

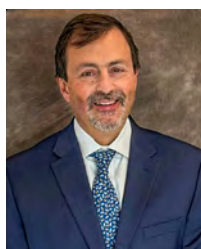


Newsletter

International Society of Surgery (ISS)
Société Internationale de Chirurgie (SIC)

June 2026

Report by the President ISS/SIC



*Alessandro Fichera,
President ISS/SIC &
Congress President
ISW 2028*

Dear esteemed members of the International Society for Surgery,

I am honored to address you as the newly elected president of our society. With great enthusiasm, I share my vision and plans for the next two years as we advance our mission to promote surgical excellence worldwide.

Vision for the Next Two Years

My main goal will be to strengthen **cooperation and support** within our Integrated and Associated Societies, the Global Surgery community at large, the World Journal of Surgery, and any other Organizations willing to join our ISS/SIC family. Collaboration underpins our achievements, and by deepening our partnerships with surgical organizations, we can expand our global impact in surgery.

I am also dedicated to **developing educational programs** in non-congress



ISW 2026 in Mexico City – bringing the global community together once again

June 2026

years. Ongoing education is essential in our field, and by ensuring continuous learning, our members stay leaders in surgical innovation and practice and stay engaged with the Society.

I am especially excited about the upcoming **International Surgical Week 2028 in Cape Town**. Alongside the local organizing committee, we will strive to deliver an outstanding event that displays

the latest surgical advancements and celebrates South Africa's rich culture and heritage.

Acknowledgments

Before closing, I extend sincere gratitude to the **ISW 2026 Organizing Committee** in Mexico City, led by **Eduardo Montalvo**. Your dedication has set a strong standard for future events. Mexico City's vibrancy and history offered an excellent

setting for our meetings, and I appreciate the warm hospitality we received.

I also thank our outgoing president, **Ari Leppäniemi**, for his outstanding leadership and commitment to our society. We deeply appreciate your contributions and will build on your foundation.



AMCE Dinner at ISW 2028 in Mexico City



Alessandro Fichera received AMCE Honorary Membership from Eduardo Montalvo.



ISS/SIC Council Members and Guests

I further recognize the diligence of the **ISS/SIC Administrative Office**, led by Mike Iliopoulos, our **Secretary-General**, Ken Boffard, and the **Secretary-General designate**, Jamie Murphy. Your work is vital to our society's operation, and I appreciate your devotion to our shared objectives.

Conclusion

As we begin this journey together, I am energized by the opportunities ahead.

Let us unite to advance surgery and support each other. Thank you for your trust; I look forward to an inspiring tenure. Let us shape the future of surgery together.

Warm regards,
Alessandro Fichera
President ISS/SIC &
Congress President ISW 2028

Report by the Immediate Past-President



*Ari Leppäniemi,
Immediate
Past-President ISS/
SIC & Congress
President ISW 2026*

After two years of serving as your President, I will leave you with a reminder of my main goals, that is to speak up as a representative of our profession to highlight some of the global megatrends and especially some of the injustices that I listed in my presidential address in Mexico City during the International Surgical Week 2026:

The treatment of women by the Taliban is wrong.
Targeting health facilities in Ukraine and in Gaza is wrong.
Targeting civilians (Hamas, Sudan, Myanmar, etc.) is wrong.
The USA and Israel starting a war with Iran was wrong.
Starving Cuba by the USA is wrong.
Civilians being able to buy automatic weapons in the US is wrong.
Russia's trying to influence elections abroad is wrong.
The treatment of the Uyghur minorities and Taiwan by China is wrong.
Not controlling big transnational social media companies is wrong.
Not drastically reducing the use of fossil fuels is wrong.

Accepting tax havens by rich individuals and companies is wrong.
Not forgiving huge loans to developing countries by Western banks is wrong.

To clarify, these statements are not against any people, just criticizing some governments and transnational companies. The list could be much longer, but you get the idea!

Finally, it has been a great honor and privilege to serve as the President of the ISS/SIC over the last two years. Thank you for your support and friendship!

Ari Leppäniemi
Immediate Past-President ISS/SIC



Passing the Presidency of the ISS/SIC to Alessandro Fichera



Opening Ceremony of ISW 2026

Report Secretary-General



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

Welcome to the Spring / Summer newsletter of the Society.

As you will see in the report from Eduardo Montalvo, AMCE President and ISW 2026 Congress President, International Surgical Week ISW 2026, the World’s Congress of Surgery was successfully held in Mexico City from 19 to 23 April, in association

with AMCE (Asociación Mexicana de Cirugía Endoscópica) and ALACE (Latin American Association of Endoscopic Surgery), and with our own Integrated and Participating Societies delivering an extraordinarily wide and well-received programme. As you will see from the AMCE report, we had 2,484 participants from 98 countries, we received 1,185 abstracts, and were supported by 447 speakers. Although sadly, due to global and Middle Eastern events, not all participants were able to attend, and despite torturous revised flight itineraries, last-minute changes, and re-routing, the large attendance reflects the popularity and desirability by most attendees to arrive as planned. My thanks to our Office staff, Mike, Denise,

Laurie, Lara, and to all those who supported the meeting in so many ways.

The venue was excellent, the attendance was very encouraging, and the layout of the convention center allowed tremendous interaction between all the attendees – young and old, developed and developing worlds. To our members, thank you for attending, and thank you for making the event such a rewarding experience for all concerned.

It also gives me great pleasure to welcome our new Council members and wish them mutual enjoyment and stimulation in being part of the Council of the world’s oldest international surgical organization.

Executive Committee:		
Immediate Past President;	Ari Leppäniemi	Helsinki, Finland
President	Alessandro Fichera	New York, NY, USA
President-Elect	Ines Buccimazza	Durban, South Africa
Treasurer	Avital Harari	Los Angeles, CA, USA
Secretary-General Designate	Jamie Murphy	London, UK
New Presidents of Integrated Societies		
IATSIC	Hayato Kurihara	Milan, Italy
ISDS	Go Wakabayashi	Tokyo, Japan
IASMEN	Joji Kotani	Kobe, Japan
BSI	Sharon Chan	Hong Kong PRC.
IASSS	Angela Jia Jia Teo	Warsaw, Poland
	Michael Petrus	Oxford, UK
New Councillors at Large		
Global Relations	Chris Dodgion	Milwaukee, WI, USA
Membership	Pooja Ramakant	Lucknow, India

We also formally welcome our newest Integrated Society, the International Association of Student Surgical Societies (IASSS). This incorporates not only Medical Students of all ages and levels, but also surgeons in Training. We look forward to a lifetime association with you. I am very proud of their team, delighted that they are part of us, and the fact that your Society is now one of the first Global Societies (no pun intended) representing Surgeons (and including all those caring for the surgical patient, be they Allied Health Care professionals, Students, Surgeons, Anaesthesiologists, Critical Care and oth-

er disciplines), true responsibility for the Global care of the patient.

International Surgical Week 2028, 26-30 March 2028

As you will see elsewhere in this Newsletter, ISW 2028 is already at an advanced state of planning, and we look forward to you being part of what should be a spectacular meeting. Further initial details appear in this newsletter.

As you know, we collaborate with a number of Participating Independent Societies, including the Association of Women

Surgeons (AWS), the International Society for Burn Injuries (ISBI), and the Association of Military Surgeons (APIMSF), among others. We also maintain strong relationships with several Colleges of Surgeons worldwide. In addition, both the American College of Surgeons (ACS) Chapter and the Japanese Surgical Chapter are affiliated with ISS/SIC. Furthermore, we work closely with Associated Societies in Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and Egypt, as well as with COSECSA. Members of these organizations are eligible for reduced membership rates when joining ISS/SIC.

Non-surgical members

The General Assembly endorsed the view of the council that your society needed to become more inclusive, particularly to recognize other members of health-care professions whose delivery of care is fully integrated into surgery. Foremost amongst these are our anaesthesiologists and critical care colleagues. We also recognize that the lines between surgeons and other health care providers have become blurred, involving nurses, especially in Breast Care, Trauma and Critical Care, technicians (ISDS), and other advanced care disciplines such as Paramedics. We have therefore developed a new category of Associate Membership for these individuals with reduced rates, allowing our

health care delivery to be much broader than before. This allows the building of surgical teams, not just surgeons.

Secretary-General Designate.

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Jamie Murphy as the Secretary-General Designate, and he will become Secretary-General in two years. As a previous President of the ISDS, he is well prepared, and I look forward to working with him to make the Society even better, broader, and to listen even more carefully to the needs of our members.

After a long association with our administrative arm, Twister, our contract comes to an end at the end of this year. Although

our base will continue to be in Switzerland, from 2027, we will be working with ACS Global, based in Glasgow, Scotland, with effect from 1 January 2027. More details to follow.

I wish all our Northern Hemisphere members and their families a happy summer holiday season, and a wonderful year to come

Kenneth D. Boffard
Secretary-General ISS/SIC

Report by the Treasurer ISS/SIC



*Avital Harari, MD,
MSc, MBA
Treasurer ISS/SIC*

It is a tremendous honor to have recently been elected Treasurer of the International Society of Surgery (ISS/SIC). ISS has been an important part of my professional life for many years, and I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to continue serving an organization whose mission I strongly believe in. Over the past several years, I have had the privilege of serving in multiple leadership roles within the United States Chapter of the ISS, including Chair of Membership, Secretary, and now Vice President. Through these experiences, I have worked alongside extraordinary surgeons from around the world who share a commitment to advancing surgical care, education, collaboration, and mentorship across borders.

As an Endocrine Surgeon and Professor of Surgery at UCLA, I remain deeply engaged in clinical care, education, mentorship, and academic surgery. In parallel, I currently serve as Vice Chair of Ambulatory Surgery for the UCLA Department of Surgery, where much of my work focuses

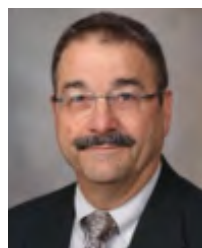
on healthcare operations, surgical access, quality improvement, and system-level strategy. My additional training through the UCLA Anderson School of Management MBA program has further strengthened my interest in organizational leadership and healthcare innovation. I look forward to bringing both my surgical and administrative experience to the Treasurer role as ISS continues to expand its global impact and educational mission.

One of the things I value most about ISS is its unique ability to connect surgeons across specialties, countries, and healthcare systems in a spirit of genuine collegiality and shared learning. Throughout my career, I have been passionate about teaching and mentorship — whether working with medical students, residents, fellows, or young surgeons beginning their careers. Some of my most meaningful experiences within ISS have centered around education and international collaboration, including participating in teaching initiatives in several countries. Those experiences reinforced for me the tremendous value of global surgical exchange and the importance of investing in the next generation of surgical leaders worldwide.

At a time when healthcare systems everywhere face increasing complexity and inequity, organizations like ISS are more important than ever. I remain incredibly

optimistic about the future of our society and excited to work alongside our outstanding leadership, integrated societies, trainees, and members around the world to continue strengthening our educational initiatives, fostering international collaboration, and advancing high-quality surgical care globally. It is truly a privilege to help serve this exceptional organization.

Report International Society of Surgery Foundation



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

and John Hunter, the new incoming Secretary-Treasurer of the ISS Foundation, will provide some insights for the future of the ISS Foundation.

This year, 27 travel scholars were selected to attend ISW 2026, with many (but not all) having most of their financial costs covered. The funding groups included the ISS Foundation (10 awards), the ISDS (2 awards), IATSIC (2 awards), IASMEN (2 awards), as well as awards by BSI (6 awards), the Japan Chapter of the ISS/SIC (3 awards), the Australian Chapter of the ISS/SIC (1 award),



and the US Chapter of the ISS/SIC (1 award). Due to VISA issues, several of the awardees were unfortunately unable to attend. The awardees are as follows:

ISSF	Alazar Berhe	Aregawi
ISSF	Sofia	Bertona
ISSF	Lucky	Murangi
ISDS	Yoseph Solomon	Bezabih
ISSF	Francois Adrien	Bokalli Morel
ISDS	Barbara	Carreño
ISSF	Riyaz	Shrestha
IASMEN	Jane	Chuah Wai Yee
BSI	Garvit	Garg
BSI	Sejal	Grover
ISSF	Shuvaraj	Pokharel

IATSIC	Tesema	Hailemaria Getachew
ISSF	Fenni	Iyambo
IATSIC	Krishna	Kumar
IASMEN	Adedayo	Lawal
ISSF	Saurabh	Maurya
BSI	Ganesh	Bhat
BSI	Bikash Kumar	Shah
BSI	Bharath	Shivalingaiah
BSI	Aditi	Tiwari
ISSF	Joel	Tochie
ISSF	Chisom Rachel	Udeigwe-Okeke

These travel scholars came from Argentina, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, Nepal, India, Chile, Namibia, Australia, Japan, and the United States. All are young surgeons and anaesthesiologists (under 40 years old) who are interested in education as well as clinical practice. Many, perhaps most of them, had never attended an international meeting, and they were all very eager and delighted to have been chosen-what a great opportunity for them!

THESE YOUNG AGGRESSIVE, INTERESTED, BRIGHT, HARD-WORKING SURGEONS AND ANESTHESIOLOGISTS ARE OUR FUTURE!

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your foundation secretary/treasurer for the last decade.

Humbly, Michael G. Sarr, MD

Wow! What a hard act to follow..... big shoes to fill high bar to reach.... whatever the phrase, the meaning is the same. Michael G. Sarr has served the ISS/SIC as its President, and then for a decade (+) as the Secretary-Treasurer of the ISS Foundation. He has grown the travel scholars' program from a mere handful of individuals to 27 top-notch young surgeons who will be the future of surgery around the world. He has supported surgical training courses in a variety of specialties (breast,

endocrine, trauma, GI, etc.) in a variety of settings, mostly with the focus of providing low and middle-income countries with highly skilled surgeons practicing state-of-the-art medicine. He has been a great supporter of the new student society that has just integrated with the ISS/SIC, the IASSS. He has managed the finances professionally.... And most importantly, he has been a good friend to me, and to the many surgeons who have held the ISS/SIC together through some challenging times.

As I follow in Mike Sarr's footsteps, I will be looking to you, the members of the ISS/SIC, to help our foundation board identify opportunities for the ISSF to make

a difference, especially when it comes to the core mission of providing surgical education to those who live in resource-poor environments around the world. Additionally, it will be a focus of mine to expand the ISSF portfolio to provide sustainable funding for projects that are core to our mission, and to launch new initiatives that support you and your programs.

As I start down this road, I wish to thank Mike Sarr for his service, guidance, and detailed 'onboarding' of me as your new

Secretary-Treasurer. There is much to learn and much to do. I am looking forward to sharing this road with you and other fellow travellers as we journey towards a vision of creating a truly global community of surgeons. Stay tuned!

Equally humbly,

John G Hunter MD
Portland Oregon.

REPORTS OF EXPERIENCE BY TRAVEL SCHOLARS ISW 2026



ISW 2026 Travel Scholars – supported by ISSF, IATSIC, IASMEN, BSI, ISDS, US/Australia/Japan Chapter

Sofia Bertona, Argentina, ISW 2026 Travel Scholar Summary

I would like to sincerely thank the ISS/SIC for granting me the travel award to attend the International Surgical Week ISW 2026. Participating in this meeting was an extremely valuable academic and professional experience that significantly contributed to my development as a young surgeon.

Attending ISW 2026 allowed me to expand my knowledge in several areas of gastrointestinal and minimally invasive surgery through high-quality scientific sessions, expert lectures, and discussions regarding current advances in surgical practice. I had the opportunity to learn about contemporary approaches in esophageal and gastric surgery, perioperative management, and ongoing international research initiatives that will positively influence my future clinical practice and academic interests.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the meeting was the opportunity to interact and network with surgeons from different countries. These exchanges provided valuable perspectives regarding surgical training, research collaboration, and patient management in diverse healthcare systems. I was also able to establish professional connections that I hope will lead to future international opportunities.

As a young surgeon from Argentina currently pursuing advanced training in upper gastrointestinal surgery, this experience further reinforced my career goals in academic surgery and minimally invasive esophageal and gastric surgery. The exposure to international leaders in the field was highly inspiring and motivated me to continue pursuing research, surgical education, and international collaboration.

I am truly grateful for the support provided by the ISS/SIC, which made this experience possible. I am confident that the knowledge and professional relationships developed during ISW 2026 will have a lasting positive impact on my career and on the surgical community in which I work.

Francois Bokalli, Kenya, ISW 2026 Travel Scholar Summary

Impact of the Travel Scholarship: The travel scholarship was instrumental in making my participation possible. It not only alleviated financial constraints but also provided access to a global network of surgeons, educators, and researchers. Through this opportunity, I gained exposure to cutting-edge surgical practices, strengthened my academic writing skills, and received mentorship from internationally recognized experts.

Equally important were the relationships formed with fellow scholars and faculty, which are likely to evolve into long-term collaborations. The encouragement and recognition I received have significantly boosted my confidence and motivation. Ultimately, this experience will translate into improved patient care, enhanced academic productivity, and a stronger commitment to advancing global surgery initiatives in my local context.

Alazar Berhe Aregawi, Ethiopia, ISW 2026 Travel Scholar Summary

For me a major highlight of the conference was the 'Early Career Writers' Workshop,' which spanned three days. The sessions emphasized the importance of hypothesis-driven research, ethical scientific conduct, and structured manuscript preparation. Key lessons included the significance of clear authorship criteria, the risks and consequences of research misconduct, and the responsible use of artificial intelligence in academic writing. Practical guidance on manuscript development, journal selection, identifying predatory journals, peer review processes, and responding to editorial feedback provided valuable tools for my future research endeavours.

Networking was a central component of my experience. I established meaningful connections with internationally recognized colorectal surgeons like Professor Murphy, Professor Alessandro Fichera, Dr. Imran Hassen, and Dr. Sender Lieberman; global surgery leaders like Professor Nobhojit Roy, Dr. Barnabas, Professor Makas-

sa, Professor Emmanuel Ameh, and Dr. Moses; WJS editors like Professor Sherry, Professor Lobo, Professor Adam, and Professor Rowan Parks; future surgeon medical students like Dr. Marie, Dr. Kacy, and the like; and fellow travel scholars like Dr. Amir, Dr. Jane, and the like. These interactions opened avenues for mentorship, research collaboration, friendships, and potential training opportunities.

I also had the opportunity to present my research as a free oral presentation, which was well-received and led to further professional engagement, including discussions on potential partnerships with a transplant surgeon from the US. The Mexican night, the intuitive dinner reception, and another private dinner night with Professor Milliard Derebew and faculty from the ACS-H.O.P.E. enhanced my informal networking with colleague surgeons, residents, medical students, and industry partners from all over the world. These were moments that further enriched my endeavour in my collaborative works globally.

Overall, this conference experience was highly impactful. It strengthened my research capacity, expanded my professional network, and deepened my commitment to advancing surgical care and academic development in my country and beyond. Moving forward, I aim to apply the knowledge gained, pursue collaborative research opportunities, and actively contribute to global surgical initiatives.

Once again, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the ISS for giving me the chance to be a travel scholar and have this wonderful experience in the beautiful Mexico City. I look forward to continuing my engagement with the Society and its partner societies.

The Foundation for Global Surgical Care (FGSC)



*Peter Vogelbach,
President FGSC*

tion - is a university institution. It is very well equipped, including a surgical robot (Chinese made).

Our team ran a 2-day surgical hands-on workshop with dry labs based on instruction material and videos from the original Davos course. Trained were 20 surgical interns and residents in basic surgical techniques including laparoscopic suturing and knotting. All participants were very interested, they worked really motivated during the whole course and we received excellent feedback at the end of the course as well from the participants as from their teachers, the university staff. A continuation of this teaching programme is planned in the following years.

The activities of the FGSC (Foundation for Global Surgical Care) consist in the time of reporting- Fall-winter-spring 2025/26 of a travelling visit of myself, President of FGSC and a team of British Surgeons (Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh), 2 students and an organ manager of the Davos Course in January, in two hospitals in Nepal.

First, we had a 2-day visit in the Chitwan Hospital in the southwest of Nepal, near the Indian border, already in a subtropical area, near the famous Chitwan National Park. The surgical department of the Chitwan hospital - a privately run institu-

After crossing a large part of Nepal by car with all the equipment, we moved to the Dhulikhel hospital, a previous partner hospital east of Kathmandu affiliated to the university of Kathmandu. I have been already several times with my English

colleagues, as well as with a team of the Davos course in our partner hospital. For the second time we could also perform a wet lab on fresh organ material. The exercises performed laparoscopically are realistic in pelvitrainer boxes with staplers, sutures on stomachs, livers, large and small bowel. Introductory lectures were given by all faculty members.

The teaching know-how is now being transferred to the members of the Nepalese faculty, creating a consistent knowledge transfer, which of course is appreciated on both sides. Also, the Dhulikhel activities will be continued regularly.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen
Peter Vogelbach
President of the FGSC

Report Administrative Office



*Mike Iliopoulos, ISS/
SIC Office Director*

Our Mexican hosts did an exceptional job welcoming participants from all corners of the globe and made their stay truly memorable and rewarding. Our sincere thanks also go to all participants for joining us despite the worldwide challenges associated with traveling to Mexico City.

Dear ISS/SIC Member and Reader,

We are delighted to share that ISW 2026 in Mexico City was a great success, welcoming more than 2,400 participants from across the globe. While the financial result will be negative, the strong attendance clearly demonstrates that surgeons continue to invest their time and resources to participate in the International Surgical Week and confirms the enduring value of an in-person congress.

ISW 2026 marks the final congress organized by Twister Management AG and the last one under my responsibility as Administrative Director of ISS/SIC. Effective 1 January 2027, ACS Global will assume responsibility for these tasks.

My team and I would like to thank you for the privilege of serving this remarkable society and for the many opportunities to meet and work with so many outstanding colleagues.

Should you have any questions or require assistance regarding your membership or ISW, our Office is here to help. Please do not hesitate to contact us at surgery@iss-sic.com.

With warmest regards,

Mike Iliopoulos
on behalf of the Administrative Office Team

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Report Editor in Chief WJS



Sherry M. Wren,
Editor in Chief WJS

2025 - 2026 has been a busy year. WJS has been actively pursuing affiliations with surgical groups to continue attracting and growing the journal's excellent content and new readers. Our societies include the integrated ISS societies: Breast Surgery International, International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care, International Association for Surgical Metabolism and Nutrition, and the International Society for Digestive Surgery. In addition, WJS now has six affiliations: International Association of Endocrine Surgeons (IAES), UN Global Surgery Learning Hub (SURGhub), Global Initiative for Children's Surgery (GICS), Explosive Weapons Trauma Care Collective (EXTRACCT), Clinical Robotics Surgery Association (CRSA), and the Japan Association of Endocrine Surgeons (JAES).

Their contributions are impactful and contribute to the growth of WJS as a destination for great research. Our editorial office and board have been busy. Submissions and published articles have significantly increased. In the first quarter of 2026, we have already received >1000 article submissions, which is twice as many as by this time in 2025. WJS remains in the top quartile of medical journals and looks forward to the upcoming release of our new Impact Factor.

ISW 2026 in Mexico City showcased WJS; the Associate Editors had a productive day-long retreat, a writers' workshop for junior doctors over 3 days with capacity attendance, and an Editorial Board. In addition, WJS participated in plenary sessions and open discussions on the expanding role of surgical education. I would like to thank Associate Editor Prof Cheng-Har Yip, who has served with distinction in that role for many years, for her dedication and work for WJS. Look for the upcoming announcement of our two new Associate Editors to start in July.

2026 is the landmark 50th anniversary of the World Journal of Surgery. A com-

memorative logo will be watermarked on all manuscripts published throughout the year. In addition, we are publishing a special series – “5 for 50” - by each of our affiliated and integrated societies. This series showcases the five most impactful advancements in each field over the last 50 years, putting the field's growth over time into perspective.

I want to thank our Associate Editors, Editorial Board Members, Authors, Reviewers, and the Managing Editorial Team; none of this would be possible without your work. I look forward to seeing people in South Africa at the ISW in 2028. Please get in touch with me at swren@stanford.edu if you have any questions or wish to discuss WJS.

Sherry M Wren, USA
Editor in Chief WJS



WJS Associate Editor retreat in Mexico

International Surgical Week 2026 in Mexico City: Where the World of Surgery Came Together



*Eduardo Montalvo,
AMCE President
and ISW 2026 Congress President*

The celebration of the International Surgical Week ISW 2026 marked a significant moment for global surgery. From April 19 to 23, 2026, Mexico City became the meeting point for thousands of surgeons, researchers, residents, and academic leaders from all continents to celebrate the 51st World Congress of the International Society of Surgery (ISS/SIC), the 34th International Congress of the Mexican Association of Endoscopic Surgery (AMCE), and the 18th Congress of the Latin American Association of Endoscopic Surgery (ALACE).

Jointly organized by ISS/SIC and AMCE, the congress stood out not only for its scientific depth but also for its demonstration of resilience, adaptability, and international solidarity across the profession.

ISW 2026 brought together the integrated international associations — the International Association for Surgical Metabolism and Nutrition (IASMEN), the International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care (IATSIC), Breast Surgery International (BSI), and the International Society for Digestive Surgery (ISDS) — along with Mexican surgical associations in a multi-

disciplinary scientific program that covered topics ranging from minimally invasive, open and robotic surgery to trauma, oncology, metabolism, surgical education, and technological innovation.

The scale of the meeting was remarkable. ISW 2026 welcomed 2,484 registered participants from 98 countries, confirming its role as a truly international platform for surgical exchange. The scientific program featured 141 sessions, 17 courses, keynote lectures, panel discussions, interactive debates, hands-on courses, symposiums, and scientific paper presentations, supported by 447 invited speakers, while 1,185 abstracts were submitted, reflecting strong global engagement in research, education, and innovation.

Beyond the numbers, the congress highlighted the strength of the worldwide surgical community in the face of uncertainty. The report emphasizes that ISW 2026 succeeded because of the commitment of surgeons, researchers, educators, and partners who continued to collaborate despite logistical and geopolitical challenges. This spirit of perseverance reinforced the importance of maintaining open international dialogue and shared learning in surgery.

Industry participation also played an important role in the event's impact. The report notes the involvement of 36 exhibitors, industry partners, and scientific societies, who contributed to the congress by showcasing advances in surgical technology,

research, and healthcare solutions. Their presence helped strengthen the connection between scientific exchange and practical innovation in patient care.

A Truly Global Congress

Since its foundation in 1902, the International Society of Surgery (ISS) has aimed to promote international collaboration and the scientific advancement of surgery worldwide. The International Surgical Week is the flagship event of this society and is recognized as one of the most important surgical congresses in the world.

One of the most enriching aspects of the meeting was the opportunity to analyze surgical challenges from different healthcare realities. Sessions on global access to surgery, surgery in low- and middle-income countries, surgical training in resource-limited settings, and international cooperation generated great interest. In a time marked by rapid technological transformation and persistent inequalities in healthcare systems, the congress emphasized the need to build surgery that is more accessible, safer, and equitable.

Mexico as Host: Science, Hospitality, and Tradition

The selection of Mexico City as the host city for ISW 2026, led by the Mexican Association of Endoscopic Surgery and its president, Eduardo E. Montalvo-Javé, MD, PhD., who chaired the local organizing committee, represented recognition of the growth and international projection of Mexican and Latin American surgery.



Impressions of ISW 2026



Impressions of ISW 2026

The Mexican capital offers a unique combination of medical infrastructure, cultural richness, and history. In addition to having highly specialized hospitals, internationally recognized academic centers, and increasing participation in clinical research, Mexico has consolidated a dynamic and highly competitive surgical community, including the prestigious Autonomous National University of Mexico (UNAM).

The congress took place at the Camino Real Polanco Hotel, a venue that successfully integrated academic activities, commercial industry exhibitions, and social gatherings within the same space. The logistics and organization were widely praised by international attendees, who highlighted the quality of the scientific program and the warmth of Mexican hospitality. Great location for all participants, walking distance to all the academic activities.

During the opening ceremony, led by Dr. Patricia Clark, Secretary of the General Health Council of Mexico, leaders in global surgery emphasized Mexico's role as a bridge between Latin America and the international surgical community. They also highlighted the importance of strengthening academic collaboration among coun-

tries and promoting exchange programs, mentorship, and advanced training opportunities for future generations of surgeons.

The city also offered visitors an exceptional cultural and culinary experience. Many attendees took advantage of their stay to visit iconic landmarks such as the Historic Center, the National Museum of Anthropology, the Pyramids of Teotihuacan, and Diego Rivera's murals, and many others.

Innovation and the Future of Surgery

One of the most relevant thematic pillars of ISW 2026 was technological innovation applied to surgery. Sessions dedicated to minimally invasive and robotic surgery, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, surgical simulation, and image-guided surgery demonstrated how technology is transforming contemporary surgical practice. Minimally invasive surgery occupied a central place within the scientific program, reflecting the leadership of the Global, Mexican, and Latin American surgical community in this field. International experts presented advances in advanced laparoscopic surgery, bariatric surgery, hepatobiliary surgery, endoscopic procedures, and hybrid approaches.

Likewise, the medical industry had a prominent presence through technological exhibitions, breakfast and lunch sessions, demonstrations of surgical equipment, and training platforms and surgical stations. Attendees were able to interact with new generations of robotic systems, high-fidelity simulators, and digital tools aimed at improving patient safety and surgical precision.

Another important topic discussed was the role of artificial intelligence in modern surgery. From predictive systems for post-operative complications to decision-support models and surgical education, the lectures reflected the great potential — as well as the ethical challenges — associated with these emerging technologies. Surgical Education: The Great Global Challenge

The training of future surgeons was one of the most relevant and transversal themes of the congress. Sessions dedicated to medical education addressed fundamental issues such as reduced training hours, resident well-being, surgical simulation, mentorship, and the need to modernize academic programs.



Impressions of ISW 2026



Impressions of ISW 2026

In this context, several academic groups shared experiences regarding laparoscopic training models, university simulation programs, and strategies to strengthen surgical education in both public and private hospitals.

Simulation was identified as an indispensable tool for contemporary training. Practical workshops allowed residents and young surgeons to train technical skills in controlled environments, reducing risks and improving learning curves.

The congress also highlighted the need to foster leadership, research, and international participation among new generations of surgeons. Activities aimed at young surgeons promoted global networking and the creation of future multi-center collaborations.

Research and International Collaboration
The presentation of scientific papers constituted another of the pillars of ISW 2026. Researchers from multiple countries shared results related to gastrointestinal surgery, oncology, trauma, transplantation, endocrine surgery, pediatric surgery, and global health.

The diversity of perspectives deeply enriched scientific discussions. Multi-

center studies, international collaborative projects, and new lines of research demonstrated how contemporary surgery increasingly depends on global cooperation networks.

The participation of residents and fellows was particularly remarkable. Poster competitions and oral presentations provided an international platform for young researchers, many of whom had the opportunity to present their projects before world-renowned surgical leaders.

In addition, the presence of the World Journal of Surgery, the official journal of the International Society of Surgery, reinforced the importance of scientific research and academic publication as drivers of surgical advancement worldwide.

The Importance of Bringing the Surgical Community Together
Beyond its scientific content, ISW 2026 reminded attendees of the importance of human connection within medicine, including social media. The opportunity to meet again in person strengthened professional and personal bonds among surgeons from different parts of the world.

Social and cultural activities encouraged the informal exchange of experiences, the

creation of new friendships, and the development of future academic collaborations. In an increasingly digitalized global environment, the value of direct interaction and dialogue among colleagues remains irreplaceable. The Mexican night, the Presidents' and Gala dinner are excellent examples of social activities, as are the dinners of the integrated societies.

The congress also served as a space for reflection on the future of surgery. Topics such as sustainability, gender equity, professional well-being, and universal access to safe surgical care were addressed from a critical and constructive perspective.

A Legacy for Mexico and Latin America
The organization of the World Congress of Surgery in Mexico City, together with the 34th Congress of the Mexican Association of Endoscopic Surgery, left a significant legacy for the national and Latin American surgical community. Beyond its immediate academic impact, the event strengthened the international visibility of Mexican surgery and opened new opportunities for scientific and educational collaboration.

For many Latin American residents, young and senior surgeons, the oppor-



Impressions of ISW 2026

tunity to interact directly with international leaders represented a transformative experience. Geographic proximity also enabled broader regional participation, fostering Latin America's integration into the global surgical conversation.

ISW 2026 demonstrated that Mexico possesses the academic, organizational, and human capacity to host scientific events of the highest international relevance. It also confirmed the growing prominence of Latin America in the generation of surgical knowledge, innovation, and medical education.

Looking Toward the Future

Surgery faces enormous challenges: population aging, increasing prevalence of complex diseases, inequality in access to surgical services, and accelerated technological development. Nevertheless, meetings such as the International Surgical Week demonstrate that international collaboration remains one of the

most powerful tools to address these challenges.

The 2026 edition will be remembered not only for the quality of its scientific program but also for the spirit of collaboration and openness that characterized each of its activities. Mexico City offered the surgical world a vibrant, modern, and profoundly human setting to share knowledge and build the future of surgery.

For the International Society of Surgery, for the Mexican Association of Endoscopic Surgery, and for the entire international surgical community, ISW 2026 represented a celebration of science, education, and global cooperation. It provided an opportunity to showcase to the world the strength of the medical community and its enduring commitment to academic excellence and surgical innovation.

Overall, ISW 2026 reinforced its position as a leading global forum for surgical col-

laboration and scientific progress. The report closes with a clear forward-looking message: the momentum generated in Mexico now carries the international surgical community toward the next congress, ISW 2028 in Cape Town, South Africa, from 26–30 March 2028.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude for the trust and support in achieving the great project of organizing the ISW 2026.

https://youtu.be/PhHehlqQ1_Q?si=OZQa-IUCKAMRMk1t1H

Eduardo E. Montalvo-Jave, MD, PhD.
FACS (Hon)
President of the ISW 2026.
President of AMCE and ALACE.
Chair and Professor of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine. UNAM

Abstract Awards at ISW 2026

The ISS/SIC Council congratulates the awardees of the various Abstract Awards for their achievements!

ISS/SIC Lloyd M. Nyhus Free Paper Prize
Presenter: Divyata Vasa, India
" COMPARISON OF OUTCOME OF BIOLOGICAL DRESSING VS 5% POVIDONE IODINE + H₂O₂ SOLUTION ON WOUNDS
Divyata Vasa;Tapan Shah; Yagnik Katara

ISS/SIC Poster Prize
Presenter: Erik Gardner, USA
USE OF REBOA FOR POSTPARTUM HEMORRHAGE: SCOPING REVIEW OF EFFICACY, SAFETY, AND GLOBAL APPLICATION FOR OBSTETRIC CARE
Erik Gardner, Ana M. Reyes, Julie Valenzuela Ryder

ISS/SIC Poster Prize
Presenter: Melanie Spiekermann, USA
BUILDING A NATIONAL SURGICAL OBSTETRIC AND ANAESTHESIA PLAN FOR A PACIFIC SMALL ISLAND NATIONAL
Melanie Spiekermann, Sione Pifeleti, Lamour Hansell, Dyson Hansell, Andrew Hill

IATSIC Free Paper Prize
Presenter: Leila Ghalichi, India
THREE -MONTH MORTALITY AND DISABILITY AFTER MODERATE TO SEVERE INJURIES IN FOUR LOW-OR MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES
Leila Ghalichi, Kathryn Chu, Justine Davies

IATSIC Poster Prize
Presenter: Julio Augusto Palma Zapata, Mexico
ROLE OF INFLAMMATORY AND NEURONAL CSF BIOMARKERS IN PREDICTING THE ONSET OF INTRACRANIAL HYPERTENSION AFTER TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
Donghwan Choi; Jonghwan Moon

IASMEN Free Paper Prize
Presenter: Kensuke Nakamura, Japan
ACUTE KIDNEY INJURY ON MAJOR SURGERY AND CLINICAL PRACTICE OF INTRAVENOUS AMINO ACIDS: A DESCRIPTIVE STUDY IN JAPAN
Kensuke Nakamura, Naoki Kanda

IASMEN Free Paper Prize
Presenter: Bartosz Kowalski, Poland
PILOT IMPLEMENTATION OF AI IN THE GENERATION OF INDIVIDUALIZED PARENTERAL NUTRITION PLANS (TPN PLAN CREATOR)
Bartosz Kowalski, Jacek Sobocki

BSI Free Paper Prize
Presenting Susanna Kauhanen, Finland
ONCOLOGIC SAFETY OF LIPOFILLING IN POST MASTECTOMY BREAST CANCER PATIENTS – A RETROSPECTIVE MATCHED CASE-CONTROL STUDY
Susanna Kauhanen, Sini-lina Laakso, Tuomo Meretoja, Pauliina Homsy

BSI Free Paper Prize (runner-up)
Presenting Author: Nicholas Zakem, Canada
MANAGEMENT OF RADIAL SCAR AND COMPLEX SCLEROSING LESIONS OF THE BREAST: TO EXCISE OR NOT TO EXCISE? A RETROSPECTIVE STUDY
Nicholas Zakem, Sarkis Meterissian, Ipshita Prakash, Stephanie Wong, Miranda Bassel

BSI Video Competition Prize

Presenting Author: Prashant Prusty, India
THINK BEFORE YOU CUT- PRESERVE TO PERFORM"- A RANDOMIZED TRIAL ON INTERCOSTOBRACHIAL NERVE PRESERVATION AND RECOVERY OF SHOULDER FUNCTION AFTER AXIL-LARY DISSECTION IN CARCINOMA BREAST PATIENT

Prashant Kumar Prusty, Bharath Shivalingaiah, KulRanjan Singh, Pooja Ramakant, Anand Kumar Mishra

BSI Video Competition Prize (runner-up)

Presenting Author: Macy Jepsen, USA
HIJACKING HORMONE SIGNALING IN BREAST CANCER: GLUCOCORTICOID RECEPTOR AFFINITY FOR MIFEPRIS-TONE (RU486) MAY UNLOCK PATIENT SURVIVAL

Macy Jepsen

ISDS Grassi Prize

Presenter: Renato Pitesa, New Zealand
MODIFIED APPEND SCORE FOR THE DIAGNOSIS OF ACUTE APPENDICITIS IN A NEW ZEALAND PASIFIKA POPULATION
Renato Pitesa, Andrew G. Hill, Andrew D. McCormick

ISDS Kitajima Prize

Presenter: Luis Castro, Canada
STATIN USE IMPROVES OVERALL SURVIVAL IN ESOPHAGEAL ADENOCARCINOMA PATIENTS UNDERGOING CURATIVE-INTENT THERAPY.

Luis Castro, Sofia Cusin, Mehrnoush Dehghani, Nicholas Bertos, Lorenzo Ferri

IATSIC / AAST Free Paper Prize

Presenter: Michael Bath, UK
GLOBAL VARIATION IN PATIENT FACTORS, INTERVENTIONS, AND POSTOPERATIVE OUTCOMES FOR THOSE UNDERGOING TRAUMA LAPAROTOMY: AN INTERNATIONAL PROSPECTIVE OBSERVATIONAL COHORT STUDY
Michael Bath, Tom Bashford

Report IATSIC



*Hayato Kurihara,
President IATSIC*

Back from ISW 2026 in Mexico City, we celebrate an impactful IATSIC program that highlighted our society's global footprint. Featuring **12 scientific slots, 43 speakers and chairs**, and faculty representing **20 countries**, the congress bridged clinical realities from high-income countries to low- and middle-income settings. Sessions focused on the core pillars of our discipline: clinical management, global epidemiology, disaster preparedness, and trauma advocacy.

I express my deep gratitude to the Executive Committee and to my predecessor, **David Zonies**. David's leadership, vision, and commitment over the past term have strengthened our society and left a meaningful legacy. His Presidential Address on "Social Capital in Global Surgery" captured the true spirit of IATSIC. He underlined that our core value lies in



iatsic

International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care

relationships, networks, trust, and social connections. Trauma care does not exist in a vacuum of isolated clinical skills; it depends on knowledge exchange, collaborative networks, and mutual trust between surgical, anesthesia, and nursing communities.

In harmony with this vision, I want to thank **Chris Dodgion** for spearheading the development of the attached **TEACH-Trauma Concept Note** (Trauma Education and Coordination Hub) and the **Global Trauma Education Survey**. These initiatives originating in discussions between IATSIC and AAST, aiming to streamline global trauma training by mapping courses and advocating for policy integration and systems development.

In alignment with these updated standards, IATSIC—under the leadership of **Christine Gaarder**—has partnered with the WHO to launch a pilot operative course: "Surgery Without Safety Nets: Resource-Limited Settings, Conflict Areas, and Mass Casualty Events". This program delivers training on surgical decision-making

when CT imaging, interventional radiology, and blood products are scarce, focusing on life-saving trauma operations and damage control principles. In an era of shifting geopolitical landscapes, delivering definitive care without traditional institutional safety nets is both an IATSIC priority and a universal necessity.

Mexico City also offered an opportunity to gather our DSTC and DATC faculty. A key takeaway was the necessity of integrating surgical and Anaesthesia environments more deeply, while expanding the involvement of nurses in a structured, team-based trauma approach. To disseminate these concepts, a new set of educational slides is currently being prepared. We are grateful to **Tarek Razek**, **Henrique Alexandrino**, and **Sergio Batista** for the energy they have put into these programs. We also extend our congratulations and best wishes to our incoming international chairs leading our curriculum forward: **Teo Li-Tserng** (DSTC Chair) and **David Scott** (DATC Chair).

Furthermore, IATSIC welcomes the **International Association of Student Surgical Societies (IASSS)** officially joining the ISS/SIC as our newest Integrated Society. In an era where global surgery faces complex institutional, economic, and systemic challenges, medical students and trainees provide valuable energy to our community. Cultivating their interest early ensures the next generation of leaders is prepared to champion safe, equitable, and accessible surgical care worldwide.

Finally, a major landmark achievement for our society was the publication of the **Guidelines for Essential Trauma Care: Second Edition (2026)** in the World Journal of Surgery. This first complete revision since the initial 2004

release was presented by our past President, **Charlie Mock**, during the Donald Trunkey Lecture. Exactly **22 years** later, these guidelines provide an updated, flexible blueprint to address care inequalities by optimizing resource planning. Due to technological and economic advancements, several critical interventions have now been upgraded to **Core** expectations globally.

Read the Open-Access Paper: Charles Mock, Timothy C. Hardcastle, Christine Gaarder, Amit Gupta, Adam Gyedu, Manjul Joshipura, Elmin Steyn, on behalf of the Essential Trauma Care revision author group. **“Guidelines for Essential Trauma Care: Second Edition (2026),” World Journal of Surgery: 1–42.**

<https://doi.org/10.1002/wjs.70321>.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1002/wjs.70321>

Looking ahead, we are already focusing our energy on our next global gathering. The IATSIC Family wishes the best of luck to **Timothy Hardcastle** for the organization of the next International Surgical Week (ISW) in Cape Town, South Africa in March 2028. We look forward to gathering our global community in Cape Town to further strengthen these vital connections through an effective scientific and educational program.

Hayato Kurihara
President IATSIC



Anders Holtan, Norway, previous Head of DATC



IATSIC Pre Congress Course “Surgery without Safety Nets”

Report IASMEN



Joji Kotani,
President IASMEN

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits. It is my distinct honor and privilege to address you as the President of IASMEN through this ISS/SIC Newsletter.

In the evolving landscape of modern surgery, our research must continuously address the clinical milestones that define patient recovery. Among these, **Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS)** has fundamentally transformed surgical care. By minimizing surgical trauma and reducing the systemic inflammatory response, MIS plays a pivotal role in preserving the patient's metabolic balance and accelerating physiological recovery. Concurrently, **the Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) programs** have revolutionized perioperative management through a multimodal, evidence-based approach. The importance of ERAS lies

not only in its clinical efficacy but also in its global expansion, particularly in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs), where its implementation offers a highly cost-effective strategy to optimize resource utilization, reduce complications, and standardize high-quality care worldwide.

My own professional journey began as a gastrointestinal surgeon, but in the latter half of my career, my focus shifted toward **Acute Care Surgery**, which naturally led me to specialize deeply in **emergency medicine and intensive care**. Through this clinical experience, I have come to a firm realization: the future of surgical metabolism and nutrition no longer belongs to surgeons alone. It is critical that we actively engage and collaborate with other vital specialists involved in critical care, such as intensivists and emergency physicians. In this interconnected ecosystem, **Post-Intensive Care Syndrome (PICS)** has emerged as a crucial area that demands our urgent attention. Going forward, I am eager to promote PICS as a key, pioneering research theme within IASMEN. Crucially, **optimal nutritional therapy combined with early, intensive rehabilitation** has proven to be highly effective in mitigating PICS, breaking the cycle of



physical, cognitive, and psychological decline after critical illness.

This vision was vibrantly reflected at our recent **ISW 2026 in Mexico City** last month. Regrettably, due to a sudden family bereavement immediately upon my arrival in Mexico, I had to return to Japan urgently and was unable to attend the scientific congress in person. However, I am immensely proud and thrilled to report that, thanks to the dedication of our leadership and members, the IASMEN sessions were an outstanding success. Attached to this newsletter, you will find a photograph of our **Executive Committee (ExCom)** members who represented our society so brilliantly in my absence.

A major highlight of our program in Mexico was the successful organization of numerous joint sessions with prominent sister and regional societies, including **ASSMN, ISBI, IATSIC, FELAC, and ISDS**. The discussions were incredibly vibrant and fruitful. Seeing such active engagement reinforced my conviction that IASMEN's research in metabolism and nutrition serves as a fundamental cornerstone for research across a wide spectrum of surgical disciplines. Furthermore, alongside our deeply engaging discussions on the advancements of MIS and the global expansion of ERAS, our newly highlighted sessions focusing on the intensive care arena—including PICS—were met with immense enthusiasm and high attendance.

Looking ahead, we are committed to nurturing this multi-disciplinary momentum. We will continue to expand our educational resources, support collaborative research, and provide travel grants

to encourage the next generation of surgeons and specialists worldwide to join our mission.

Finally, looking even further into the future, I am already greatly looking forward to our next grand gathering at **ISW 2028 in Cape Town, South Africa**. I am confident that it will be another historic milestone for our society.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the executive committee and all

our members for their exceptional support and for making ISW 2026 a memorable success. Let us continue to work together to expand the horizons of IASMEN.

Warmest regards,
Joji Kotani,

President
Joji Kotani
President IASMEN

Report BSI



*Sharon WW Chan,
President BSI*



*Kavitha Däster,
Honorary Secretary
BSI*

International Surgical Week (ISW) 2026

The International Surgical Week (ISW) 2026 – World Congress of Surgery, held in Mexico City, was an overwhelming success. The vibrant host city provided delegates with a memorable experience through its rich cultural heritage, warm hospitality, and dynamic atmosphere.

BSI's involvement began with a series of pre-congress breast surgery workshops held over the weekend. Two dedicated workshops focusing on breast ultrasound and oncoplastic techniques were organised by BSI and received excellent attendance and highly positive feedback from participants.

The scientific programme was curated under the leadership of BSI President Dr Ines Bucciamazza together with Scientific Committee Chair Dr Ipshita Prakash and Prof Jacqueline Jeruss. Developed with

strong local support from the Sociedad Mexicana de Oncología, the programme delivered an outstanding educational offering focused on breast surgery.

The BSI scientific sessions featured more than 50 internationally recognised speakers and attracted exceptional attendance, with many sessions reaching full capacity. The programme covered a broad range of contemporary breast surgery topics, including breast oncology, operative techniques, and emerging technologies. These sessions provided an excellent learning environment and facilitated valuable exchanges between trainees and experienced breast surgeons from around the world. The BSI debate session once again served as an important platform for international collaboration and discussion within the global breast surgery community.

Presidential Address and Veronesi Lecture

The Presidential Address was delivered by BSI President Dr Ines Bucciamazza and was truly inspiring, representing one of the highlights of the meeting. The address reflected on the achievements of the organisation while presenting an exciting vision for the future. It was exceptionally well received and set a positive and motivating tone for the conference.

The Veronesi Lecture followed the Presidential Address. This year's prestigious lecture was delivered by Prof Dr Rajendra Achyut Badwe. Due to the geopolitical situation, Prof Badwe was unable to attend in person; however, a pre-record-



ed lecture was presented and provided thought-provoking insights to delegates. The session concluded with live audience interaction via Microsoft Teams, allowing participants to engage directly with him following the lecture.

Despite ongoing geopolitical challenges, only one travel scholar was able to attend the congress. Therefore, local scholars were invited to participate in expert panel discussions and actively contributed to the "Stump the Expert" session.

BSI networking dinner

The BSI networking dinner brought together 75 BSI members and colleagues from around the world. The event provided an excellent networking opportunity, reconnecting with long-standing collaborators, and strengthening international relationships.

BSI leadership transition

An important milestone during the meeting was the BSI leadership transition. During the fourth BSI Committee Meeting held in Mexico City, Dr Ines Bucciamazza formally handed over the presidency to Dr Sharon Chan. Prof Jacqueline Jeruss was appointed President-Elect and Dr Ipshita Prakash assumed the role of Treasurer. Newly appointed Council members included Dr Isabella Karat (United

Kingdom), Prof Jiong Wu (China), and Dr Shehrnaz Ismael (South Africa).

BSI future collaborations and plans

Looking ahead, BSI remains committed to strengthening its educational and international activities for the 2026–2028 term. The incoming Council will hold its first meeting on 20 June 2026 to begin planning future educational programmes and activities in preparation for the next International Surgical Week, which will take place in Cape Town in 2028.

Educational initiatives over the coming years will continue to expand, including the development of webinars and online tutorials aimed at trainees. BSI will also continue its successful journal club activities, incorporating international expert panel discussions, debates, and guideline reviews. In addition, the Council has proposed the development of hands-on workshops in breast ultrasound and oncoplastic surgery to be delivered internationally. These initiatives will be further discussed during upcoming Council meetings.

BSI will continue to strengthen its international outreach through collaborations with local organisations and global breast surgery platforms. The Memorandum of Understanding with the Malaysian government remains active, and BSI's international partnerships continue to expand.

Collaboration has also been established with the 2026 CBCS & CSOBO Academic Tour scheduled for 11 September 2026, with Council member Sandra Krishnan representing BSI. The meeting will bring together leading experts in breast cancer research from Mainland China and Hong Kong to facilitate guideline interpretation and exchange practical experiences aimed at improving breast cancer care and patient outcomes.

The Hong Kong Society of Breast Surgeons Annual Scientific Meeting, taking place on 13 September 2026, will also welcome Prof Jiong Wu and Sandra Krishnan as BSI representatives.

Meanwhile, the BEST Programme will continue its activities, with Dr Sharon Chan visiting Beijing from 17–30 June

and Sandra Krishnan scheduled to visit China in September 2026.

Through these initiatives, BSI aims to expand membership, enhance its international visibility, and further strengthen its position within the global breast surgery community. Members are encouraged to follow updates through the BSI website, where information regarding future activities, educational opportunities, and CPD-accredited events will be announced. We also look forward to the planning and preparation for the next International Surgical Week (ISW), which will be held in Cape Town in 2028. This upcoming congress represents another exciting opportunity to strengthen international collaboration and educational exchange within the global breast surgery community. Members are encouraged to stay tuned for future events and announcements as planning progresses.

Sharon WW Chan
President BSI

Kavitha Däster
Honorary Secretary BSI



BSI networking Dinner



Precongress oncoplastic workshop speakers.



Precongress oncoplastic workshop – Hands on session



BSI's main sessions



Precongress Ultrasound participants.



Newly appointed council members joining the team.



Passing the baton for the BSI presidency with the past presidents.



Presidential Address



Precongress Ultrasound workshop expert speaker.

Report ISDS



*Go Wakabayashi,
President ISDS*

Greetings,

I was honored to be appointed President of the International Society for Digestive Surgery (ISDS) at the ISDS General Assembly held this April in Mexico City during ISW 2026. ISDS has a long and distinguished history: its predecessor, the Collegium Internationale Chirurgiae Digestivae (CICD), was founded in 1969 by French and Italian surgeons. The society's first international meeting took place in Sanremo, Italy, in 1971, and in 1998 the organization was renamed ISDS (International Society for Digestive Surgery).

My first ISDS meeting was in Yokohama in 2004, hosted by Professor Hiroshi Shimada. The meeting was biennial at that time, and the 2006 conference in Rome drew more than 700 participants. Although the planned 2008 meeting in Shanghai was canceled, ISDS resumed strong international engagement with the inaugural conference integrated within the WCS framework in Adelaide in September 2009.

Since then, ISDS has maintained a prominent presence at WCS meetings, including Yokohama (2011), Helsinki (2013), Bangkok (2015), Basel (2017), Krakow (2019), Vienna (2022), and Kuala Lumpur (2024). ISDS continues to play an active role in prize selection and program development for the ISDS Kitajima Prize, ISDS Yokohama Prize, ISDS Grassi Prize, and the Grey Turner Memorial Lecture.



Looking ahead, ISW 2028 will be held in Cape Town from March 26–30, 2028. We are currently developing the program and warmly invite the participation of many ISS/SIC members.

Sincerely,

Go Wakabayashi
President ISDS



At the General assembly of ISDS on 22 April 2026 at ISW 2026 in Mexico City

Report IASSS



Angela Jia Jia Teo
Co-President IASSS

As of May 2026, the International Association of Student Surgical Societies (IASSS) had grown into a dynamic worldwide community of more than **12,000** members. The organisation's membership base remains particularly strong across Asia, Africa and Europe, while gradually continuing its expansion into Oceania and the Americas. Dedicated to advancing surgical education, mentorship opportunities, and international collaboration, IASSS brings together future surgical professionals from over **133** countries and upwards of **1,000** univer-

sities globally. The association primarily consists of medical students, while also engaging junior doctors, medical officers, registrars, and consultant-level specialists, creating a broad and collaborative network for individuals pursuing careers in surgery.

In a major milestone for the organisation, IASSS has officially become an **integrated society** of the ISS-SIC, marking an exciting new chapter in its continued growth within the global surgical community. This achievement represents over 11 years of dedication and growth since our conception, reflecting IASSS's expanding international presence and longstanding commitment to advancing surgical education and collaboration worldwide. As an Integrated Society, IASSS looks forward to contributing its innovative, work-based and future-forward approaches to the wider ISS-SIC community while con-



tinuing to create meaningful opportunities for the next generation of surgeons.

Introducing the IASSS Executive Committee 2026

The IASSS welcomes its **2026 Executive Committee**, consisting of **66 members**, including **19 national delegates**. In line

with its commitment to strengthening global representation, the committee continues to expand through the ongoing

recruitment of national delegates from diverse regions across the world.



IASSS Key initiatives for 2026:

IASSS has launched several impactful initiatives to enhance global engagement and provide meaningful opportunities for its members:

- A major restructuring has recently been implemented within the **International Development Team** through the adoption of the World Health Organisation (WHO) regional framework. The team is now organised according to the six WHO regions: **SEARO, WPRO, AFRO, EURO, EMRO** and **AMRO/PAHO**. This transition was undertaken to strengthen the organisation's global outreach, improve regional representation, and align more closely with international development and global health dynamics. In addition, new leadership positions known as Divisional Leads have been introduced within the organisational structure. These roles serve as an intermediary link between Chapter Leads and National Delegates, with the aim of improving communication, coordination and operational efficiency across regions.
- IASSS Research Lab** is a dedicated platform promoting global collaboration and driving innovation in surgical research, currently under development.
- The IASSS remains committed to strengthening its **Policy and Advocacy Team** to further expand outreach to students and pre-specialist doctors in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) and develop sustainable initiatives that improve access to surgical education and supportive resources for these groups. One of our key initiatives this year is our Mental Health Campaign, which aims to raise awareness about the psychological and emotional challenges faced by surgical trainees and surgeons, while advocating for greater openness, support systems and meaningful conversations surrounding mental health within the broader surgical community.
- As a premier resource for surgical education amongst students and pre-specialist doctors, the IASSS is looking towards establishing our **Academy** in which we will create and curate workshops and courses around non-technical skills such as leadership, advocacy, communication and research (to name a few) as well as technical skills via in-person surgical skills workshops. Consequently, we are now actively seeking partnerships and collaborators to help realise our vision. Please reach out to us should you be interested in contributing to this initiative to commence by 2027.

IASSS Event Highlights:

Principles of Pre-Hospital Fracture Management

On 14 February 2026, IASSS conducted an online workshop focusing on early trauma assessment, immobilisation, and practical splinting techniques. The session combined interactive teaching with hands-on demonstrations using both standard and low-resource materials,



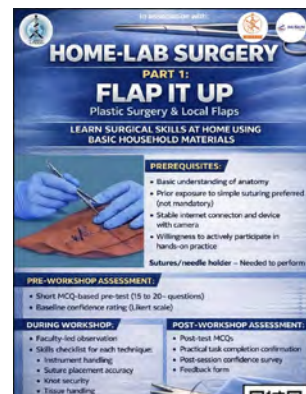
When Not to Cut: Surgical Judgement at the End of Life

On 28 February 2026, IASSS hosted this multidisciplinary session, exploring ethical decision-making, prognosis and compassionate patient care when surgical intervention may no longer be beneficial. The discussion highlighted the importance of collaboration between surgical and oncology perspectives in end-of-life management.



HOME LAB SURGERY- 1 (FLAP IT UP)

On March 28, IASSS launched the "Home-Lab Surgery" online surgical skills workshop series with its first session, "Flap it Up", focusing on basic plastic surgery principles, suturing, knot tying and flap design. Conducted live on Zoom, the hands-on workshop enabled participants worldwide to practice surgical skills from home using simple household materials.



Learn about IASSS

On April 25, IASSS hosted an introductory session highlighting the organisation's mission, opportunities and global impact for medical students and junior doctors interested in surgery. The event featured 2 of our committee members who shared insights on international collaboration, professional growth and involvement within the surgical community.



From Diagnosis to Scalpel: A Practical Approach to Cardiac Surgery in Resource-Limited Settings

This session, held on the 25th of April, explored the practical realities of cardiac surgery in resource-limited settings. The discussion highlighted the importance of early diagnosis, surgical decision-making and innovative approaches to delivering effective cardiac surgical care despite limited resources.



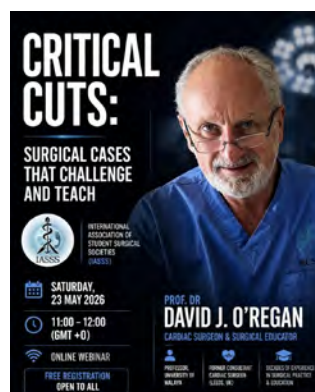
Crack EMREE: Your Ultimate Guide

On 26 April, the IASSS UAE Satellite Committee hosted the first session of its three-part “Crack EMREE: Your Ultimate Guide” series, aimed at supporting candidates preparing for the Emirates Residency Entrance (EMREE) Exam. The session covered high-yield topics, exam strategies and practical approaches to improve confidence and performance.



IASSS 2026 Critical Cut Series: Session 1 Cardiac Surgery

On 23 May 2026, IASSS hosted a case-based session focused on surgical judgement, intraoperative decision-making, and practical cardiac surgery principles. Led by Prof. Dr David J. O'Regan, the session provided participants with real-world clinical insights and interactive discussions on managing complex surgical scenarios.



Surgeons in Conflict Zones: The Sudan Edition

As part of the ongoing “Surgeons in Conflict Zones” series, IASSS Talks, in collaboration with IASSS Sudan and SCSD, hosted the Sudan Edition on the 24th of May, focusing on the realities of surgical care and medical research in conflict-affected settings. The session highlighted the resilience, ethical challenges, innovation and humanitarian experiences of healthcare professionals working under resource-limited and unstable conditions.



IASSS Welcomes New Partnerships:

- **BJS Academy -- Educational arm of the BJS Foundation**

IASSS is excited to partner with BJS Academy, which serves as a global platform dedicated to advancing surgical education, research, mentorship and professional development for current and future surgeons. Through its wide range of educational resources, journal clubs, scientific discussions and academic initiatives, BJS Academy continues to support the international surgical community by promoting innovation, collaboration and evidence-based surgical practice.

- **CLIRNET**

Clirnet is a leading digital medical education and professional networking platform dedicated to supporting healthcare professionals through live CME sessions, certified courses, expert-led clinical discussions, and collaborative learning opportunities. By integrating medical education, technology and peer engagement, CLIRNET aims to enhance clinical knowledge exchange and improve patient care through accessible and innovative learning solutions for the global medical community.

Global Presence & Upcoming Highlights

IASSS tries to empower future surgeons through international collaboration and high-level representation in global surgery forums:

- **International Surgical Week (ISW) and Future Surgeons Program (FSP) 2026 – Mexico City**

The IASSS was proud not only to have been represented at the International Surgical Week (ISW) 2026 but also to have curated 5 sessions within this global platform held in April in Mexico City. We also marked the 5th iteration of the Future Surgeons Program, continuing the organisation's commitment to fostering global engagement, surgical education and collaboration among aspiring surgeons worldwide. To date, the IASSS has empowered just over 100 individuals through the FSP, and this would not be possible without the continued support of the ISS Foundation and the ISS-SIC.



- **IASSS at the WHO Acute Care Action Network 2026 Meeting**

17-18 May 2026 | Geneva, Switzerland

IASSS has been officially invited to participate in the WHO Acute Care Action Network 2026 Meeting, represented by Michael Petrus, Tatenda Mbanje, Angela Jia Jia Teo and Sangeun Lee, with both in-person and virtual participation from the delegation.



- **BJS Foundation Summer Council**

12-14 June 2025 | Lund, Sweden

IASSS has been invited to participate in the BJS Summer Council and will be represented by our Board Member, Tatenda Mbanje.



Conclusion

Over the next few months, we will be reshaping components of our infrastructure to ensure both financial and organisational sustainability.

As always, we remain committed to advancing surgical education, fostering global collaboration, and supporting the aspirations of future surgical leaders. Connect with us on:

- Website: <https://www.iasss.org>
- Email: president@iasss.org
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/iasss>
- Instagram: [@iasss_official](https://www.instagram.com/iasss_official)
- X: [@IASSS_1](https://twitter.com/IASSS_1)

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF
SURGERY (ISS/SIC)**
Administrative Office
Seefeldstrasse 104
CH-8008 Zürich, Switzerland

E-mail: surgery@iss-sic.com

Web: www.iss-sic.com



2026 CONGRESS IMPACT REPORT



International Surgical Week
The World's Congress of Surgery

51st World Congress of the International Society of Surgery ISS/SIC
Jointly organized with the 34th International Congress of the Mexican Association of Endoscopic Surgery

19 - 23 April 2026 Mexico City, Mexico



Asociación Mexicana de Cirugía Endoscópica, A.C.



isw2026.org



ISS/SIC Council Members 2024 - 2026 & Guests

ISW2026 Mexico was jointly organized by ISS/SIC and AMCE during a period of significant global uncertainty, including geopolitical tensions, evolving visa regulations, and international travel disruptions affecting participants from multiple regions.

These experiences demonstrated the resilience and commitment of the surgical community and highlighted the importance of adaptability and international collaboration in organizing global initiatives under changing conditions.

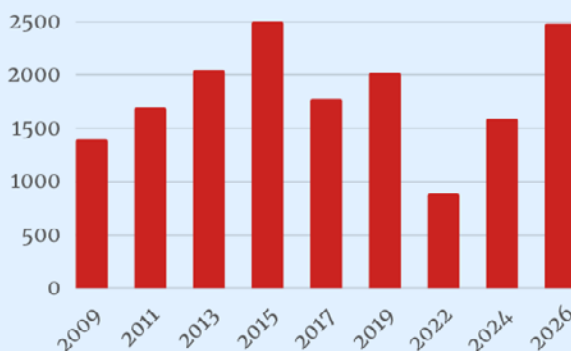


International Surgical Week ISW 2026 brought together the global surgical community for a dynamic exchange of knowledge, innovation, and collaboration.

447 Invited Speakers: International experts contributed to a comprehensive scientific program.

Representation from 98 Countries: Participants from around the world highlighted ISW2026's global reach.

32 Exhibitors and Industry Partners: Leading organizations showcased advancements in surgical technology, research, and healthcare solutions. ISW2026 reinforced its position as a leading international platform for scientific exchange and surgical collaboration.



iatsic

International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care



International Association
for Surgical Metabolism
and Nutrition



2484

Participants registered

1185

Abstracts Submitted

141

Scientific Sessions

Cape Town ISW2028 Launch

As Chair of the upcoming International Surgical Week 2028, it was a pleasure to launch the Cape Town plans for the ISW2028 at the Council meeting, the AGM and the first planning meeting. I was pleased to have our organizing team, Eastern Sun Events, represented at the International Surgical Week 2026 in Mexico City. Their presence formed an important part of our early engagement strategy, allowing us to promote the Cape Town congress, connect with international colleagues, and engage meaningfully with industry partners who will play a key role in the success of the 2028 meeting.

We introduced Cape Town as the next host destination and presented an overview of what delegates can expect. As part of this launch, the ISW 2028 promotional video was showcased and is available on the ISW2028 website, which is up and running. The response was overwhelmingly positive, with strong enthusiasm expressed for both the destination and the congress plans.

Cape Town is well-known as a leading global meetings destination, with the Cape Town International Convention Centre serving as the congress venue. Its central location, within walking distance of a wide range of hotels and close to the popular V&A Waterfront, was particularly well received. Accessibility was also emphasised, with direct and connecting international routes making travel to South Africa increasingly convenient for delegates worldwide.

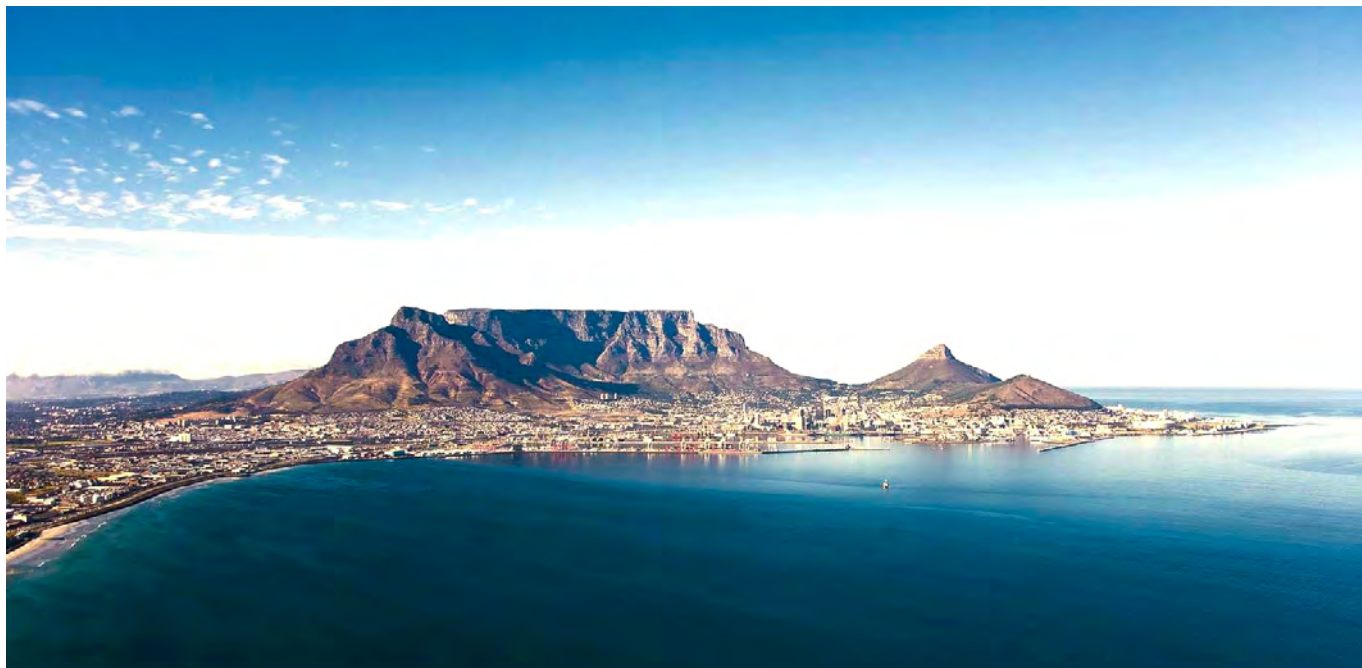
Two areas of particular interest from Council members were visa processes and accommodation. Regarding visas, we were able to share encouraging developments, including the introduction of the MEETS (Meetings, Events, Exhibitions and Tourism Scheme) digital visa application system by South African Home Affairs. This online process is expected to significantly streamline visa applications for international delegates. Our organising team is currently in the process of registering with this system to further support attendees and ensure a smooth experience.

Accommodation discussions focused on both availability and cost. Council members were reassured by the strong hotel offering surrounding the convention centre, with more than 4,000 rooms located within a one-kilometre radius. A range of options has been secured to suit different budgets, from the adjoining five-star Westin Hotel to more affordable four-star and self-catering alternatives, all within easy walking distance. Importantly, each integrated society will have the flexibility to align with its own preferred accommodation, which will require careful coordination as planning progresses.

Beyond the Council engagement, the Mexico City congress provided an excellent platform to promote ISW 2028 directly to delegates and to strengthen relationships with industry partners. These interactions have already begun to build momentum and interest in Cape Town, reinforcing confidence in the success of the 2028 congress.

In terms of the conference planning a proposal to ensure that all named lectures in Cape Town from the integrated societies and the local societies will be held as plenaries wherever possible to ensure maximal participation. Furthermore, the local collaborating societies (Association of surgeons of South Africa, SA Society of Endoscopic Surgery and the SA Gastroenterological Society) look forward to a few combined and shared sessions, in addition to various standalone free paper sessions. We look forward to building on this momentum as we continue preparations and to welcome the global surgical community to South Africa in March 2028. We aim for this to be an excellent and enjoyable meeting. See you all soon!

Prof Timothy Craig Hardcastle
ASSA-LOC Chair



The famous TABLE MOUNTAIN from the Table Bay and Bloubergstrand end



The Bo-Kaap Cape Malay area of Cape Town – colours of the Rainbow Nation



Launch meeting – Introducing Cape Town.



The EASTERN SUN PCO team – full support from the start

52nd World Congress of the International Society of Surgery ISS/SIC
INTERNATIONAL SURGICAL WEEK
THE WORLD'S CONGRESS OF SURGERY
26 - 30 MARCH 2028 | CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA
www.isw2028.com



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