



# Newsletter

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

May 2023

## Note by the ISS/SIC President



*Cheng-Har Yip,  
President ISS/SIC &  
Congress President  
ISW 2024*

Dear Members of ISS/SIC

I would like to report on what I have been doing for the past few months since being installed as the President of ISS in Aug 2022.

First of all, the plans for the ISW, 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, is proceeding well. I do hope to see many of you at the congress. Please do check the ISS/SIC website for updates on the programme. There are no more restrictions to travel in Malaysia since August last year. It is unlikely that another pandemic will strike again.

I would like to remind members again that the main goal of the ISS/SIC is for teaching and training of surgeons across the world, particularly in low and middle income countries (LMICs). However, there are many other surgical societies, such as the Royal Colleges of Surgeons



*Batu Caves, Selangor, Malaysia.*

May 2023

in UK and Ireland, American College of Surgeons (ACS) as well as the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) that also have this goal. I attended the International Surgical Leaders Forum at the ACS Clinical Meeting in San Diego in Aug 2022, which was chaired by Dr Andrew Hill, Past President of ISS/SIC with Vice-President Dr Ari Leppäniemi. The agenda of the meeting was to discuss surgical training needs in Sub Saharan Africa, and the surgical leaders in these countries gave a presentation on what barriers they faced in surgical training in their countries. We also had a meeting with Dr Patricia Turner, the CEO of the ACS, and Dr Girma Tefera, Medical Director of the ACS Operation Giving Back, to discuss a collaborative project between ISS/SIC and ACS to map surgical training in LMICs.

As part of the ISS/SIC commitment to Global Surgery, ISS/SIC is also a member of the G4 Alliance, which is a coalition of over 70 surgical organisations worldwide with the mission to increase awareness, foster political will, shape policy and mobilise resources to make access to quality, safe, timely and affordable emergency and essential surgical, obstetric, trauma and anaesthesia (SOTA) care a global health priority and a reality for all. The G4 Alliance held a Permanent Council meeting in Dublin in Nov 2022, which I attended. There are 2 working groups which I

feel are relevant to ISS/SIC. First is the International Standard and Guidelines for Quality Safe Surgery and Anaesthesia chaired by Andrew Hill and Jaymie Henry. Some of you may have been present at the launch of the 11 Best Practice Recommendations at the ISW 2022 in Vienna. Currently this working group is carrying out a few pilot implementation projects in LMICs on some of these recommendations. We hope to hear the results in ISW 2024 in Kuala Lumpur. The other working group is the Operative Encounter Registry working group, chaired by Dr Neil Wetzig and Dr Chris Dodgion (both are ISS/SIC members). The data points for the registry have been developed, and this working group is working with the WHO to launch this registry internationally.

The future of ISS/SIC lies in the young future surgeons, and our mission is also to work with the medical surgical student societies IASSS (International Association of Student Surgical Societies) as well as the trainee surgeons, so that they will eventually become members of ISS/SIC, and take on leadership roles. It is important that these young future surgeons are given the opportunity to attend the ISW in Kuala Lumpur in 2024, and we are working with the ISS Foundation to provide travel grants for these young surgeons to attend the conference. We also have the newly formed Foundation for Global

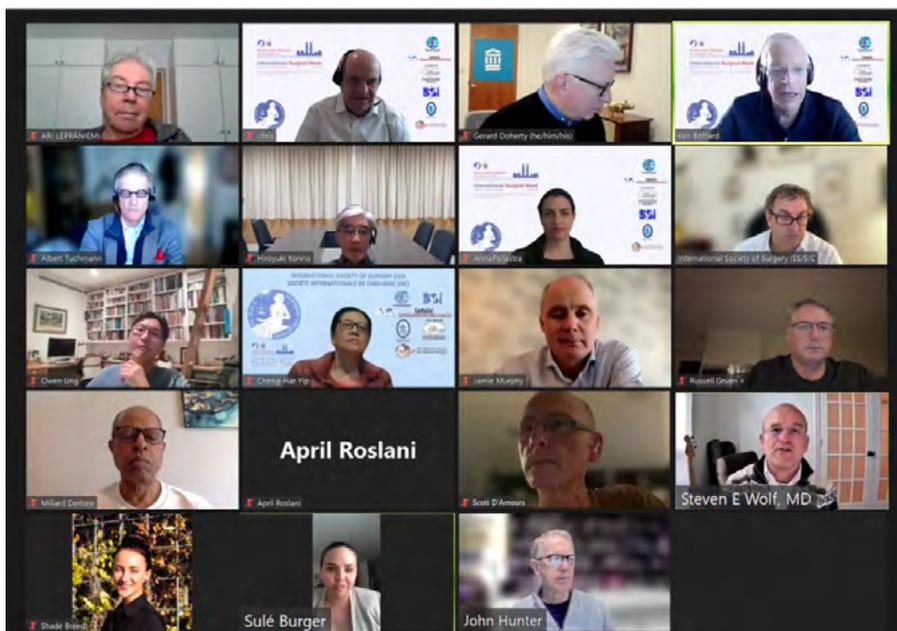
Surgical Care, which has a similar mission of providing education for surgeons in all parts of the world.

As well as the integrated societies and the participating societies, we must also acknowledge the associated societies from different parts of the world, South Africa, South East Asia, North Africa, South Asia, South America, as well as the Royal College of Surgeons of England. These societies are given the opportunity to take part in the ISW, as well as to invite ISS/SIC surgeons to deliver lectures at their national conferences.

ISS/SIC also invites applications for fellowship of ISS (FISS) from members who have been full members of ISS/SIC for at least 5 years. The information is available at this website: <http://iss-sic.com/membership/fellowship.html>

Finally, I would like to thank our council members, which include the Presidents of the 6 Integrated Societies, for their support. We recently had an online council meeting in March 2023, and with council members from all over the world, I would especially like to thank our Australian members who were up at 2 am for the council meeting.

Cheng-Har Yip  
President ISS/SIC &  
Congress President ISW 2024



ISS/SIC Council Meeting March 2023

## Report Secretary-General



*Kenneth D. Boffard,  
Secretary-General  
ISS/SIC*

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter of your Society. As you will see from the extensive reports below, we have been very active together with the new committees, since our meeting in Vienna. My thanks again to

the organisers and not only does it show the value of face-to-face meetings but was a great reintroduction to the society, which we hope to continue with one of our best meetings ever in Kuala Lumpur. For those of you who have not yet renewed your membership of the society, now is a great opportunity and you can do it entirely online. We have kept the fees unchanged. I'm delighted to say that our membership is creeping upwards and we believe that we are in a position to offer something to all our members; industrialised countries as well as those with limited

resources. We are always open to new ideas and please feel free to write to us, either through your Integrated Society or to me directly with any suggestions as to how the service and representation we give to you the members can be further improved. Without you, we would not be your Society.

To our Northern Hemisphere members, we wish a fruitful and relaxing summer.

Kenneth D. Boffard  
Secretary-General ISS/SIC

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## The Foundation for Global Surgical Care (FGSC)



*Peter Vogelbach,  
President FGSC*

In the beginning of this year we started an attempt to work together with the USA-based ISS Foundation under Michael Sarr, since we are somehow also following the same goals; i.e. bringing education to low and middle income countries.

As soon as we have applications to one of our foundations, we will sit and talk together how we can support and help in the most appropriate way.

Further plans will be discussed on upcoming council meetings.

The FGSC is in the process for helping to organize a 1-day hands-on course in GI-surgical techniques, at the beginning of the ISW in KL in August 2024. Also, here details are to be announced by September of this year.

Peter Vogelbach  
President FGSC



*Kuala Lumpur Skyline*



## Report ISS Foundation



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

Dear members of the ISS/SIC

I happily submit this short report of the ISS Foundation which is now working closely with the European ISS/SIC Foundation hopefully to further our joint mission of educating surgeons from the developing world.

### **The Board of Directors of the ISSF has made some changes hopefully to induce more educational opportunities for surgeons of the developing world.**

1. Dr Rob Parkyn has (unfortunately) retired and has been replaced by Dr Inne Borel Rinkes of the IAES who is intimately involved in overseeing and organizing the IAES in-country educational activities in the future. i.e. the INTEREST Programme.
2. Dr Julie Ann Sosa has stepped down, because she feels that her contribution to the board will not be productive; we are sorry to lose her.
3. I have approached BSI and our sister society has appointed Dr Ipshta Prakash to serve on the Board of Directors. We look forward to her insightful suggestions.

4. Similarly, IATSIC has appointed Dr Tarek Razek as their representative for the Board. Dr Razek will help to organize the IATSIC activities and has considerable experience in this field. Again we look very much forward to his thoughts and participation in continuing the outreach educational programmes of IATSIC

### **Other notable updates**

The IAES has used very successfully the \$20,000 grant they were awarded from the ISSF in 2019 just before the COVID pandemic. There is a report of the very productive use of these funds (anyone interested please ask me) and fully supports the mission of the ISSF to help to educate surgeons in the developing world.

The membership of the ISS/SIC should remember that the ISSF contributed \$60,000 to support/offset the financial burden of ISS/SIC membership in the underdeveloped countries during the COVID years; thus there is active ongoing interest in helping to further medical education in the developing world

### **Plans for 2024**

1. We are fully expecting to continue to offer the Travel scholars programme for the 2024 Kuala Lumpur meeting of the ISS/SIC. The ISSF is hopefully expecting the ISS/SIC to continue to support this programme with the usual financial input to the ISSF to finance this programme. Also, we hope that IATSIC, ASAP, and ISDS will also fund one or more travelers for the 2024 Kuala Lumpur meeting. Announcements of these travel grants and

how to apply and who is a candidate for these scholarships will go out this early fall. Remember the candidates must be <40 years old and have an active surgical and/or anesthesia career with some defined interest in education.

2. The ISSF is actively looking for opportunities to provide educational expertise for hands-on training programmes in the developing world and I encourage anyone with interest in organizing such a programme in their home country to contact me directly. To organize one of these programmes, it is the expectation that the home country will provide the site, needed surgical technology, and cover all the organization for attendees. The ISSF will review any such plans, and if possible, send the appropriate educators to the country where the programme is to be held. The ISSF will cover the costs of flying the educators to the country, but we expect that the home country will make it worthwhile and guarantee more than 20 participants.

3. The President of the ISSF (Dr John Hunter, our past president of the ISS/SIC) and the Secretary/Treasurer are discussing potential ways to raise more money for the ISSF, again to further our mission of educating surgeons in the developing world with in-country educational, hands-on seminars, training sessions, etc. This work will go hand in hand in with the European ISS Foundation.

Michael Sarr  
Secretary/Treasurer of the ISSF

## Report Editor in Chief WJS



*Julie Ann Sosa,  
Editor in Chief WJS*

Hello and happy spring to members of the International Surgical Society and readers and authors of the World Journal of Surgery (WJS)! The WJS editorial leadership has been busy over the last year, managing 1,849 total submissions to the journal in 2022, of which 1,247 were original articles. We continue to be selective, with an overall acceptance rate of 22.7%. And

we are committed to providing efficient peer review to our authors; the average time to first decision at the journal is just 31 days. Thanks to the hard work of our editorial office and managing editor (Laura Shearer), our authors and their impactful science, we have seen our WJS article downloads accelerate in number: over the last two years, they have increased



*Dr Alison Baskin,  
San Francisco,  
CA, USA  
Visual Abstract  
Editor*



*Dr Cameron  
Kneib, Seattle,  
WA, USA  
Visual Abstract  
Editor*



*Dr Linwah Yip,  
Pittsburgh,  
PA, USA  
Associate Editor,  
Endocrine Surgery*



*Prof Dileep Lobo,  
Nottingham,  
England  
Associate Editor,  
HPB Surgery*

since 2018. We added an Instagram platform in 2022 and introduced more color (orange!) to our visual abstracts. The visual abstract below generated 24K impressions in less than a month – which almost certainly improved the impact of the article it summarizes. Thanks to our social media team!

We are committed to bringing energy, passion, and creativity to the WJS, and we are excited to see new faces from around the world join our leadership team. This winter, we welcomed Dr Linwah Yip of Pittsburgh, PA, in the United States to serve as our associate editor for endocrine surgery, representing the International Association of Endocrine Surgeons; she replaces Dr Janice Pasioka of Canada. Welcome Dr Yip, and thank you for your service, Dr Pasioka! And Professor Dileep Lobo of Nottingham, England, has become our associate editor for hepatobiliary surgery, replacing Dr Michelle de Oliveira of Switzerland. Welcome Prof. Lobo and thank you, Dr de Oliveira!

ophagus, hernia and GI surgery; and Dr Thomas Weiser of the United States for critical care and trauma surgery. And we are thankful for the faithful service over the years of Prof Markus Buechler, Dr Miguel Herrera, Dr Martin Hubner, Dr Ava Kwong, Dr Rifat Latifi, Dr Barbra Miller, Prof John Reynolds, Dr Dasgupta Sanyandev, Prof Menno Vriens, Dr Heather Yeo, all of whom will be rotating off.

by 11.6% per year, and we have doubled the number of downloads over the last seven years. In 2022 alone, there were nearly 1.2 million WJS article downloads. This is a telling measure of overall journal impact. It is also important to note that nearly 22% of our publications are Open Access, which is significantly higher than most other mature journals (about 8-10%).

We have continued to increase and improve our social media presence to promote the science (and the scientists!) published in the WJS. Last year, we welcomed two new visual abstract editors, Dr Alison Baskin of San Francisco, CA and Dr Cameron Kneib of Seattle, WA, both from the United States.

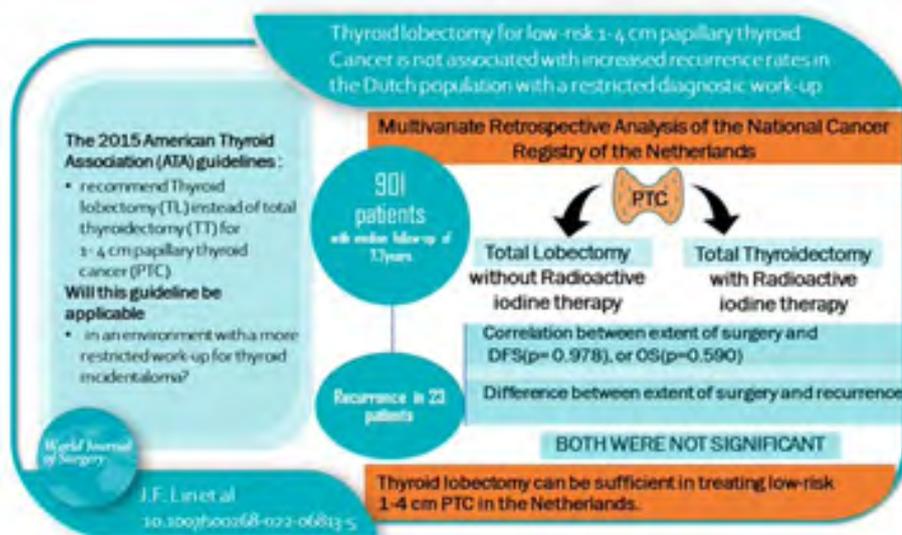
We added 2,000 new Twitter followers in 2022, and there have been more than 4.6 million interactions with WJS content

To our editorial board, we are excited to welcome new members Dr Erin Andrade of the United States for critical care and trauma surgery; Mr Ethem Gecim of Turkey for colorectal and GI surgery; Dr Kiyoshi Hasegawa of Japan for HPB and surgical oncology; Dr David Hughes of the United States for endocrine surgery; Dr Shirang Kulkarni of Italy for HPB, colorectal, esophagus, GI and bariatric surgery; Dr Yoshihiro Nabeya of Japan for esophagus, stomach and GI surgery; Prof. Edoardo Virgilio of Italy for HPB, colorectal, es-

We happily satisfied criteria set by our publisher to allow the ISS/SIC to receive an incentive bonus and also promote many of the journalistic innovations we have developed over the last several years. In 2022, we published 11 We Asked the Experts manuscripts, 60 invited commentaries and editorials, and eight inspirational Women/leaders in Surgery biographies, as well as two sets of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) guidelines and 10 symposia articles. We remain committed to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), and our DEI ombuds' review of all accepted submissions led to 13 manuscripts being returned to authors so they could address opportunities for improvement in this dimension.

It is an honor to serve as Editor in Chief of the WJS; I am thankful for the privilege of serving the ISS, our authors and our readers from around the world!

Julie Ann Sosa  
Editor in Chief WJS



# Report Administrative Office



ISS/SIC Administrative Office team: Mike, Laurie, Chris, Anna

## Scam e-mails

Increasingly, members of ISS/SIC and of Integrated Societies are contacted by scammers pretending to be officer of the society and being in need of help – their fictitious story often sounds quite credible. The sender's e-mail address might even show the one of the corresponding officer, however, responses will be deviated to the scammer's real address. Be aware that our officers will not ask you for any financial help and do never react on such scam mails. Unfortunately, there is not much we can do to avoid such assaults which do also occur in other organizations. Be always prudent with suspicious mails and never click any link (phishing) if you are not sure of the origin.

With our best wishes.  
Administrative Office team

Visit us on: [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Dear Member and Reader

The arrangements for the next International Surgical Week ISW 2024 in Kuala Lumpur are advancing nicely and some more pertinent information will be published soon ([www.isw2024.org](http://www.isw2024.org)). The abstract center will open in August 2023 and we hope that you can animate your peers to prepare their submission, deadline is set to January 17, 2024. Make sure that you have marked the congress dates, 25-29 August 2024, in your planning diary.

## Membership dues payments

Have you covered your annual membership dues? If you are not sure if already settled, please log in to your membership account at <https://www.issmembership.org/Login> to find out. Due to our regulations we are forced to suspend membership of members in arrears with their dues. We hope this is the last thing you wish to happen. In case of any difficulties or questions regarding your dues please contact our office at [surgery@iss-sic.com](mailto:surgery@iss-sic.com). Your General Treasurer will be happy for your reaction in this regard.

# Message from LOC ISW 2024



Hisham Abdullah,  
President LOC ISW  
2024



Hanafiah Harunarsahid,  
Secretary LOC  
ISW 2024



Plenary Hall at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

## International Surgical Week 2024, 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

We, in Malaysia, are looking forward to welcoming all the esteemed faculty,

guests and delegates to the International Surgical Week on 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

The local organizing committee (LOC) has been hard at work and has been working with the international commit-

tee and the ISS/SIC secretariat on the preparations and arrangements for the event. The LOC has reached out to the biomedical industry partners to come to join us for the conference and started promoting the conference regionally and internationally.

The Local Organizing Committee also has a local liaison person on each of the integrated societies committees participating in International Surgical Week. These representatives have provided assistance to the programme coordinators from the various integrated societies for both the scientific and social programmes.

- International Association of Endocrine Surgeons (IAES) – Dr Imi Sairi B Hadi
- Breast Surgery International (BSI) – Dr Ng Char Hong
- International Association for Trauma Surgery & Intensive Care (IATSIC) – Dr Rizal Alwi
- International Association for Surgical Metabolism & Nutrition (IASMEN) – Dr Siow Sze Li
- International Society for Digestive Surgery (ISDS) – Professor April Camilla Roslani
- Alliance for Surgery & Anaesthesia Presence (ASAP) – Dr Fitzgerald Henry
- International Association of Student Surgical Societies (IASSS) – Mr Yuki Julius Ng

Besides assisting in the scientific programme, the LOC is also looking into the social activities. Malaysia has a lot to offer with its multi-cultural contrast and diversity. There will be ample opportunities and time for delegates to network with their colleagues at the conference venue and at social outings.



*Plenary Hall at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre*

Be sure to make your arrangements early to benefit from early bird rates for travel, accommodation, etc.

The congress venue is the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Malaysia's premier award-winning venue located in the heart of the country's capital city. It is part of the integrated Kuala Lumpur City Centre (KLCC) precinct and lies beneath the iconic twin towers. The centre is ideal for large, high-profile congregations to intimate private functions. With great accessibility, the five-level purpose-built facility encompasses a total of 33,659 sqm, featuring a wide range of customisable multi-

purpose function space including, two auditoria; a Grand Ballroom, Banquet Hall, three Conference Halls, eight Exhibition Halls and 23 meeting rooms. The Centre also has supporting facilities such as Hospitality Suites, VVIP Lounges, F&B Outlets and a Medical Room.

The Congress receives major support from the Ministry of Health of Malaysia and the Malaysian Convention and Exhibition Bureau.

Hanafiah Harunarashid,  
Secretary LOC ISW 2024

## Report IAES



*Jan Zedenius,  
President IAES*



*Stan Sidhu,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
IAES*

It is with pleasure that we present our report for recent activities in IAES following our successful Vienna 2022 meeting. Important developments in our Association include:

### INTEREST PROGRAMME

The leadership for the INTEREST programme (International Endocrine Surgery Training) switched from Rob Parkyn to Inne Borel-Rinkes of the Netherlands.

Shortly after the IAES meeting in Vienna, the first Malawi Surgical Oncology Summer school was held in Blantyre, Malawi (22–26 August 2022). This summer school



was organized by Dutch and Malawian colleagues acting together in designing the programme and presenting topics either pre-recorded or live with robust discussions. Attendance was both on-site (>50 persons) and online and involved residents, specialists, nurses and tropical doctors. The programme spanned a wide range of surgical oncology topics, and included half a day on ENT and thyroid tumors, with lectures and case presentations by our IAES-colleague Prof Schelto Kruijff

from Groningen and Dr Wakisa from Malawi. It was agreed to continue this joint educational initiative and the 2023 edition is foreseen to be held in October.

Next, Inne Borel-Rinkes had the honor to co-organize, and present at, the first Surgical Symposium on Endocrine, Breast and Oncoplastic Surgery in Nairobi, Kenya, which was held at M.P. Shah Hospital on November 5, 2022 under the auspices of the Surgical Society of Kenya. The entire morning session was spent on thyroid, and parathyroid tumors as well as on pancreatic neuro-endocrine tumors. The programme had been designed jointly between Dutch and Kenyan colleagues and presentations were predominantly given by Kenyan specialists from various Nairobi and regional institutions, including the Academic Hospital of the Aga Khan University. Some 50 participants, including both medical specialists (mostly general and ENT-surgeons) and residents, attended the conference, while several more registered online to follow the presentations and participate in the discussions. Again, the activity was judged to be of high quality and will definitely be repeated in 2023.

The plans for 2023 are as follows:

- Malawi Summerschool on Surgical Oncology (October). The programme on endocrine tumors might be expanded to half a day
- Surgery Symposium Nairobi (November) – if Endocrine Surgery is again chosen as a main topic
- Extended visit to the Endocrine unit of Bugando MC, Mwanza Tanzania. This visit is not only for talks and meetings but to also explore setting up an exchange programme for fellows/younger surgeon. Tips and tricks “on the job” may be included.
- Nepal: First National workshop on the Thyroid organized by the Nepalese Association of Thyroid, Laryngology & Allied Professionals. A three day programme has been proposed, covering a variety of endocrine surgery topics with emphasis on surgical technique. We propose the INTEREST team to consist of Prof Agarwal, a younger faculty member from Lucknow, and Inne Borel-Rinkes. The course is foreseen for March 31- April 2, 2023.
- Inne Borel-Rinkes has been invited to take part in a seminar for the surgical trainees in endocrine and breast sur-

gery in Malaysia, to be held in Sabah in May. A one day programme on Endocrine Surgery is anticipated.

### ISW August 2024

The Scientific committee of IAES has set together a provisional programme for the KL meeting. The core of the meeting will as always consist of oral and poster abstracts from members selected from around the world. Two State of the Art Lectures will be held: "Anaesthetic alternatives for neck surgery" by Hisham Abdullah, Malaysia, and "Endocrine surgery in the elderly" by Martha Zeiger, USA. The Presidential address is titled "The Nobel prize and its surgeons" and lecturer is Jan Zedenius. The Peter Heimann Lecture will be "Endocrine pathology for surgeons" by Christofer Juhlin, Sweden.

In addition, we will have an "Interesting case session", and a Basic Science session. Three symposia will be held: "Surgical leadership", "Targeted therapies for thyroid cancer", and "Update on adjunct technologies in thyroid and parathyroid surgery". A novelty for us will be the combined session with ISDS on "Mouth to Anus Neuroendocrine Tumours". We do believe all these interesting subjects will attract many attendees!

We look very much forward to the meeting 2024, and we will work hard together with the local arrangements committee under the leadership of Dr Imi Sairi Ab Hadi to fulfil the high expectations we know that our members will have on this event.

Time has been set aside for our International members to experience the sights, sounds and tastes of wonderful Malaysia and we look forward to welcoming all our local and international friends.

Best Wishes from

Jan Zedenius, President IAES  
Stan Sidhu, Secretary/Treasurer IAES

*Tasty Malaysian  
food – Nasi Lemak*





Scott D'Amours,  
President IATSIC

## Report on the activities of IATSIC November 2022 – April 2023

I would like to extend a warm greeting to all IATSIC members around the world. Much of the educational activity of IATSIC continues and in this short newsletter update, your executive committee would like to update you on current activities of the organisation.

### DSTC and DATC training course activities

- Course numbers and activity have rebounded and we are nearly back at pre-COVID levels. Face-to-face course activity has happily returned along with the attendance of international faculty to all courses.
- Dr Tarek Razek is continuing to liaise with course and programme directors to assist in their return to normal operations. We are very grateful to the hard work of the DSTC programmes around the world in their efforts to get courses going again, and in many cases, for continuing to hold courses during some very trying times.

### NTMC (National Trauma Management Course)

- This flagship IATSIC course was developed years ago to address the need for a large capacity advanced trauma care course without expensive overhead costs. It has been especially successful in India and Sri Lanka to date.
- Under the leadership of Dr Ranjith Ellawala and Dr Tim Hardcastle, IATSIC is looking at updating some of the teaching materials and also at collaborative efforts with other similar international courses to ensure longevity and that

the needs of those utilising this course are heard and met.

### Webinars

- Our ongoing series of informative webinars continues with international collaboration from our partner societies around the world. These webinars are second monthly with the next one planned for June 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 in conjunction with the Australia and New Zealand Association for the Surgery of Trauma (ANZAST). Stay up to date with these planned webinars through the IATSIC website at: <https://www.iatsic.org/Webinars/>
- We are delighted with how popular this series has been and look forward to future collaborative efforts.

### Global commitments

#### WHO Collaboration

- The ongoing IATSIC-WHO collaboration and planned advanced operative trauma management course continues to power forward. Dr Tina Gaarder is the IATSIC lead in this effort in liaison with the WHO and the assistance of Dr Tim Hardcastle.

- The educational content provided by IATSIC members is complete. This will now be adapted into course design templates which will take some effort. The timing of course pilots is being determined and will be confirmed by the time of our next newsletter later this year.
- A recent bulletin of the World Health Organisation was published highlighting a new mandate of the WHO Assembly nations toward better coordinated emergency, critical and operative care services as an integral part of comprehensive primary care (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10042088/?report=classic>). This important step highlights the need for coordinated care of injured trauma patients and their needs and imbeds this need at the most fundamental levels of system planning.

### 50<sup>th</sup> International Surgical Week (ISW) 2024 – Kuala Lumpur conference preparation:

- August 25–29, 2024 are the planned dates for our next Congress. We are excited at the prospect of holding ISW in Malaysia. SAVE THESE DATES in



The impressive Petronas Twin Towers, Kuala Lumpur

your calendar as the next year will fly by and we hope to see many of you there again.

- The IATSIC programme is at an advanced stage of planning and IATSIC Programme Chair Dr Tina Gaarder has planned fantastic sessions, many in conjunction with other integrated societies of the ISS/SIC. We are especially delighted to be including our younger colleagues through the International Association of Student Surgical Soci-

eties (IASSS) and are excited to have this group included and represented in the IATSIC Executive Committee meetings.

#### **Social Media and IATSIC:**

- Stay in touch and updated on what is happening with IATSIC on your social media feeds.
- IATSIC has recently added LinkedIn and Instagram to our Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Best wishes from the IATSIC executive committee.

Scott D'Amours, President  
David Zonies, President Elect  
Elmin Steyn, Past President  
Tim Hardcastle, Secretary/Treasurer  
Tina Gaarder, Congress Programme Chair  
Shadé Breedt, IASSS Representative

## Report IASMEN



*Steven E. Wolf,  
President, IASMEN*



Dear IASMEN Members,

As the world continues to emerge from the strife and fallout from the COVID epidemic and the response, our work in surgery carries on. IASMEN and the ISS/SIC will be meeting again in 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, and we look forward to a great programme in Malaysia which will again focus on issues related to Early Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) and inpatient and outpatient metabolism and nutrition related to our profession. Dr Joji Kotani is assembling a great programme in collaboration with our partners the International Society of Digestive Diseases (ISDS), the International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care (IATSIC), the Federación Latinoamericana de Cirugía (FELAC), and the International Society for Burn Injury (ISBI). The ISS/SIC Council met in March 2023 to discuss the upcoming programme and events in KL, which looks to be another great meeting. Please visit the ISW 2024 website for more details to come (<https://isw2024.org>).

Our last meeting in Vienna was held 15–18 August 2022, which according to reports was a great success. About 900 surgeons attended from around the world with 103

scientific sessions presented. We received many appreciative comments, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who contributed by presentations, comments, discussions and attendance at the meeting. IASMEN had one session on various aspects of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) including the emerging concept of pre-habilitation, a session on nutritional aspects of patients in the ICU, and another session was focused on the impact of metabolic and nutritional issues on the outcome after various types of surgery. These were all well received, and we look forward to future meetings where we can present new and interesting data.

For the meeting in Kuala Lumpur, we are only now assembling the programme which will include topics on new innovations in ERAS, developing efficiencies in adoption and performance of ERAS protocols throughout all surgical service lines. It appears that the concepts are remarkably similar for all operative procedures and should be implemented universally it seems. Other topics being considered are the 'best' measurements to be used for nutritional provision and what is the best nutri-

tional substrate for peri-operative patients. We will also again host a State-of-the-Art session, a general session, the Patiño Lecture, Poster Presentations, the Presidential Address, and the Business Meeting. A Free Papers session will be held for which we are looking for excellent abstract presentations to enliven the programme.

IASMEN also have an active social media programme led by Naomi Nakayama on Facebook and Twitter with hundreds of followers. Please consider searching for these and participating!

In order to further attract new colleagues for membership in IASMEN with a focus on emerging investigators and clinicians, our Scientific Chair, Joji Kotani, has actively approached several of the PEN-societies in Asia in order to find ways to increase our number of members for future collaboration. We have similar plans for our European and American colleagues.

Best wishes!

Steven E. Wolf  
President IASMEN



*Sooo delicious – the tropical fruits*

# Report BSI



Owen A. Ung,  
President BSI



Sharon W.W. Chan,  
Honorary Secretary  
BSI

With the world now emerging from COVID, BSI continue to uphold our mission to advance the science and art of breast surgery worldwide. This mission is accomplished by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and by promoting education, research, and the development of advanced surgical techniques. In addition, we will evolve and grow with the world's evolution on digital transformation, and to provide more educational and exchange opportunities for surgeons with an interest in breast disease.

## IBREASTBOOK and BREAST SURGERY INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

28 January 2023

BSI collaborated with iBreastBook and held a free webinar feature on “High Risk and B3 lesion” in January 2023. There were over 700 participants from more than 100 countries all over the world joined the meeting. BSI president Owen Ung and iBreastBook Yazan Masannat co-chaired the one and a half hour meeting. Eminent faculty Nisha Sharma UK, Abeer Shabaan UK, Kavitha Daster Switzerland and Giuseppe Catanuto Italy shared updated

knowledge with topics including “Imaging and Diagnosis”, “Pathology”, “Surgery” and “Communicating B3”. BSI Kerstin Sandelin, Omar Youssef and Sharon Chan participated as panelist and discussed the management of High Risk lesions thoroughly. There were active questions and comments from the audience with fruitful exchange. The YouTube link is still available on iBreastBook YouTube channel, and there are another 1.1k viewers accessed the webinar.

<https://www.ibreastbook.com/breast-surgery-webinars>

## IBREASTBOOK and BREAST SURGERY INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

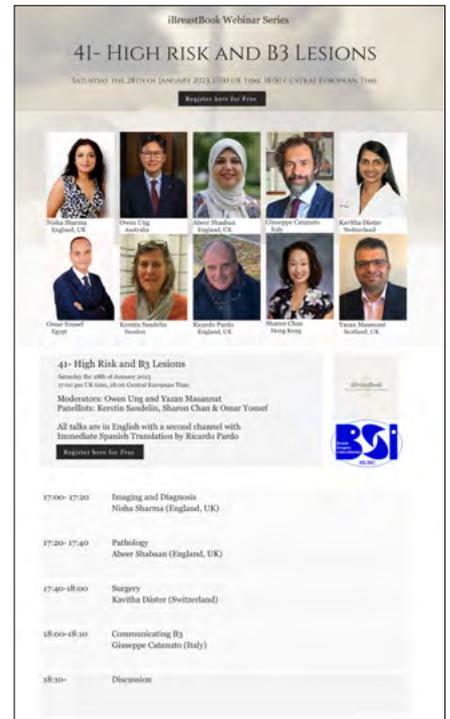
7 January 2023

Our President, Owen Ung, flying the flag for BSI, attended iBreastBook Webinar Series 40, themed ‘What's new in Breast Surgery’. Controversial topics such as Omitting surgery in excellent responders were covered, Magtotal – MAGnetic markers to detect primary lesion and sentinel node in breast cancer, currently in phase 3 trials. Owen addressed the topic of 3D Printed Scaffolds for Reconstruction, only just entering phase 1 trials, but generating much interest in the breast community.

## EXCELLENCE IN ONCOLOGY CARE CONGRESS (EIOC) IN DUBAI

21–23 October 2022

BSI supported EIOC – in person virtual hybrid meeting in Dubai, UAE. The 3-day hybrid meeting included a rich agenda of programme, covering the latest and most pressing advancements in breast cancer care. Recent updates from world congresses, such as ESMO and ASCO, were highlighted during EIOC. Unlimited virtual pass was made available to all BSI members in order to achieve maximum value in enhancing breast cancer care.



iBreastBook & BSI webinar “High Risk and B3 lesion”

## ONCOPLASTY SURVEY – GLOBAL BREAST HUB

BSI is working closely with Global Breast Hub – a virtual breast platform of global breast learning and training. Some of our BSI surgeons participate with the Oncoplastic Working group in meetings during 2022/2023. The developed a survey intended to obtain information from breast surgeons about oncoplastic practice around the world. It is hoped the research can help promote and advance safe and effective oncoplastic breast surgery around the globe.

## ISS FOUNDATION BOARD

BSI executive nominated Ipshita Prakash to join the ISS Foundation Board as the BSI representative. BSI has been active in providing outreach education programme to low middle income countries. The primary goal of ISS Foundation is to help to educate surgeons in the developing world on new techniques and state-of-the-art ideas and care. With representative in ISS Foundation, it will definitely help guide our BSI outreach endeavours in training and education.

## FUTURE EVENTS

### BREAST SURGERY INTERNATIONAL at INTERNATIONAL SURGICAL WEEK

25–29 August 2024 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

BSI President Owen Ung called the first council meeting and engaged every council member to develop an exciting programme for the ISW 2024. Our programme director Dr Faidr Meybodi with assistance from Nur Aishah and other committee members has planned an extraordinary programme which feature experts both locally and from all around the world, who will focus on the latest science, surgical innovations, and practice-changing information for breast surgeons. This year, 3 pre-congress workshops are planned “Ultrasound”, “Advanced Oncoplastic and Reconstructive Breast surgery”, and the new “Intraoperative Radiotherapy” workshop. The scientific programme will address several important topics including the axilla, neoadjuvant therapy, breast conservation and radiotherapy, locally advanced breast cancer and metastatic disease. We will also review global health and discuss innovations in breast disease management.



BSI Council Meeting, 8 Oct 2022

Free paper sessions will be open for submission. Please mark your diary for this not to be missed meeting!

### HONG KONG SOCIETY of BREAST SURGEONS ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC MEETING HKSBS

17 Sept 2023

HKSBS Annual Scientific Meeting will be held on 17 Sept 2023. BSI President Owen Ung has kindly accepted invitation to deliv-

er the keynote lecture. The meeting will be open for free for all BSI members.

Owen A. Ung  
President BSI

Sharon W.W. Chan  
Honorary Secretary BSI

## Report ISDS



Jamie Murphy,  
President ISDS

It is with great pleasure I write as the President of the International Society of Digestive Surgery (ISDS) having taken over the mantle from Professor Alessandro Fichera during International Surgical Week (ISW) in Vienna last year. Those of us who were able to attend ISW were able to enjoy an outstanding scientific programme which was organised in record time. The fact the conference took place in little over 8 months after ISS/SIC Council decided to proceed with the meeting is a testament to all those involved. In addition, it was a wonderful opportunity for colleagues from around the world to finally meet again face to face after years of COVID pandemic restrictions. However, it is important to acknowledge that proceeding with the meeting has not been without its problems. In particular the lack of commercial sponsorship caused by ISW occurring so close to the Austrian Surgical Congress poses a challenge for the finances of both the

ISS/SIC and all the integrated societies going forward. Therefore, the success of the meeting next year is critical.

With that in mind I am delighted to inform you that the plans for ISW 2024 in Kuala Lumpur are now well underway. Following feedback from the ISDS membership at large we have changed the format of our scientific sessions for next year. We are organising themed ‘pan-gastrointestinal’ sessions rather than our traditional benign or malignant sub speciality gastrointestinal sessions. Our preliminary plans include exciting sessions covering gastrointestinal surgical oncology, emerging role of immunotherapy in GI cancers, non-operative complex postoperative complication management, ‘state of the art’ management of benign diseases, bariatrics and hernia management, ‘top papers’ of 2023/2024, and debate sessions. I am also excited to announce that we will

have a dedicated session focussed on gastrointestinal surgery in lower / middle income countries. Furthermore, we are organising a number of other cross over joint sessions with the other ISS/SIC integrated societies and the Federation Latinoamericana de Cirugia (FELAC) which I am certain will be extremely stimulating with lively discussions.

**I am also thrilled to announce the annual ISDS / SSAT joint breakfast meeting at Digestive Diseases Week (DDW) has taken place in Chicago at 08:00-09.30 on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The symposium covers the endoscopic management of gastrointestinal complications with presentations from a truly outstanding panel.**

Finally, the ISDS Council appreciates that we need to move with the times and as such we now have a presence on social media! For those of you who are yet to follow the society we are on twitter with the handle @IntSocDigSurg and you can find us on LinkedIn by searching for Int-SocDigSurg. To improve our social media presence, we have established a Social



*Performance by a traditional Gamelan orchestra*

Media Officer role that will be filled by an enthusiastic student doctor nominated by IASSS with additional support from the ISS/SIC office. This also fits well with our wider plans to forge stronger links with the IASSS. It is clear from drive and determination of the IASSS members that these young people are the surgical leaders of

the future who with the support of the ISDS will drive forward digestive surgery in the years to come.

Sincerely

Jamie Murphy  
President ISDS

## Report ASAP



*Russell L. Gruen,  
Past-President  
ASAP*



*Milliard Derbew,  
President ASAP*



*Elizabeth Drum,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
ASAP*

### **Alliance for Surgery and Anesthesia Presence (ASAP) Report 17<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

ASAP is the ISS/SIC's youngest integrated society, and also the only international organisation that specifically represents Global Surgery throughout the life-course, spanning students, trainees, consultants, and emeritus professors.

#### **The Global Surgery Landscape**

While the global need for access to safe affordable surgical care when needed continues to be pressing, the global surgery landscape has changed through the pandemic. The fragility of health systems, including hospital care, in many countries has been exposed by overwhelming clinical demand, inadequate supply chains, lack of preparation, ineffective leadership, and loss of workforce. Surgical care has been directly and indirectly affected, and the harmful consequences are well under-



stood. In a significant development that signals integration of surgical care into the global public health arena more than ever before, The World Health Assembly will in May 2023 consider a Resolution on Emergency, Critical and Operative (ECO) Care that identifies these interdependent and essential services as vital elements of all health systems. Passage of this resolution is a credit to all those who have worked on bringing attention to and advancing global surgery, and in which ASAP has played a significant role over the past decade.

#### **ISW 2022, Vienna**

We congratulate the organisers of the ISW in Vienna on an outstanding meeting. The

ASAP programme was interesting and brought in a number of new presenters and participants from around the world, with stronger representation from Africa than in previous years. We particularly valued shared sessions with IATSIC, IASSS and AWS. Attendance was moderate and, as is so often the case, stronger earlier in the week. We noted this for future event programming.

### **ASAP Council & Executive**

A quorum was not present at the Vienna meeting, so an informal meeting of ASAP members was held to discuss the future directions of ASAP, the recruitment of new executive members, and how to attract future members. The ASAP President met with the executive committees of IATSIC and IASSS to ensure continued cross-links between societies. Agreement was made with the IATSIC Executive to seek collaboration opportunities and explore ways in which partnership between ASAP and IATSIC can be enhanced.

The ASAP Executive has been in a transitional phase since the Vienna meeting. President-elect Professor Milliard Derbew has assumed the presidency, which will be formally ratified in an ASAP Council meeting by mid-year as per the ASAP Constitution. He is supported by Past-President Russell Gruen, Secretary-Treasurer Liz Drum, and

Past-Past-President Kathleen Casey while new and additional Executive committee membership is finalised. It is with pleasure that we welcome Sav Verhage as the formal representative of IASSS to the ASAP Council.

Professor Derbew has brought a new set of leadership capabilities to ASAP and is ideally placed to guide its evolution. Professor Derbew is a medical educator, surgeon and global health leader, who has been dedicated to improving the capacity of medical and academic systems over decades. He has served as a medical doctor, hospital administrator and clinic owner, professor, dean, university vice president and researcher, and global health activist. In addition to his clinical surgery roles, he has been CEO of King Faisal Hospital Rwanda, founded the Department of Pediatric Surgery at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, was an Executive Board Member of Lifebox, and has been President of both COSEC-SA and the Surgical Society of Ethiopia. He has published over 70 peer reviewed scientific articles and is a distinguished member of several professional associations.

### **Membership & Financials**

Membership of ASAP has been stable without increase for the past 4 years. A major role of the new executive will be to

increase membership, particular focus on young members – trainees and early consultants, working in association with IASSS and the other ISS/SIC integrated societies. It will be the task of the new executive to refine and redefine the value-proposition of membership of ASAP in a post-pandemic world in which the needs continue to be great but global surgery is recognised as a critical component of integrated emergency, critical and operative care systems.

### **Future Directions**

Spawned through greater involvement of surgeons from the African continent, and the excellent work of IASSS and our ISS/SIC and other partners, we are pleased in the level of interest in engagement activities in potential hubs in Rwanda, Ethiopia and South Africa, for example. The ability for ASAP to host face-to-face events has been limited in recent years because of both the pandemic and the developing size of the membership, and these hubs offer the opportunity to grow activity and communities of practice.

Global engagement will continue to be fostered, especially as we work towards the Kuala Lumpur ISW.

### **Mentorship Programme with IASSS**

ASAP and IASSS, within the ISS/SIC family, represent Global Surgery throughout the life-course, spanning students, trainees, consultants, and emeritus professors. As such ASAP and IASSS have a unique career development opportunity for those interested in global surgery, and in doing so strengthening the future workforce and preparing future leaders. ASAP has valued the opportunity to support IASSS in the development of a mentoring network connecting members across time zones and generations, to share experiences and provide inspiration, guidance and support. Working with the IASSS and the ISS/SIC in its entirety, trainees' groups, National Chapters, and academic and professional organisations, we look forward to the launch of a mentoring network.

Russell Gruen, Past-President ASAP  
Milliard Derbew, President ASAP  
Elizabeth Drum, Secretary-Treasurer ASAP



*West wing entrance at KLCC*

# Report IASSS



Jessica Davies,  
Administration  
Officer IASSS

The main focus of 2022 of the IASSS was the Future Surgeons Programme (FSP) and International Surgical Week (ISW). The team also managed to reach a few admirable goals.

### 1) Executive Committee Achievements

- A Middle East Chapter was established with the first ever Chapter Lead for region was incorporated into the Capacity Team.
- The Senior Consultants portfolio was established with the aim of providing mentorship to the academy portfolio and to assist with the expansion of the society by creating opportunities for postgraduate members.
- A newly added Telegram social participating application group was created for IASSS members
- The Editorial team hosted a series explaining the FSP programme and was later followed-up by short introductory videos from the selected FSP delegates.

2) The Hofburg in Vienna, Austria, was the venue for the ISW conference during 15-18 August 2022, during which the IASSS hosted two sessions. Jessica Davies delivered an oral presentation presented on the research findings from “Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic on Medical and Surgical Education: Results of an International Survey by the IASSS” on behalf of the IASSS. Three IASSS executive committee members were also invited to speak at IATSIC sessions:

- What do we mean by social media? – Reuben Masia
- My vision for the future in trauma – Shadé Breedt
- Is it possible to combine QOL with a career in trauma surgery in the future? – Sulé Burger

3) The 2022 FSP included 11 student/junior-doctor delegates from across four continents. Delegates were closely involved with the day-to-day activities and support of the conference including welcoming speakers, ensuring the presentations were uploaded onto the computers before the session started, bringing the presentation to the screen, collecting and displaying name cards for speakers, bringing refreshments for speakers, taking photos for speakers after the session, etc.

### 4) Post-ISW Achievements

- The Associates role was established to allow an IASSS member to be associated on the executive committee of an ISS Integrated Society. The aim of these roles is to facilitate closer connections between the IASSS and the six Integrated Societies, to initiate collaborative projects, and to assist those with social media presence. After the ISW, an Associate position was secured among the executive committees of IATSIC, ISDS and ASAP. In future, the goal is to also establish these roles among the three remaining Integrated Societies.
- The Mentorship project, initially conceptualised in 2020, was rediscussed with ASAP and introduced to AWS. A project manager for this portfolio was approached at the ISW from among the FSP delegates to ensure the project develops with more intentionality



Where generations merge and network



Future Surgeons Programme Delegates at ISW 2022

and timely progress in the future.

- IASSS was officially registered as an NGO at the end of 2022.
- Patrons from among the ISS network, Integrated Societies and AWS network were invited to be IASSS patrons for the 2023 term.
- By December 2022, a record-breaking 57 people applied for the 2023 executive committee.



IASSS membership chart

5) 2023 so far...

We are proud to announce the 2023 Executive and Sub-Committee:

### 2023 Executive Committee:

 Sulé Burger Secretary General	 Shadé Breedt Past-President	 Jessica Davies President	 Reuben Masia Vice-President (Internal)	 Akatyia Sinha Vice-President (Internal)
 Jyi Cheng Ng Vice-President (External)	 Stavroula Papaeftheriou Senior Consultant	 Kirtana Ponnuswamy Senior Consultant	 Kapilraj Ravendran Administrative Officer	 SangEun Lee Talks Officer
 Jill Kar Media & Marketing Liaison	 Savannah Verhage Mentorship & Professional Outreach Director	 Tatenda Mbanje Dean of Research & Academic Writing	 Charalampos Alamanos Workshops Coordinator	
 Ahmed K. Awad Africa	 Robert Jr. So Asia	 Stefan Muntean Europe	 José Ignacio Valenzuela South America	

## 2023 Sub-Committee: Portfolios

 Udit Choubey Admin Team	 Yee Siew Lim Admin team	 Saloni Mitra Media team	 Anja de Lange Media team	 Yan Bin Fong Media team
 Koustav Sircus Education & skills development team	 Emily Apostolidou Education & skills development team	 Nizar Yaqub Education & skills development team	 Angela Teo Education & skills development team	 Ruwampathirana Ramitha Eshan Academy team
 Zekiye Karagozu Academy team	 Asadur Rahman Nabin Academy team	 Krittita Kaite Academy team	 Ismat Ghazal Mentorship & Professional outreach	 Andreas Christou Mentorship & Professional outreach

## 2023 Sub-Committee: National Delegates

 Richard Buule Uganda	 Sabelo Silangu South Africa	 Victor Meza Kyaruzi Tanzania	 Amanda Weng Yee Leong Malaysia	 Shivadeva Selvamani Malaysia
 Ruwampathirana Ramitha Eshan Sri Lanka	 Asadur Rahman Nabin Bangladesh	 Kathir Karuppiah India	 Eric He Australia	 Leena Aboidris Qatar
 Raneem Frihat Jordan	 Asil Abualrob Palestine	 Moath Al-Mekhlafi Yemen	 Maha Awan Saudi Arabia	 Rajeeka Singh Tak Georgia
 Emily Apostolidou Italy	 Gloria Gjorgova North Macedonia	 Merie Desonniaux Belgium	 Muhammad Saad Choudhry Pakistan	 Julia Guimaraes Dourado Romania



The IASSS is proud to welcome the following patrons for 2023:

 <p><b>Prof Ken Boffard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emeritus Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand</li> <li>Visiting Professor of Trauma Surgery at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital and University of Gothenburg</li> <li>Director of Trauma at Netcare Milpark Hospital</li> <li>ISS Secretary General</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Prof Andrew Hill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professor of Surgery at The University of Auckland</li> <li>Assistant Dean at Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, South Auckland Clinical School, New Zealand</li> <li>Past President of the ISS</li> <li>Councillor and Board Member of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS)</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Prof Chantal Reyna</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MD, FACS, FSSO</li> <li>Medical Director of the Crozer Health Breast Program and Chief of Breast Surgery at Crozer Health System in Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania</li> <li>Association of Women Surgeons Liaison</li> <li>Latino Surgical Society</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Prof Cheng Har Yip</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MBBS, FRCS (Clasg) FRCSed, FACS(Hon)</li> <li>Consultant Breast Surgeon, Ramsay Sime Darby Healthcare</li> <li>Professor Emeritus, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur</li> <li>President of the ISS</li> <li>Past President of the BSI</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Prof Ari Leppäniemi</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MD, PhD</li> <li>Chief of Emergency Surgery Helsinki University Central Hospital</li> <li>HUCH - Division of Gastrointestinal Surgery</li> <li>ISS President-elect</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Prof Jamie Murphy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BChir, PhD, FRCS, FASCRS</li> <li>Consultant Colorectal Surgeon at Cleveland Clinic London</li> <li>Senior Clinical Lecturer at Faculty of Medicine, Imperial College London</li> <li>President Elect of the International Society of Digestive Surgery</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Prof Russell Gruen</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MBBS, PhD, FRACS</li> <li>Dean of the College of Health and Medicine at The Australian National University</li> <li>Surgeon at The Canberra Hospital</li> <li>Past President of ASAP</li> <li>Founding member of G4 Alliance</li> </ul>	 <p><b>Prof Tina Gaarder</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MD, PhD</li> <li>Consultant General and Trauma Surgeon</li> <li>Head of Department of Traumatology at Oslo University Hospital Ullevål (OUH U), Norway</li> <li>Past President of the IATISIC</li> <li>Chair of the Visceral Trauma Section in European Society for Trauma and Emergency Surgery</li> </ul>

The 2023 year has started off with a bang with a few notable achievements thus far. IASSS has been experiencing a rapid increase in membership since January, recently reaching 2,500 members.

We have hosted a number of online webinars on topics such as Colorectal Surgery, Acute Abdomen and Plastic Surgery. Our first virtual workshop also took place in March covering basic skills needed in the OR.



The Research and Academic Writing Portfolio is launching a Research Workshop Series soon which will cover eight sessions focusing on important research-related skills. The first workshop will be conducted by Dr Tanvir Hayder (MBBS, MSc), who will cover the initial steps in the research process.

IASSS have partnered with three societies from Europe and Oceania in recent months and the Vice President, External, is busy establishing partners and sponsors for ISW 2024.

Each month, we recruit new National Delegates and as such, our National Delegate team has doubled in size from 2022. A new partnership between ISS/SIC and IASSS National Delegates is being explored which will facilitate the collaboration and sharing of experiences between ISS and IASSS members across the world.

By mid-2023, the IASSS will be hosting the first cycle of a new Mentorship programme via the Together Platform as an inclusive programme tailored towards the needs of all trainees. The programme will contain structured content and sessions



and the aim is to encourage equitable access to mentorship and skill sharing across all countries and regions.

The first quarter of 2023 can be deemed productive and beneficial in achieving the goals for the IASSS. The aim is to continue building our membership, recruiting National Delegates, obtaining new partners and sponsors and support meaningful planning strategies for ISW in 2024.

Jessica Davies  
President IASSS

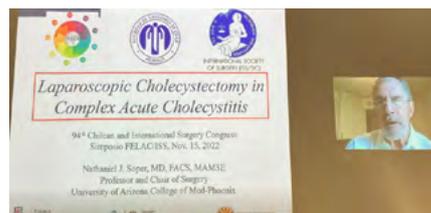
## FELAC/ISS Symposium in Chile – Puerto Varas



In November 2022, according to the FELAC statutes and FELAC agreement with the ISS/SIC, during the last congress of the Society of Surgeons of Chile, the annual symposium was held. This time it

focused on the Abdominal Urgency treated by laparoscopic approach. As an international visiting professor, Prof Nat Soper from the University of Phoenix, Arizona, USA, was invited.

Regards.  
Italo Braghetto



Lecture taught by Prof. Nat Soper



Picture of some teachers participating in the symposium



Attendees at the Symposium



**Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**  
**25-29 August 2024**



50th World Congress of the International Society of Surgery ISS/SIC

# International Surgical Week

The World's Congress of Surgery

[isw2024.org](http://isw2024.org)

Jointly organized with the 50th Annual Scientific Congress of the College of Surgeons Academy of Surgeons of Malaysia (CSAMM)



**International Society of Surgery ISS / SIC**  
and its Integrated Societies

IAES - International Association of Endocrine Surgeons  
IATSIC - International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care  
IASMEN - International Association for Surgical Metabolism and Nutrition  
BSI - Breast Surgery International  
ISDS - International Society for Digestive Surgery  
ASAP - Alliance for Surgery and Anesthesia Presence

**#ISW2024KualaLumpur**

[surgery@iss-sic.com](mailto:surgery@iss-sic.com)

[isw2024.org](http://isw2024.org)