they learn at WCS 2017 to help their colleagues in their home country. The ability to support additional travelers has been possible by generous donations to the ISSF. The mission of the ISSF is in large part to promote education of surgeons in the developing world, and we are confident that several of the sessions at WCS2017 will address this important mission.

As an aside, as the secretary/treasurer, I want to emphasize the importance of the ISS Foundation and its mission. This year we plan to support several outreach programs in surgeon education to be put

on by Breast Surgery International (BSI) a member society of the ISS/SIC. In addition, the foundation has applied for several grants to further this mission as well that I will tell you all about if/when they are funded.

I encourage all of you to visit the website www.ISSfoundation-ISSF.org to see the approach that the ISSF is taking. I encourage anyone with thoughts on this topic or ideas about fund raising or other sources of funding to contact me directly at sarr.michael@mayo.edu.

Michael G. Sarr
Secretary/Treasurer ISSF



Sunrise over Lake Lucerne, recorded from Mount Pilatus. (©Switzerland Tourism)

News from the ISS/SIC Administration

Congress information

While many contributions in this Newsletter are informing about specific activities and events that will take place at the Basel Congress in August this year, we should like to draw your attention to some practical hints for your participation in the Congress:

The entire scientific program, including the sessions of Collective Member and Participating Societies are given on-line and can be viewed under www.wcs2017.org or www.iss-sic.com.

Upon your arrival at Zürich you may use the direct train (1 hour and 20 minutes) to Basel Main station. If you arrive at Basel Airport, you may use the Euroairport bus which brings you to the main station.

The Congress will start on Sunday, August 13, 2017 with the Congress Opening by President Marco Patti.

At the Executive Committee meeting of March 17 and 18, 2017 the committee members have at the recommendation of the Nominating Committee elected 3 new Honorary Members and 3 Prize Winners from among the submitted applications. All six very distinguished and highly respected individuals will be awarded during the Opening Ceremony.

New ISS/SIC Honorary Members 2017

- **Victor Bertschi**, Lupsingen, Switzerland
- **Alberto Montori**, Rome, Italy
- **Tatsuo Yamakawa**, Tokyo, Japan



Basel at night

Prize Winners 2017

- ISS/SIC Prize Winner:
Ronald V. Maier, Seattle, WA, USA
- Robert Danis Prize Winner:
Mark Bowyer, Fairfax, VA; USA
- René Leriche Prize Winner:
Gregorio A. Sicard, St. Louis, MO, USA

During the opening of Trade Exhibition after the Opening Ceremony, all participants are invited for a reception in the Exhibition Area.

The first session on **Monday** morning at 08.00 is devoted to the presentation of all Travel Scholars, precedent to the ISS/SIC President's address and Martin Allgöwer Lecture which will start sharply at 08.30. With your participation in this early morning session, you will be demonstrating your support to these young Awardees.

On **Tuesday** at 11.00 there will be a Luncheon Session for ISS/SIC National Delegates/Representatives with members of the Executive Committee. All 13 ISS-Foundation Travel Scholars are also invited as guests. On Tuesday evening, all Collective Member Societies will hold their society dinner for which participants must register and pay in advance.

The highlight on **Thursday** morning will be the Grey Turner Lecture followed by the ISS/SIC General Assembly. The Agenda and other details will be available from Sunday afternoon at the ISS/SIC booth in the registration area.

Also with the General Assembly 2017 the term in office of the following ISS/SIC Executive Committee Members will come to an end:



*Nopadol Wora-Urai,
Chiang Rai, Thailand
Past President and
President 2013–2015*



*Marco G. Patti,
Chapel Hill, USA
President*



*Sathiya S. Pillay,
Pietersburg,
South Africa
General Treasurer*



*John G. Hunter,
Portland, USA
Editor in Chief WJS*



*Doris Henne-Bruns,
Ulm, Germany
Councilor*



*Andrew G. Hill,
Auckland,
New Zealand
Councilor*

On behalf of the entire Executive Committee we should like to convey our sincerest thanks to them in recognition of their support rendered to ISS/SIC.

President elect

Alberto Ferreres stepped down as President elect and the Nominating Committee has elected Andrew Hill from New Zealand to fill the vacant position of President elect until the meeting of the General Assembly 2017 when Andrew Hill will be proposed to the General Assembly as ISS/SIC President for the period 2017-2019.

At its meeting on March 17, 2017 the Nominating Committee has decided to propose for election the following candidates for:

President 2017–2019:

Andrew G. Hill, Auckland, New Zealand

President-elect 2017–2019:

John G. Hunter, Portland, USA

Treasurer 2017–2021:

Anders O. Bergenfelz, Lund, Sweden

Councilors at large 2017–2021:

Hisham Abdullah, Putrajaya, Malaysia

Italo Braghetto, Santiago de Chile, Chile

Furthermore, we would like to welcome Ms Laurie Lazaro in our ISS/SIC Office who will strongly support our endeavours towards the ISS/SIC.

The ISS/SIC Administrative Office Team in Zurich.



Riederalp in Valais, traffic-free-resort 1919 m above the Rhone valley. (©Switzerland Tourism)

How to access your online World Journal of Surgery WJS

The membership system **MyUserArea** grants online access to the **World Journal of Surgery** via the link: <https://esociety.netkey.at/iss/myuserarea/>. Open the link **MyJournals** and get full **access** to the following surgical journals:

- World Journal of Surgery
- Annals of Surgical Oncology
- Archives of Orthopaedic and Trauma Surgery
- International Journal of Colorectal Disease
- Journal of Gastrointestinal Surgery
- Langenbeck's Archives of Surgery
- Neurosurgical Review
- Pediatric Surgery International
- Surgery Today
- Surgical Endoscopy

In case the link MyJournals cannot be found, your membership dues 2017 might still be open. Via MyMembership the payment may be completed. For support please contact membership@iss-sic.com.



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International Society
of Surgery



"The story says that Helvetia, the identification figure of Switzerland, has left the 2 Francs coin for a longer travel. After an exhausting trip through the city of Basel she took a rest on the bank of the river Rhine." (© Fotolia)

Obituary

Tomas E. Starzl, USA (11.03.1926 – 04.03.2017)

ISS/SIC Honorary Member 2011



Tomas E. Starzl, USA

Thomas E. Starzl, whose bold vision, boundless energy and unflagging self-confidence resulted in dramatic and pioneering advances in organ transplantation and anti-rejection medicines that saved thousands of lives, died in his sleep March 4, 2017 at his home in Oakland. He was 90.

Dr. Starzl performed the world's first liver transplant in Denver in 1963 and Pittsburgh's first liver transplant in 1981. He was the surgeon who performed the world's first heart-liver transplant in 1984, and in 1987, he led the five-organ transplant operation.

During his years in Pittsburgh, Dr. Starzl achieved international renown and celebrity status for those high-profile transplants and transformed the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center into the busiest transplant center in the world.

Dr. Starzl's work on drugs to prevent organ rejection also resulted in much higher success rates for organ transplants. In 1989, Dr. Starzl and Dr. Fung developed FK506 (better known as tacrolimus), still the most widely used immunosuppressant drug in the world.

Dr. Starzl retired from clinical and surgical service in 1991, but he continued working four-hour days in the same offices he had worked in for 30 years up to the end of his life.

Dr. Starzl was the recipient of more than 200 awards and honors. In addition to the Lasker-DeBakey Award, he also was the recipient of the 2004 Presidential National Medal of Science, the nation's highest scientific honor; the David M. Hume Memorial Award from the National Kidney Foundation; the Brookdale Award in Medicine, presented by the American Medical Association Board of Trustees and the Brookdale Foundation; the Medallion for Scientific Achievement, presented by the American Surgical Association; and 26 honorary doctorates from universities around the world. He was a ISS Honorary Member.

Dr. Starzl's national and international endeavors included membership in more than 60 professional and scientific organizations. He served as president of the Transplantation Society, founding president of the American Society of Transplant Surgeons and founding president of the Transplant Recipients International Organization. In 1992, he was inducted as one of only five American members into the prestigious National French Academy of Medicine.

A sought-after speaker, Dr. Starzl gave more than 1,300 presentations at major meetings throughout the world. He was on the editorial boards of 40 professional publications and authored or co-authored more than 2,200 scientific articles, four books and 300 book chapters.

His legacy rests with all the fellows he trained. Today, about 90 percent of all the transplant centers are headed by Starzl-trained surgeons or surgeons who trained under Starzl-trained transplant surgeons.

News from IAES



Janice L. Pasieka,
Secretary/Treasurer
IAES



Dimitrios Linos,
President IAES

On behalf of President Linos and the Executive committee of the IAES, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our members. Spring (or fall) is in the air for our membership, as we lead into the months before our Surgical Congress meeting.

The IAES Program Committee has been very busy. I am grateful to the following members of our Program Committee for their time and wisdom in helping review the 281 abstracts submitted for consideration of the IAES. **Many thanks to Meei Yeung, Jean-Louis Kraimps, Thomas Musholt, Julie Ann Sosa, Euy Soh, Menno Vriens, Stan Sidhu, Martha**

Ziegler, Cia Ihre-Lundgren, Tsuneo Imai, Saba Balasubramanian, Rob Parkyn, Allan Siperstein, P.S. Venkatesh Rao. The quality and diversity of the submissions made the task of choosing the top papers for podium presentations and poster reviews very difficult. Forty abstracts were accepted for podium presentation (14% acceptance rate) and an additional 73 for posters (26%). Five of the top posters will have the addition privilege of a brief 4-minute presentation at our Rapid Poster Session held on Thursday. Congratulations to all of the successful authors. Almost half of the accepted projects were submitted by our trainees, the future of this organization. Our program, in addition to the free paper session, will also include two State of the Art Lectures by **Nancy Perrier** and **CY Lo**. In addition, there are two panel sessions planned that should be a great interest to our members. One entitled *The Milestones of the Endocrine Surgeon* and the other on *The Role and Future of the IAES*. We will also be having an "Eye-Opening" Video Session early Tuesday morning, always a popular session. Be sure to register for the meeting.

The IAES council this spring met (via conference call) to discuss potential changes in our Bylaws that will be voted on at our

business meeting this August. The proposal is to add an additional membership category, Associate, to our current categories. This new membership has been created to entice two types of surgeons not currently represented with our existing membership categories. The first is to include young members either still in training or very early in their practice. Secondly, the Associate membership will provide a mechanism for surgeons in remote areas throughout the world who are doing some endocrine surgery, yet they do not have the publications or the surgical volumes to meet Active membership due to their geographic circumstances to join the IAES. I hope many of you will support this initiative.

INTEREST continues to provide an avenue of education for surgeons in underdeveloped parts of the world. Recently a team went to Vietnam, and a second team will return this July to take part in their Breast Cancer symposium.

This year's post-graduate course will be held in Seoul, Korea in June. **Quan Duh, Barney Harrison and Woung Youn** have created an exciting and educational program to meet the needs of the Korean endocrine surgical trainee.

I do hope to see many of you in Basel this summer...

Janice Pasieka
Secretary/Treasurer IAES



BIZ, the Bank for International Settlements in Basel (© Standortmarketing Basel)

News from IATSIC



*Manjul Joshipura,
President IATSIC*

The 47th World Congress of Surgery (WCS) in Basel takes place from August 13 to 17, and the time flies!

We really hope that you will join us for this exciting event. IATSIC is offering a full four day program where the main focus is discussion on cutting edge research and knowledge in trauma and emergency surgery – controversies and unresolved issues in trauma, trends in resuscitation, visions for the future of trauma surgery, important issues in critical care, abdominal closure and reconstruction, abdominal bleeding, disaster preparedness, new technologies, and as usual challenging

case discussions! You really should not be missing this opportunity!

On Sunday August 13, we have organized a workshop for DSTC and DATC instructors. If you are involved in DSTC and/or DATC, we do hope that you will find the time to join us for this pre-congress workshop where the aim is to go through strategies on the different aspects of the DSTC and DATC courses. A detailed agenda will be available soon on the congress website.

IATSIC sponsored travel scholar program offers travel grants to young surgeons, from developing countries, who have demonstrated interest in teaching and research in trauma. The award will permit the recipient, access to the World Congress of Surgery. This year, we welcome David Karuri Maina (Kenya) and Basharat Munshi (Fiji) as our travel scholars in Basel.

As stated on the congress website, IATSIC has chosen to use the sister hotels The Krafft and The Nomad as the society hotels. IATSIC has reserved a number of rooms at each of these hotels. In order to book you need to EMAIL the hotel directly (no electronic booking system; use info@nomad.ch and info@krafftbasel.ch) and inform them that you are booking under IATSIC. Many colleagues have booked, and the rooms are filling up quickly. Please visit the websites of these hotels (www.krafftbasel.ch and www.nomad.ch) before you decide which one you want to stay at if you are interested in staying with the trauma colleagues.

Please stay in touch via <http://www.wcs2017.org> for further updates on the program, and join us in August!

I look forward to seeing you in Basel...!

Manjul Joshipura
President IATSIC

News from IASMEN



*Dileep N. Lobo,
President IASMEN*

The International Association for Surgical Metabolism and Nutrition has developed an exciting programme for the 2017 World Surgical Congress. The programme is varied and topics included include enhanced recovery after surgery, surgical nutrition, bariatric surgery, perioperative care and nutrition in burns and trauma. The J F Patiño lecture will be delivered by Professor Ian A Macdonald who is an internationally renowned nutritional and metabolic physiologist. Five young researchers will compete for the prestigious Graham Hill

Prize which is awarded to the best paper presented at the IASMEN section of the World Surgical Congress. For the first time, there will be an IASMEN Presidential Lecture. The executive committee thanks Professor Anders Thorell for the hard work he has put in to develop the programme.

Members of IASMEN have been in active collaboration with the European Society for Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism to publish two very important guidelines, one on Nutrition in Cancer Patients and the other on Clinical Nutrition in Surgery. Both guidelines are available as free downloads (Cancer – <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0261561416301819> and Surgery - <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0261561417300638>) and it is hoped that these will help inform and improve nutritional and metabolic care in these groups of patients.

IASMEN is also working in collaboration with ESPEN to provide education for the Global Surgery initiative and an agreement has been reached to deliver modules from the lifelong learning (LLL) programme of ESPEN on surgical nutrition and metabolism to the developing world. Logistics for delivery of these programmes are currently being worked out.

We look forward to a stimulating World Surgical Congress in Basel where a new executive committee will be elected.

Dileep N. Lobo
President IASMEN

News from BSI



*Cheng Har Yip,
President BSI*

World Congress of Surgery Basel 13 – 17 August 2017

BSI would like to encourage all members to register for the WCS 2017. The programme is ready and can be viewed at the WCS website www.wcs2017.org.

BSI has organised 2 concurrent workshops on 13 August 2017 – Breast cancer genetics and Oncoplastic breast surgery. These workshops should cater to the different interests of breast surgeons from around the world. This will be followed by 4 days of lectures, symposia, discussions, free papers, and posters. The Veronesi Lecture entitled “Opportunities in the local therapy of breast cancer” will be delivered by Dr Monica Morrow from Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre in USA.

BSI has accepted 87 abstracts from all over the world. This is one of the highest number of abstracts accepted by BSI. Six of the best abstracts have been shortlisted for BSI Prize, and the winner and runner-up will get USD 1'000.00 and USD 500.00 respectively. Another six have been shortlisted for the Poster Prize, also USD1'000.00 and USD 500.00 for the winner and runner-up, while six more are shortlisted for the oral presentation.

Switzerland is an expensive country and that might deter some from the low and middle income countries from attending, but do note that this year, the registration fees have been reduced to 50% for surgeons from low income countries, and for trainees under the age of 40 years old. The International Society of Surgery and BSI also tries to support deserving surgeons from resource poor countries by offering travel scholarships. For 2017, BSI has awarded 8 travel scholarships, each worth USD 1'000.00, and each travel scholar can attend one of the workshops on 13 August 2017 free of charge as well as the BSI Dinner on 15 August 2017.

I was in Basel for a site visit on 17 March 2017. The conference venue is excellent and Swissôtel le Plaza, the main conference hotel, is next door and connected on the first floor. Basel is a lovely city and the hotels give a free travel pass to its guests. Basel Hotel, which is the other hotel suggested by BSI is in the city centre, and for those who enjoy a nice walk, it is only 20 minutes away and it is surrounded by shops, restaurants and cobbled streets. There are also other hotel choices to cater for different budgets.

Basel is a truly lovely city and I hope to see you there in August. Below are snapshots taken during my visit there.

*Cheng Har Yip
President BSI*



The Conference Hotel, Swissôtel Le Plaza next to the Congress Centre.



The other BSI designated hotel, Hotel Basel, just 20 minutes walk away, with its surrounding shops and streets.



News from ISDS



*Alberto R. Ferreres,
President ISDS*

Dear Colleagues

On behalf of the International Society for Digestive Surgery and its Executive Committee, we are excited looking forward to the next 47th WCS (World Congress of Surgery), which will take place very soon in the city of Basel, Switzerland between August 13 and 17, 2017.

Basel is conveniently located where the Swiss, French and German borders, overlying the Rhine river and is Switzerland's third most populated city and has emerged as a center for the chemical and pharmaceutical industry in the last century.

The ISDS Executive Committee together with its Program Committee and the Local Organizing Committee headed by Profs. PA Clavien and N Demartines, have put together a scientific program approaching all fields of the digestive tract surgery and will congregate experts from all over the world. The scientific sessions have been organized in tracks including foregut and bariatric, HPB and colorectal surgery. Besides joint sessions with other sister societies (IATSIC and IASMEN) will add state of the art highlights to all participants. The number of accepted contributions has been very important and the presentations will highlight the activity of gastrointestinal surgeons from all over the world, one of the prime goals of our Society.

As usual two important highlights of the WCS are represented by the ISDS and the SSAT (Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract) Presidential Addresses. A very special highlight of the World Congress is constituted by the two special sessions to award the Grassi and the Kitajima Prize,

honoring Profs Giuseppe Grassi and Masaki Kitajima, respectively. Profs Alberto Montori and Hiroyuki Konno will briefly highlight the figures of both individuals, who were so influential in our Society.

The ISDS Executive Committee, together with the Local Organizing Committee are working very hard to provide an attractive and appealing social program, in order to provide opportunities for networking and interchange among gastrointestinal surgeons from worldwide.

I am looking forward to meet you in Basel during the 47th World Congress of Surgery during August 13/17, 2017. Save these dates in your schedule and visit www.wcs2017.org for additional information, regarding abstract and poster submissions as well as housing and further details.

Alberto R. Ferreres
President ISDS



Why not take a tour to the famous Matterhorn... (©Switzerland Tourism)

News from ASAP



*Stephen W. Bickler,
President ASAP*

Dear friends and colleagues,

ASAP's 8th annual meeting took place during the 17th annual College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) Annual General Meeting and Scientific Conference held in Mombasa Kenya, December 6–9, 2016.

COSECSA is an independent body that fosters postgraduate education in surgery and provides surgical training in 12 sub-Saharan countries: Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The primary objective of COSECSA is to advance education, training, standards, research & practice in surgical care in this region. Since 2004, 158 specialist surgeons have graduated from COSECSA programs in: Orthopedics; ENT; Urology; Pediatrics Surgery; Neurosurgery; Plastic Surgery; and General Surgery, with 47 additional trainees admitted to Fellowship at the Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday December 8, 2016 after successfully passing both writ-

ten and oral exams testing their clinical skills and surgical judgment.

The ASAP annual meeting was held on Thursday, December 8th. During two plenary sessions, expert speakers addressed capacity building through surgical and anesthesia training partnerships in Rwanda, Uganda, Malawi, and Kenya; provided insights into the work of Operation Smile, HRH Rwanda, CASIEF, and COST Africa; discussed opportunities and challenges in research and financing for global surgery and anesthesia; and provided a recap of the NGO Forum held on the previous day. The presentations can be viewed on the ASAP website: <https://asaptoday.org/2016-meeting-kenya/>. Holding this meeting during COSECSA's annual conference was an exciting opportunity to network and learn from local colleagues and others around the world who are committed to advancing surgical care in this region.

In the lead up to the Scientific Conference, ASAP was proud to co-sponsor a two-day "NGO Forum: Collaboration for Change" in conjunction with COSECSA and the G4 Alliance. Spearheaded by Denis Robson, formerly of Johnson and Johnson, the inaugural event brought together NGOs that provide surgical, obstetric, trauma, and anesthesia related services in Kenya and the region, with a goal of increasing awareness of the actors in this arena and fostering collaboration

around shared priorities. The agenda focused on common "solvable" challenges, enabled participants to discuss innovative solutions, and finally, initiated creation of proposals that would strengthen delivery of safe surgical care in the region. A link to the presentations can be found on the G4 Alliance website: <http://www.theg4alliance.org/our-work/2016/12/21/collaboration-for-change>. The group has already reconvened for a second meeting to discuss implementation in March 2017.

We hope to see as many of you as possible in Basel this coming summer as we are expecting an exciting meeting. ASAP will be sponsoring or co-sponsoring seven plenary sessions on some of the great progress that is occurring in global surgery and anesthesia around the world. We are pleased to be hosting presentations of abstracts and posters on current research and we're also hosting a screening of the film "The Checklist Effect." Our annual meeting will be Tuesday, August 15th, followed by a dinner with IATSIC at the lovely Schloss Bottmingen in Basel.

It's a full agenda with lots of opportunities for fellowship, learning and fun. We look forward to seeing you in Basel!

Sincerely,
Stephen Bickler
ASAP President
sbickler@ucsd.edu



Some of the participants in the Inaugural NGO Forum, Day 1, Mombasa Kenya, December 2017

Overseeing all of the proceedings was our ASAP Secretary, Milliard Derbew, the sitting President of COSECSA. As ASAP President, Steve Bickler was formally re-

cognized during both the opening and closing ceremonies of the COSECSA meeting.



2016 COSECSA Graduates with COSECSA President Milliard Derbew MD FRCS



Prof Milliard Derbew
COSECSA President & ASAP Secretary

Basel

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47th World Congress of Surgery 2017

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SAVE THE DATE

Submit your Abstract by
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