



# Newsletter

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

December 2025

## Report by the President ISS/SIC



Ari K. Leppäniemi,  
President ISS/SIC &  
Congress President  
ISW 2026

The RCS Commission on the Future of Surgery report ([futureofsurgery.rcseng.ac.uk](http://futureofsurgery.rcseng.ac.uk)) listed four areas of technological development that will make the greatest impact in transforming surgery over the next two decades:

- minimally-invasive surgery
- imaging, virtual reality and augmented reality
- big data, genomics, and artificial intelligence
- specialized interventions

However, the world will not be the same in 2045. We as surgeons are not working in a vacuum, and there are several global megatrends that will determine the future for us and for our planet well before the year 2045.

Should we be concerned about it or just go about our work, treating patients as we did in the past and do today, and not



Chapultepec Castle

December 2025

worry too much about what is happening around us, in the society, globally? I strongly believe that we as individuals as well as a profession should not just be concerned but actively be involved in trying to shape the future to the best of our combined abilities.

A list of some of the current megatrends shaping our immediate future, in no particular order, contains the following:

- re-activation of the nuclear arms race and the fundamental changes in conventional warfare
- erosion of rule-based world order and increasing number of autocratic nations
- global economic inequality and the risk of mass migrations
- illusion of the feasibility of constant economic growth in a planet with limited resources
- concentration of economic power (and data) into the hands of a few transnational companies
- the threat of misusing and abusing artificial intelligence
- frustration in the battle against catastrophic climate change

There are nine countries that have nuclear weapons but excluding North Korea, nuclear testing has been limited with international agreements since the 1990s. However, the recent report of a new type of Russian missile and the statement of the US President Donald Trump about the option of starting nuclear tests have opened up the possibility of returning to a global nuclear arms race. Equally worrisome is the veiled threat to use tactical or battlefield nuclear weapons in Ukraine. But even conventional warfare has undergone fundamental changes with the use of drones. That has also affected the management of wounded soldiers and civilians. Frontline surgery has become obsolete, medical facilities and personnel have become targets, transferring patients at least during day time is dangerous, and finally, surgery needs to go deep underground, and be protected from drone attacks.

The war in Ukraine gets (and rightly so) plenty of media coverage, and the hope for a peace agreement seems distant in

the short term. But there are other wars that have been more or less forgotten. For example, in Sudan, two armed factions have been fighting since 2023, and have committed numerous war crimes, killing (according to some estimates, over 100,000 people have died during the conflict), raping, and starving their countrymen forcing more than a million refugees to look for relief. According to WHO, 460 people were killed in an obstetric hospital in one day. What is the main reason for the civil war? Fight for resources, especially gold.

In the conflict between Israel and Palestinians, the government of Israel has been accused of grave human right violations, not just in Gaza, but also in the West Bank. The attack by Hamas was an absolute crime, but the massive and continuing response by the Israeli government cannot be justified in any way. And with that, the only viable solution, a two-stage model with 1967 borders is getting more and more unachievable.

The erosion of rule-based world order is not just visible in current wars. Systematic erosion of balanced division of power, independence of the judicial arm of governments, ignoring international agreements and challenging basic human rights is a trend clearly visible in many Western countries that used to be liberal democracies. The same trend has been or is increasingly becoming the norm also in other parts of the world.

Economic inequality both within and between nations is increasing. Inequality is growing for more than 70% of the global population, exacerbating the risks of divisions and hampering economic and social development according to a UN flagship study. It shows that the richest 1% of the population are the big winners in the changing global economy, increasing their share of income between 1990 and 2015, while at the other end of the scale, the bottom 40% earned less than a quarter of income in all countries surveyed. One of the consequences of inequality within societies, notes the report, is slower economic growth in unequal societies, with wide disparities in areas such as health care and education, where people are more likely to remain trapped in poverty, across several generations.

Moreover, the debts and the interest of the loans of the global south to European and US banks are much higher than the total development aid flowing from developed to developing countries. It is futile to think that the problem will be solved with more loans and "projects". Erasing the loans completely would be the only durable solution that would give the developing countries a chance to improve the living conditions of their populations. The bleak vision of the future combined with droughts caused by global warming will according to recent estimates result in mass migration of people towards north, further aggravating the grim situation in many countries, especially in Africa.

The use (or abuse) of artificial intelligence and fight for digital supremacy will, and is already causing fundamental changes in all areas of life including medicine. Additional worries can be attributed to the ownership structure of big data; large transnational companies spearhead the development using social media and other sources of information to create new ways to increase their already huge profits with no proper regulation.

No discussion of the future would be complete without addressing the existential question of climate change. It is closely linked to the delusion of infinite economic growth. Even "sustainable" technology such as electric vehicles and wind turbines faces physical limits and brings along environmental costs as well as geopolitical tensions related to materials used in green energy production and use. Our planet has limited resources, and without rapid turn to sustainability, we are facing catastrophic consequences. According to some estimates, we have this decade to strongly limit the use of fossil fuels and use other measures to limit the rise of global temperature to two degrees. At the time of writing this, the climate congress in Brazil is taking place in a few days, but with the low-level participation of some of the highest polluting countries, and the strong lobbying power of oil companies and oil-producing nations, the chances of making significant progress are limited.

I understand that the above comments are far from the surgical world, but then

again, we do not work in a vacuum. The fundamental changes in the world will affect our profession, patients, families and the global medical community in very profound way. As a profession and as an International Society of Surgery our abilities to influence "the big picture" are limited. But big changes require big decisions, and in the end, all big decisions are made by people. Each of us can influence our immediate surroundings as well as more extended circles. But paraphrasing an old revolutionary, what then has to be done? Hopefully, we will have a chance to discuss also these issues in April in Mexico City. I sincerely welcome you all to attend

the International Surgical Week on 19 – 23 April 2026, where we can exchange views, not just about surgery, but about life in general.

In my President's welcome letter in this Newsletter about a year ago I stated: "ISS/SIC must work together with other global organizations such as the World Health Organization, G4 Alliance, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Greenpeace, Amnesty International, Inter-governmental Panel for Climate Change and many other organizations sharing our values and commitments to make our planet a safer, more just and healthy

place to live and raise future generations. As surgeons, we have the authority and goodwill among large sections of populations worldwide, and we should use that. A dream is the first step to developing a plan, and no dream is too big when facing existential challenges." I am still dreaming.

Ari K. Leppäniemi, Finland  
President ISS/SIC & Congress  
President ISW 2026

Disclaimer: These comments are not necessarily representing the views of the ISS/SIC, but are mine and mine alone.

## Report by the President-Elect ISS/SIC



*Alessandro Fichera,  
President-Elect  
ISS/SIC*

### Join Us for the International Surgical Week in Mexico City!

Dear Colleagues,

We are excited to announce the upcoming **International Surgical Week ISW 2026**, taking place on 19 – 23 April 2026 in the vibrant city of **Mexico City, Mexico**. This biannual event promises to be a remarkable gathering of surgical professionals from around the globe, offering a unique platform for knowledge exchange, networking, and collaboration.

### Why Attend International Surgical Week ISW 2026?

The **International Surgical Week ISW 2026** is not just an event; it's a vital opportunity for surgical professionals to:

#### • Enhance Knowledge:

Engage with leading experts in the field through keynote speeches, workshops, and panel discussions that cover the latest advancements and innovations in surgery.

#### • Network with Peers:

Connect with fellow surgeons, researchers, and industry professionals to foster relationships that can lead to collaborative projects and lifelong friendships.

#### • Share Your Research:

Present your findings and learn from other groundbreaking research in the field. This is a perfect venue to showcase your work to an international audience.

#### • Stay Updated:

Participate in discussions that address the pressing challenges and opportunities within the surgical community.

**The Importance of Joining the International Society of Surgery ISS/SIC**  
Being a part of the **International Society of Surgery ISS/SIC** offers numerous benefits that extend beyond the biannual international conference:

#### • Community:

Join a global network of professionals dedicated to improving surgical practices and patient outcomes. The ISS provides a platform for discussions that are integral to our field.

#### • Resources:

Access exclusive educational materials, journals, and updates on the latest research and technological innovations in surgery.

#### • Support and Advocacy:

The ISS/SIC advocates for surgical professionals and patients worldwide, promoting best practices and policies that enhance surgical care.

### Participate in the Meeting

**Your participation matters!** We encourage you to register for the International Surgical Week ISW 2026 as early as possible to secure your spot. Here's how to get involved:

- 1. Register Now:** Visit <https://www.isw2026.org/registration> to sign up for the event.
- 2. Plan Your Stay:** Explore accommodations and travel options in Mexico City to make the most of your visit.
- 3. Share Your Passion:** Come and present your work.
- 4. Join the ISS/SIC and its Integrated Societies:** <https://www.iss-sic.com/membership>

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to elevate your surgical practice and connect with a global community of experts. We look forward to seeing you in Mexico City for the **International Surgical Week ISW 2026**!

Warm regards,

*Alessandro Fichera, USA  
President-Elect ISS/SIC*

# Report Secretary-General



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

This has been another busy year both for your Society and for our Offices. International Surgical Week (ISW) was held in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia in August 2024. This turned out to be one of the most successful congresses we have had in the last few years, under the presidency of our immediate past president Cheng Har Yip, associated with the College of Surgeons of the Academy of Medicine of Malaysia. The venue was excellent, the attendance was very encouraging, and there was tremendous interaction between all the attendees – young and old, developed and developing worlds.

We are currently putting the finishing touches to the 51<sup>st</sup> International Surgical week, in Mexico City from 19-23 April 2026, together with our partner, Asociación Mexicana de Cirugía Endoscópica - AMCE. We are looking forward enormously to the meeting, details of which are below. Note that early-bird registration finishes soon. We have had over 800 abstracts; the variety of submis-

sions and the high quality has been amazing. Through events beyond our control, we are aware of other international events in close proximity, though not overlapping too directly. Details of ISW are included in this newsletter, and it is a cost-effective destination. The Congress itself will take place at the Hotel Camino Royal Polanco in Mexico City, which is also the Congress Hotel.

2025 has been a diverse year for your Society with significant changes on a number of fronts:

## **World Journal of Surgery**

As you are aware, we are now collaborating with our Publisher, Wiley to produce an even more successful Journal. Our Editor-in-Chief, Dr Sherry Wren and her Associate Editor Board continue to do a huge amount of work, and it is fitting that the Impact Factor has continued to rise, recognising their efforts, such that WJS is now in the top 25% tier of all Surgical Journals globally. Her report is elsewhere in this newsletter. She has already bought number of innovative ideas, and you will see changes in the journal continue to develop as we broaden its appeal. Effective end of this year, print versions of the Journal will no longer be produced, and we will be wholly digital. Given the nature of your Society, it is very important that changes broaden scientific and financial

access to the journal, since its very nature means that it is the World's Journal of Surgery. Access is, of course, at no charge to you as a member.

## **Logo**

As you know, the Logo of the Society was changed to reflect the changing nature of the Society itself, and the global role which it now plays. This is only the second time it has been updated since our founding in 1902, the first revision was in 1957. We hope that our new logo reflects the Society as it now is, and its current makeup.

## **International Surgical Week 2026**

We are looking forward to seeing you in Mexico City in four months from now. We were last in Mexico in August 1997, Acapulco, which was one of our most successful meetings. This was through the huge support of our Mexican surgical members, led by Jorge Cervantes, with several thousand delegates in attendance. See the extended report, below.

## **International Surgical Week 2028**

We were last in Africa in August 2005. In principle, the Meeting rotates between the "Americas," EMEA (Europe, the Middle East and Africa), and the Asia Pacific Region, including Australasia, and all of Asia. The venue for the 2028 meeting will be Cape Town, to be held from 26-30 March, 2028.



52<sup>nd</sup> 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.issw2028.org](http://www.issw2028.org)



## International Surgical Week 2030

We are expecting to visit the Asia Pacific Region for the 2030 meeting. If you know of and are prepared to put a suitable venue forward, then we would love to hear from you.

## ISS Council

There are a number of new appointments to the Council of the ISS, who will be submitted for approval at the meeting in Mexico City. While the Nominations Committee has made several Nominations, we are additionally looking for a new Membership Councillor to represent our National Delegates, who themselves represent their country's individual members. We need to listen closely to what you, the member wish from your Society.

We have also created a new Councillor responsible for advising on Education. With the anticipated joining of IASSS to the Society, also covering Surgeons in Training, it will be critically important to listen to the needs of this group of our members. We have set an age limit of between 35 and 50 years for this Councillor, as it will be important for the individual to be "young enough to remember what it was like, and old enough in terms of experience, to make a difference." Details of how to apply are in this newsletter.

## Integrated and other Societies.

For many years, the International Society of Surgery has general members, and Integrated Societies from core specialties are incorporated in the overall organization.

One of our founding integrated societies (IAES), the endocrine surgeons have long been associated with this organization. They have now elected to go their own way, although we will continue to have close ties with them and share journal. A considerable number of our members, who have an endocrine practice, have expressed their wish to continue as members, and contribute to our role in Endocrine Surgery globally. We are grateful for their continuing enthusiasm; our Scientific Programme reflects the interest that has been shown. This will continue to be a feature of International Surgical Week.

There is a global need for all aspects of the endocrine repertoire, involving both Spe-

cialist Endocrine Surgeons, and General Surgeons performing endocrine surgery. We hope that our close relationship with IAES will continue even as the interests diverge. To the IAES, we wish you well and every success in this change of role.

The other major change is that having welcomed the Alliance for Surgery and Anesthesia presence (ASAP) in 2013, the nature of surgery across the world has changed, perhaps making the need for specialist Integrated Society such as a ASAP less critical than it once was; many of the roles of ASAP have been taken over by a much wider group of surgeons within the ISS/SIC itself. In 2024, ASAP therefore decided that as an integrated society it would be disbanded from August 2024. All members would be most welcome to remain as members of ISS/SIC and work with a much larger global audience. We are hugely grateful to the founders of ASAP, and the principles for which it stood. These will continue within the ISS/SIC itself, and we welcome all those who supported the ASAP goals, to continue with their endeavours within the ISS/SIC body itself.

At the other end of the spectrum, a decision was taken at the General Assembly that we should welcome a society with whom we have had a long association, the International Association for Surgical Student Societies (IASSS), currently with some 10,000 members. The IASSS, in its eight years, has confirmed our view that the best place to recruit surgeons is when students start in medical school, introduce them to the stimulation and cameraderie of surgery, maintained throughout their training, and we will retain our association with them for the rest of their lives.

We will propose to the members of ISS, at our General Assembly in Mexico City, that International Association of Surgical Student Societies (IASSS) become a constitutionally fully integrated Society following the General Assembly in 2026. I would like to congratulate their President, SangEun Lee, Dr Sulé Burger, the IASSS Secretary-General, the Immediate Past-President Tatenda Mbanje and the entire team for their efforts. We look forward to a lifetime of surgery with you.

As you know, we have other categories of Participating Societies, such as Association for Women Surgeons (AWS), Burns (ISBI), Military (APIMSF), Global Initiative for Children's Surgery (GICS) and others. We have excellent relationships with other Colleges of Surgeons, and there is the American College of Surgeons (ACS) chapter and Japanese Surgical Chapter within the ISS/SIC. We work with Associated Societies, including College of Surgeon Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (CSAMM), College of Surgeons of Sri Lanka (CSSL), The Egyptian Society of Surgeons (ESS), Federación Latinoamericana de Cirugía (FELAC), College of Surgeons of East Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSCA) all of whose members get a 50 % reduction on the ISS/SIC membership fee.

## 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 anaesthesiological 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.

The Constitutions of the ISS/SIC and these Integrated Societies have been changed to recognize the need for this and will be put to the General Assembly for final approval at the meeting in Mexico City.

As I write this, news is coming in of yet another massacre and atrocity, based on antisemitism. This time in Australia. Our deepest sympathy to all our Australian Colleagues, the victims and their families, and their communities. As providers all aspects of care for the surgical patient, we have to treat those who suffer, support the victims without fear or favour,

and use our talents, skills, and voices against those using violence to further their views. As the World's oldest Global Surgical Society, we have an obligation not only to practice the art and science of Surgery, but to take the lead in a tolerance and respect for all religions, which is desperately needed globally, especially now and in the current environment.

Nelson Mandela's favourite poem was *In-victus*, by William Ernest Henley:

*"Out of the night that covers me,  
Black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever Gods may be,  
For my unconquerable sole.*

*In the fell clutch or circumstances,  
I have not winced nor cried aloud  
Under the bludgeonings of chance,  
my head is bloody but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears,  
Looms but the horror of the shade,  
And yet the menace of the years,  
Finds and shall find me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate,  
How charged with punishments the scroll,  
I am the master of my fate,  
I am the captain of my soul."*

We owe it to all, to take the lead in condemning violence in this uncertain world, acting on behalf of our patients, our colleagues, and our profession. This has never been more important, and every one of us needs to take personal "Captaincy" at this time to assist wherever you may be.

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

Kenneth D. Boffard, South Africa  
Secretary-General ISS/SIC

## COUNCILLORS-AT-LARGE:

The International Society of Surgery (ISS/SIC) is one of the most distinguished and prestigious surgical societies in the world. The first international surgical meeting of the Society was held in Brussels in 1905, chaired by the legendary Theodor Kocher. The mission of the ISS/SIC and its Integrated Societies is to support all aspects of care for the surgical patient, and to:

- Enhance surgical education, training, practice, and research around the world with an emphasis on less developed and resource-challenged countries.
- Organize the biennial "**International Surgical Week – The World's Congress of Surgery**"
- Publish the World Journal of Surgery

The ISS/SIC calls for the following nominations as members of the ISS/SIC Council for the period 2026 – 2028:

### MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE ISS/SIC: COUNCILLORS-AT-LARGE

There will be FIVE (5) Councillors-at-Large

- Each will serve a term of two (2) years, renewable for a further two (2) years.
- Two (2) Councillors only will be newly elected at the General Assembly, serving a maximum term of four (4) years, and will serve from the end of International Surgical Week.
- One Councillor (Education) will serve a single term of two (2) years but may be

renewed for a further term of two (2) years, subject to the age restrictions on this appointment.

- The appointments will be in an Honorary capacity.

### COUNCILLORS FOR APPOINTMENT w.e.f. ISW 2026

- **Councillor-at-Large: Chair: Membership SubCommittee**
  - The Membership SubCommittee is chaired by a Councillor-at-Large of the ISS/SIC,
  - The Membership SubCommittee is the main point of contact with Integrated Society Membership representatives and National Delegates of each Country
  - The Chair maintains knowledge of the organization and demonstrates a personal commitment to its goals and objectives.
  - The Chair is the main contact of the ISS/SIC for questions in regard to membership strategy.
  - The Membership SubCommittee, in association with the Integrated Societies, and National Delegates, develops strategies to increase, retain and diversify membership of the International Society of Surgery.
  - The Membership SubCommittee advises the Council itself on matters pertaining to membership of ISS.

### • Councillor-at-Large: Chair: Surgical Education and Training

- The Surgical Training SubCommittee is chaired by a Councillor-at-Large of the ISS/SIC and is made up of National Delegates or Regional representatives, Representatives from the Integrated Societies, and includes a representative from IASSS, who will serve as Vice-Chair of the SubCommittee.
- The Chair should be an individual between 35 and 50 years of age at the time of his or her appointment and should be registered as a Specialist in Surgery or one of the Surgical Care disciplines.
- The Chair will interact and collaborate with other organizations to develop and coordinate global post-graduate surgical education.
- The SubCommittee will be responsible for advising the Council on all aspects of Surgical Education (knowledge base) and Surgical Training (skills base).

### REQUIREMENTS FOR CHAIRS OF SUBCOMMITTEES

- Written application from the potential Candidate.
- Active membership of the ISS/SIC for a minimum of 5 years.

The following must be submitted:

- Curriculum vitae.
- A short motivation for the position.
- The applicant's vision for the ISS/SIC (maximum one A4 page).
- Name and contact details of three (3) referees.

#### APPLICATION PROCESS

All Applications must be submitted electronically to [surgery@iss-sic.com](mailto:surgery@iss-sic.com) before the closing date.

Subject: Application for the position of .....  
All applications will be considered by the Nominating Committee of the Council of the ISS/SIC and will make a recommendation to the Council of the ISS/SIC for consideration.

#### CLOSING DATE: 10 January 2026

For further inquiries or to request the application form, please contact the ISS/SIC Administrative Office at:  
Email: [surgery@iss-sic.com](mailto:surgery@iss-sic.com)  
Website: [www.iss-sic.com](http://www.iss-sic.com)

## Report ISS/SIC Global Affairs Report



*Kelly McQueen,  
ISS/SIC Global  
Councilor-at-large*

The ISS/SIC commitment to Global Surgery, and specifically to representing Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) within the ISS/SIC ethos and ISW agenda has been amplified during the past 2 years. The commitment to LMIC representation within the society and as a focus of the International Surgical Week meeting has been strengthened, and the collaboration between the Global Health Affairs Chair and Committee and the Integrated Societies has been formalized and is growing. Importantly, the integration of the International Association of Student

Surgical Societies (IASSS) has offered a new opportunity for collaboration within the ISS Global Surgery commitment. I am grateful to the ISS/SIC Leadership for generously supporting LMIC speakers for ISW 2026. The financial commitment of the ISS/SIC has enhanced the dialogue with our LMIC colleagues and ensured the representation of low-resource challenges within the Global Surgery Program.

In Mexico City, during ISW 2026, the Global Surgery Agenda will be prominently represented, and 12 speakers and moderators from LMICs will be highlighted. With voices from Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Rwanda, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa, and Zambia we anticipate a globally relevant program and a robust discussion. Additionally, speakers from the WHO and the G4 Alliance

are contributing to the program, and the **Surgical Education Learners Forum (SELF)**, an open-source, global effort to improve surgical training in low-resource settings, will be held to follow ISW2026 and will offer additional gravitas to the Global Surgery Program.

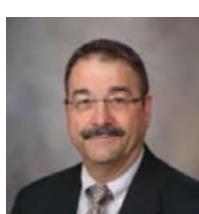
The Global Affairs Committee will meet on April 21, 2026, 1330—1500 and all ISS/SIC and Integrated Society members and invited Global Surgery speakers are invited to attend and participate. I look forward to connecting with friends and colleagues during the meeting, and to exploring the recommendations for future Global Surgery contributions within ISS and the Integrated Societies.

Kelly McQueen, USA  
ISS/SIC Global Councilor-at-large

## Report ISS Foundation



*Cheng-Har Yip,  
President ISS  
Foundation*



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

The ISS Foundation along with IATSIC, ISDS, and IASMen is almost finished reviewing the applicants for the ISS travel scholar program that financially supports awardees to attend the ISW 2026. There were 38 applicants and about 14 awards available- 2 for IATSIC, 2 for ISDS, 2 for ISMen, and 8 for the ISS Foundation. Preference goes to fully trained surgeons from the developing world who have not attended many prior international meetings. Currently, the representatives for these societies and the board of directors of the

ISS Foundation are reviewing the applicants and will score the applicants according to who will benefit the most from receiving one of these awards. The finalists will be notified during the second week of November 2025.

Michael G. Sarr, USA  
Secretary-Treasurer, ISS Foundation

Donate now <https://www.issfoundation-issf.org/donate>



# The Foundation for Global Surgical Care (FGSC)



*Peter Vogelbach,  
President FGSC*

Since the ISW in KL, in August 2024 where the FGSC sponsored a very successful Hands-on practical surgical workshop which was fully booked and very well accepted, we had one other activity in Nepal. The Davoscourse performed 2 practical, laparoscopic surgical workshops in Nepal- a 3-day course in Dhu-likhel, University of Kathmandu, hospital.

Another laparoscopic course took place in the very remote area at the municipal hospital in Jumla, also with great interest.

The same courses are planned to be repeated by the end of this year or early next year. It is also planned to co-sponsor these courses in these hospitals in Nepal by the FGSC.

After the success of the surgical workshop at the ISW in KL, the FGSC is planning to organize the same courses again at the beginning of the ISW in Mexico City in April 2026, together with the LOC.

We thank the ISS/SIC for the help and the opportunity to organize these courses.

In the meantime, we are always open to further suggestions and demands to organize or sponsor other courses or meetings in developing countries.

For the ISW 2026 in Mexico we have planned to jointly support Travel Scholars through the ISS-Foundation and FGSC – more details can be found in the report of the ISS-F.

For the Foundation for Global Surgical Care

Peter Vogelbach, Switzerland  
President FGSC

## Report Administrative Office



*Mike Iliopoulos, ISS/  
SIC Office Director*

### Exciting Developments from the ISS/SIC Administrative Office

Our administrative headquarter continue to thrive in vibrant Zurich, Switzerland. We are very happy to announce that the ISS/SIC membership system has successfully moved to a new provider. This upgrade will give all members a seamless experi-

ence, with a single platform for membership management, congress registration, and abstract submission — just in time for International Surgical Week ISW 2026.

### Countdown to ISW 2026 – Mexico City

Preparations for ISW 2026 in Mexico City are well underway. Together with our colleagues from AMCE (Asociación Mexicana de Cirugía Endoscópica), we are coordinating a packed program featuring 1,053 abstracts, 367 sessions, and 389 speakers from around the world. In addition, we are planning a memorable Mexico Night and other exciting social events to ensure an unforgettable experience for all participants.

### Looking Beyond: ISW 2028 & ISW 2030

Our global journey continues. Initial preparations for ISW 2028 in Cape Town are already in motion, and we are actively evaluating destinations in Asia for ISW 2030. As soon as details are finalized, we look forward to sharing the next host city with our community.

The future of ISW is full of momentum, and we look forward to welcoming you at the upcoming congresses around the world!

Mike Iliopoulos, Switzerland  
ISS/SIC Office Director

## Report World Journal of Surgery



*Sherry M. Wren,  
Editor in Chief WJS*

World Journal of Surgery WJS Report November 2025

2025 has been a whirlwind of a year. WJS has been actively pursuing affiliations with surgical groups to continue attracting and growing the journal's excellent content

and new readers. I am excited to report that in addition to the integrated ISS/SIC societies: Breast Surgery International BSI, International Association for Trauma Surgery



IATSIC and Intensive Care, International Association for Surgical Metabolism and Nutrition IASMEN, and International Society for Digestive Surgery ISDS WJS now has six affiliations: These include 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 Japan Association of Endocrine Surgeons (JAES). Each society has provided 2 global experts to join our growing editorial board. The impact of their contributions has already been seen. An example of this impact is the engagement with the material. A recent article published on June 28<sup>th</sup> has been downloaded 3100 times in 4 months, clearly a win in bringing readers to our journal and articles. We continue to grow WJS as a destination for great research.

Our editorial office and board have been bustling. Submissions have increased by 26% and published articles by 18% over 2024, with 175 new submissions each month, up from 141 last year. Most importantly, articles are being read with >50K full-text views per month, which is 10,000-15,000 higher than in 2024. We have an incredible 496,683 full-text article views in just the first 10 months, compared to

460,992 in 2024. In January WJS will no longer print issues. Less than ten people were still getting print issues, so we are happy to make this an environmentally positive move and give researchers what they are most interested in – namely, time to publication and their citation dates.

Wiley, our publisher, developed Research Exchange (ReX), a novel platform for manuscript submission, screening, and review. WJS went live on the platform in mid-June, and it has been a rocky start, as would be expected for any newly developed information system. Laura Shearer and I have spent a significant amount of time working through challenges and bugs – it is fortunately getting better every day. The site has added functionalities such as screening for prior submissions of the article, screening for AI-written material, and text suspicious for Papermill activity. I am interested in any feedback from ISS members on their experience with ReX. Wiley is modifying it based on user feedback, and it would be good to make it a website that works for us.

Please welcome our 2025 new editorial board members:  
Somashekhar S P – India  
Alberto Garcia – Columbia  
Takashi Harano – USA  
Tanvir Chowdhury – Bangladesh

Nirav Patel – South Africa  
Somprakas Basu – India  
Adolfo Leyva-Alvizo – Mexico  
Amila Ratnayak- Sri Lanka  
Florian Wichlas – Austria  
Kiyomi Horiuchi – Japan  
Manuel Garcia-Toca- USA  
Iwao Sugitani – Japan

World Journal of Surgery will have a landmark birthday in 2026. It is the journal's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We have designed a commemorative logo that will be on all manuscripts published throughout the year. In addition, we will have a special series – 5 for 50- by each of our affiliated and integrated societies. They will showcase the five most impactful advancements in each field in the last 50 years. I am excited to read these articles, which will put the field's growth over time into perspective.

I am eternally grateful to 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 Mexico at the ISW 2026 in April 2026. Please get in touch with me at [swren@stanford.edu](mailto:swren@stanford.edu) if you have any questions or wish to discuss WJS.

Sherry M Wren, USA  
Editor in Chief WJS

# Message from LOC ISW 2026



*Eduardo E. Montalvo-Jave, President  
AMCE & President  
LOC ISW 2026*



## 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

**Join the Global Surgical Community  
at ISW 2026**

We are delighted to invite you to the **World Congress of Surgery – International Surgical Week ISW 2026**, the premier global meeting point where scientific and clinical professionals come together to shape the future of surgery. ISW 2026 will unite leaders, innovators, and rising voices from around the world to address tomorrow's diagnostic and surgical challenges through collaboration,

**19 - 23 April 2026 Mexico City, Mexico**



[isw2026.org](http://isw2026.org)

innovation, and shared expertise.

The **International Society of Surgery (ISS/SIC)** and the **Mexican Association of Endoscopic Surgery (AMCE)** proud-

ly co-organize this prestigious event, forming the Local Organizing Committee for the **51st ISS/SIC World Congress**, the **International Surgical Week** and the **34th AMCE Congress**, to be held



*Camino Real Polanco Hotel*



*Administrative Office AMCE*



*Left to right: Eduardo E. Montalvo-Jave, President AMCE & President LOC ISW 2026, Alejandro Rodriguez, AMCE Member, Ari K. Leppäniemi, President ISS/SIC & Congress President ISW 2026, Sherry M. Wren, Editor in Chief WJS, Albert Tuchmann, President LOC ISW 2022 in Vienna Austria*



*Executive Committee AMCE and Local Organizing Committee ISW 2026*

jointly in from 19 – 23 April 2026 in Mexico City, Mexico. The congress venue will be the **Camino Real Polanco Hotel Convention Center**, located in the vibrant heart of Mexico City and carefully selected to provide an ideal setting for academic exchange and comfortable accommodation.

The scientific and academic program, meticulously organized by ISS/SIC, its integrated societies, and AMCE, is being prepared to deliver a truly world-class congress experience. ISW 2026 will bring together surgeons, clinicians, researchers, fellows, residents, medical students, and healthcare professionals from across the globe, representing a broad spectrum of surgical specialties. Key advances in endoscopic surgery, robotic surgery, and general surgery will be presented and discussed by distinguished national and international speakers..

This dynamic congress offers a unique platform to exchange ideas in real time, establish new standards of care, and advance patient-centered solutions that truly make a difference..

#### What to Expect

- Over **1,048 submitted abstracts** showcasing cutting-edge research and clinical breakthroughs
- **389 international speakers** sharing diverse perspectives and expertise
- **162 high-quality scientific sessions** covering the full spectrum of surgical innovation
- **16+ participating and guest societies** representing global excellence in surgery
- **8 inspiring main lectures** delivered by internationally renowned experts
- **4 intensive days** of scientific exchange, collaboration, and numerous pre-congress courses

#### Discover Mexico City

Vibrant, historic, and full of life, **Mexico City** is a destination unlike any other. This extraordinary metropolis blends pre-Hispanic heritage, colonial charm, and modern dynamism—inviting visitors to explore colorful neighborhoods, savor world-famous cuisine, walk among Aztec ruins, and experience a thriving arts and nightlife scene.



From strolling through the historic **Zócalo**, visiting the **Metropolitan Cathedral** and **National Palace**, to exploring the **Blue House of Frida Kahlo**, the **National Museum of Anthropology**, and the **National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)**, every corner tells a story. Neighborhoods such as **Condesa**, **Coyoacán**, **Tlalpan**, **Xochimilco**, **Polanco**, and **Santa Fe** offer unforgettable cultural, culinary, and social experiences. ISW 2026 is not just a congress—it is an opportunity to immerse yourself in one of the world's most dynamic and culturally rich cities.

#### Mexico Night – A Special Networking Experience

Join colleagues and friends for an unforgettable social highlight of the congress: **Mexico Night**, taking place on **Monday, 20 April 2026**. Celebrate Mexican culture, connect with peers from around the world, and build lasting friendships in a relaxed and festive atmosphere. Don't miss this signature evening—bring your colleagues and be part of the experience.

#### Help Us Spread the Word

ISW 2026 is the premier global gathering for surgery and healthcare leaders. We invite medical societies, academic institutions, event organizers, and industry partners to help make it a resounding success. Promotional materials are available

at [www.isw2026.org/promotion](http://www.isw2026.org/promotion) - please share ISW 2026 within your networks and across your platforms.

#### Registration Is Now Open

Learn more and register at [www.isw2026.org](http://www.isw2026.org). Join us in vibrant **Mexico City**, connect with global colleagues, and be part of a congress that will shape the future of surgery.

We are confident that **ISW 2026 / AMCE 2026** will be a unique and unforgettable academic and cultural experience, and we warmly welcome you to Mexico.

Eduardo Montalvo-Jave  
President Local Organizing Committee  
ISW 2026, President AMCE and ALACE

**Don't miss ISW 2026—where science, innovation, and collaboration come together.**

Eduardo E. Montalvo-Jave, Mexico  
President AMCE & President LOC ISW 2026

# Report IATSIC



David Zonies,  
President IATSIC



# iatsic

International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care

IATSIC has been quite active this year. IATSIC continues to collaborate with the World Health Organization in the development of a novel low-resource setting Trauma Operative Course. As a follow-on to the meeting held in Kuala Lumpur (ISW 2024), content is being finalized with a plan for a pilot course in Mexico City just prior to the April 2026 ISW meeting.

IATSIC continues to be a strong member of the WHO Acute Care Action Network, a global alliance of key stakeholders committed to saving lives by advancing acute care through collaboration. IATSIC is now a member of this network of more than 70 organizations promoting empowerment of communities as users and providers of acute care.

IATSIC continues to support an online seminar series, partnering globally with various trauma societies to bring current topics and discussions to the global surgical community. We plan to continue partnering with multiple surgical and an-

esthesia societies to produce interesting content for our members.

In addition to the aforementioned WHO collaborative, IATSIC remains the home of global trauma surgical training. We continue to offer the DSTC/DSATC course suite. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the manual has received great praise by current users, and we are already looking toward planning for a 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the manual. We anticipate more than 50 DSTC/DATC courses this year.

This fall, the second edition of the *National Trauma Management Course (NTMC)* was released. The global launch of this important program occurred in September in Sri Lanka. A special thanks to Dr. Prof Ranjith Ellawalla for leading this monumental effort. The NTMC program remains a very popular course with long wait lists of participants. We are quite proud to have released a series of ERAS articles, a first in trauma care. Published in the *World Journal of Surgery* (August 2025), this was a collabora-



tive between ERAS and IATSIC. The ERATIC project (Enhanced Recovery After Trauma & Intensive care) will help to deliver best practice standards with best available evidence answering questions that we all face when managing injured patients. These standards should be able to be utilised regardless of the resources available. I encourage you to look at this series of three articles, which have been made available as open access.

## Looking Ahead: ISW 2026 in Mexico City

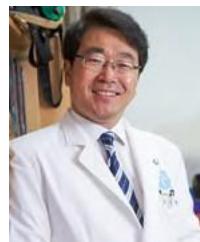
As an integrated society of ISS, IATSIC is thrilled to support two traveling scholars for the upcoming Surgical Week in Mexico City. The preliminary program is shaping up to be dynamic and innovative, and we are confident the 2026 IATSIC meeting will be an exceptional event. We look forward to seeing all of you in April!

References for hyperlinks (ERATIC Articles) mentioned above

- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wjs.70002>
- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wjs.70003>
- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/wjs.70004>

David Zonies, USA  
IATSIC President

# Report IASMEN



Ho-Seong Han,  
President IASMEN

Dear colleagues,

I hope this message finds you all in good health. My name is Ho-Seong Han, President of IASMEN.

As I write this in November, it is usually the season when we enjoy the autumn foliage and gradually prepare for winter. However, this year, we have been facing rapid temperature fluctuations, making it difficult to maintain stable health. You may have heard the term "bi-seasonalization of the four seasons." In countries such as Korea and Japan, where four distinct seasons traditionally exist, spring and autumn have shortened, and

temperatures now shift abruptly from summer to winter. This past summer, we experienced several days exceeding

# I A S M E N



International Association  
for Surgical Metabolism  
and Nutrition

40°C, and just as the heat began to subside, winter-like cold arrived even before

the full display of autumn colors. Nevertheless, Korea is currently at the height of its autumn foliage, and the beautiful

transition from green to vivid yellow and red continues to bring us joy.

The upcoming ISW is drawing near, and the IASMEN program has been finalized. Once again, we are pleased to present a comprehensive agenda covering the latest and most relevant topics in surgical metabolism and nutrition.

Our sessions range from clinically oriented, practical presentations to educational lectures grounded in basic scientific evidence. Beyond the diseases themselves, surgical stress induces abnormalities in metabolic responses. Furthermore, disruption of the balance between catabolism and anabolism leads to changes in body composition. Metabolism is a dynamic biological process and understanding it is fundamental to clinical practice and to the proper management of metabolic derangements. In the joint session with the Integrated Societies, important metabolic topics across multiple specialties will be discussed, and we strongly encourage all of you to join us.

Many of you are already familiar with the Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) program, which has been widely implemented across many countries. This IASMEN will again feature numerous ERAS-related presentations, offering both organ-specific and field-specific updates. Additionally, the joint “Global Surgery Session” with ISS will address the current status and challenges in LMICs, and future directions for international collaboration in ERAS program.

Furthermore, we are delighted to host the second joint session with the Asian Society of Surgical Metabolism and Nutrition (ASSMN), as well as our first collaborative session with the local Mexican society of Surgical Metabolism and Nutrition, CMNCTN. IASMEN continues to expand and evolve both locally and globally.

The upcoming ISW will take place four months earlier than usual, in April. Mexico City in mid-April offers refreshing early-summer weather just before the rainy season begins, with abundant greenery and blooming flowers throughout the city. Like the vibrant jacarandas in full bloom, we hope the ISW will be a lively,



*Autumn foliage at Deoksugung Palace, one of the Five Royal Palaces in Seoul*



*IASMEN Executive Committee Member (from right): Scientific Chair: Do-Joong Park (Korea), President: Ho-Seong Han (Korea), Treasurer: José Ignacio (Mexico), Past President: Steven Wolf (United States), Vice-President: Joji Kotani (Japan), Councilor: Dileep Lobo (United Kingdom), Secretary General: Naomi Nakayama (Japan)*

inspiring gathering filled with meaningful discussion and exchange.

We very much look forward to meeting you all in Mexico City.  
Warmest regards,

Ho-Seong Han  
President, IASMEN

# Report BSI



Ines Buccimazza,  
President BSI



Kavitha Däster,  
Honorary Secretary  
BSI

BSI has continued to grow from strength to strength over the past 15 months. The BSI Council has held four virtual meetings to discuss BSI activities and its mission. These have placed the society on a steady trajectory of growth and prominence.

Equally gratifying is that BSI's profile has been elevated through requests to collaborate with various eminent societies. This has expanded our global footprint.

## BSI 2026 - Mexico City

Through the diligence of the Program Committee, ably assisted by the BSI Scientific Committee, and the collaboration of Dr. Enrique Bargallo, a local breast surgeon in Mexico City, the scientific program has been finalized. The program, which runs from the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2026 to the 23rd April 2026, features 14 main sessions, including two prize sessions, two collaborative sessions with AWS, a free paper session, and the highly anticipated Umberto Veronesi Lecture.

In addition to these sessions, and in collaboration with the Mexican Oncology Society (SMEO), we are planning two sponsored breakfast sessions. The speakers and topics of these sessions will be the sponsors' preserve.

As in past years, we have planned two pre-congress workshops at the congress venue i.e Camino Real Hotel. The program has been finalized, and the Fac-

ulty for each has been confirmed. These workshops have been very popular and well-attended in the past.

- **Ultrasound Workshop:** Saturday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 08:00 to 17:00 – Limited to 70 delegates on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Oncoplastic Surgery Workshop:** Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2026, 08:00 to 17:30 – Limited to 70 participants, also on a first-come, first-served basis. There is an option to increase the number if there is unprecedented interest in this workshop.

We are particularly pleased with the number of abstracts received. In total, 75 abstracts were reviewed by the BSI Scientific Committee. Of these, 30 will be presented as oral or visual abstract presentations, and the remainder will be exhibited as posters.

## BSI Educational activities

The ethos of the BSI Council is that knowledge and education should not be the preserve of a privileged few. This should be available to all who manage patients with breast pathology. To this end, our online educational activities are free.

### • Journal Club

To date, we have presented two virtual journal clubs. In December 2024, we discussed the paper, "Universal Genetic Testing for Newly Diagnosed Invasive Breast Cancer", published in JAMA, and presented by one of the co-authors, Professor Stephanie Wong



from McGill University in Canada. The second manuscript, "Active Monitoring With or Without Endocrine Therapy for Low-Risk Ductal Carcinoma In Situ: The COMET Randomized Clinical Trial" also published in JAMA, was presented by a co-author of the study, Professor Alastair Thompson, in June 2025. Both events were admirably organized by Susanna Kauhanen, the chairperson of the BSI Scientific Committee, and facilitated by the efficient Ms. Denise Eggler of the ISS office. We are planning a third virtual Journal Club in February 2026.

### • BSI webinar

A webinar on the role of breast-conserving surgery in T4b lesions is scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> January 2026. This virtual multidisciplinary discussion will address a topic of relevance to low-resourced environments where advanced breast cancer is a significant problem.

## BSI Collaborations

### • Research

BSI was part of an international collaborative consensus study with the Edinburgh Breast Unit on axillary management in node-positive breast can-



cer patients undergoing neoadjuvant chemotherapy. This study has resulted in a publication ***Axillary management in node-positive breast cancer in patients undergoing neoadjuvant chemotherapy: NAC-AX Delphi consensus study***, which is currently under review.

- **Courses**

BSI endorsed the very relevant and important **BRIDGE course** in September 2025. The BRIDGE Course is a global online program bringing together leading breast cancer surgeons from across the world to share evidence-based, resource-adapted surgical techniques for low- and middle-income countries and is the first of its kind.

- **Taskforce**

BSI was invited to collaborate on the **Breast Cancer Surgeon Taskforce (BEST)**. This collaboration with the Chinese College of Surgeons on Breast Cancer, the ASBrS and the ESSO is aimed at academic exchange via joint conferences, virtual meetings, and hospital visits.

- **Outreach**

BSI signed a 4-year Memorandum of Understanding with the College of Surgeons, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia to offer a Breast and Endocrine Surgery Training Course in Malaysia. This collaboration aims to enhance the skills and knowledge of healthcare professionals in the region, fostering better practices in breast and endocrine surgery. The course was held from the 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and BSI was represented by Professors Ipsita Prakash, Pooja Ramakant and Sandra Krishnan. By all accounts, the course was highly successful.



### **WJS matters**

The WJS celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026. BSI has been tasked with contributing to this anniversary issue. The entire BSI Council is involved with preparing a 3,000-word document on the top five innovations in breast cancer management over the past 50 years (1976 – 2026).

In closing, BSI is a vibrant, dynamic society, ascending in prominence in the global breast community. Join us in April 2026 in Mexico City to share your experience, net-

work with like-minded colleagues and join forces in the global battle against breast cancer.

Ines Buccimazza  
President BSI

Kavitha Däster  
Honorary Secretary BSI

## Report ISDS



*Lorenzo Ferri,  
President ISDS*

Dear Friends and Colleagues

It is with pleasure that I provide an update on the activities of the International Society for Digestive Surgery, a vibrant and energetic group of surgeons and allied health from across the globe focused on the science and management of conditions spanning the GI tract.

The ISDS Education Committee, chaired by Matthew Walsh from Cleveland Clinic

USA, with a mandate to expand the society's educational outreach to current and future members, held the first of many webinars on digestive surgery in September. The webinar titled "Gastrointestinal Anastomotic Leaks: Prevention and Management" was chaired by Chetan Bhan from Cleveland Clinic London with Discussants Michele Ammendola from Italy and Alice Murray from London. We were honoured to have 4 outstanding speakers on this topic of interest to all GI surgeons including John Alvardy from the University of Chicago highlighting the basic science microbiome mechanisms driving colonic leaks, Matthew Kroh from Cleveland Clinic detailing endoscopic management of esophageal leaks, Zhi Ven Fong from Mayo Clinic covering pancreatic anastomotic complications, and Michel Gagne from Montreal Canada discussing his experience with a novel technology of magnetic anastomo-



ses for bariatric surgery. The webinar was well attended live and has since had several hundred views on YouTube.

The ISDS Program committee for the International Surgical Week 2026 in Mexico City has finalized an exceptional program consisting of 15 main plenary sessions covering the entire GI tract from esophagus to colorectal and everything in between. The ISDS has organized several co-sponsored

plenary sessions with other regional and international societies including the International Society for Diseases of the Esophagus-ISDE (Updates in Upper GI Surgery), Federación Latinoamericana de Cirugía – FELAC (Management of GI Emergencies), International Association for Surgical Metabolism and Nutrition-IASMEN (Optimizing Peri-Operative Outcomes for Digestive Surgery), American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association-AHPBA (Updates in HPB Surgery), International Federation for Surgery for Obesity-IFSO (Updates in Bariatric Surgery), and Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract-SSAT (Symposium on Anastomotic Leaks). The ISDS is extremely fortunate that Professor Carlos Pellegrini from Washington, USA has kindly agreed to be the 2026 Grey Turner Lecturer, the most prestigious honour the ISDS can be-

stow on a surgeon, and we look forward to his presentation highlighting a lifetime experience in foregut surgery. The program promising to be outstanding, and we look forward to welcoming you to Mexico City.

In preparation for the ISW-Mexico City meeting, the ISDS was excited to participate in the Mexican Association of Endoscopic Surgery (AMCE) mid-term meeting of endoscopic surgery hosted by Congress



*Mexican Association of Endoscopic Surgery Mid-Year Meeting in Mexico City, Sept 11-12 2025. With members of the AMCE executive committee including President Eduardo Montalvo (second from Left), ISDS President Lorenzo Ferri (Center), and representatives from SAGES*

President Professor Eduardo Montalvo of the Medica Sur Hospital of Mexico City on September 11-12. In addition to the ISDS, several members of our sister societies in the USA, Society of Surgery of the Alimentary Tract and SAGES were in attendance, including Jennifer Tsang (Boston), Brent Matthews (North Carolina), and Jordan Cloyd (Ohio). Professor Montalvo and his colleagues were extremely hospitable and hosted an excellent meeting. This augurs

well for what will undoubtedly be an outstanding International Surgical Week.

We look forward to seeing you all in person in the cultural and vibrant city of Mexico City in April 2026!

Lorenzo Ferri, Canada  
President ISDS

## Report IASSS



*SangEun Lee,  
President IASSS*



*Tatenda Mbanje,  
Past president  
IASSS*



*Angela Jia Jia Teo,  
IASSS*

The second half of 2025 has been filled with activity for the IASSS. In addition to taking part in pivotal global surgery conversations across the field's most visible platforms, our regional and country chapters have worked to offer free, monthly online webinars to members all over the world. Webinars spanned specific surgical specialities, research, technical and soft skill capacitation. Importantly, the organisation reached an exciting milestone: **10,000 members!** We see this as a continued investment and trust in our work and aim to grow into becoming the premier resource for future surgeons worldwide. As we close out the year, we are now embarking on the selection of the 2026 IASSS committee. Please keep a lookout as we will be announcing 2026 leadership across our platforms soon!



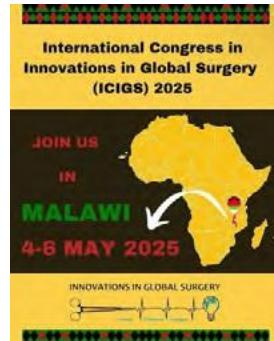
# May 2025: Global Surgery Anniversary

**4-6 May 2025:**

## IASSS at ICIGS (International Congress on Innovations in Global Surgery) 2025 (Lilongwe, Malawi)

IASSS was represented by Dr Adham Beshir, IASSS Malawi National Delegate, who represented the organisation at the 4<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Innovations in Global Surgery (ICIGS 2025), themed "Sustainable Innovations in Global Surgery."

Dr Beshir was actively involved in advancing youth leadership in global surgery. His roles included delivering a keynote speech, serving as a student organiser, hackathon mentor, and panellist. The conference highlighted critical issues facing surgical care in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).



**17 May 2025:**

## G4 Alliance Meeting and WHA 2025 (Geneva, Switzerland)

IASSS was officially invited to represent the youth voice in the G4 Alliance session "Emerging Leaders in SOTA Care" ahead of the World Health Assembly 2025 (WHA). The organisation shared insights on its work and impact in Surgical, Obstetric, Trauma, and Anaesthesia (SOTA) care.

The delegation included three in-person representatives (San-geun Lee, Lina Bengherbia, Marie Desonniaux) and six online participants (Kavyesh Vivek, Jessica Davies, Rajeeka Singh Tak, Nathan Kengo, Sule Burger, Swarali Chodnekar).



**27-30 May 2025: IASSS at PAPSA 2025**

(Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire)

IASSS was invited to the 16<sup>th</sup> Pan-African Paediatric Surgical Association Conference (PAPSA 2025) to deliver two main events: a panel discussion titled "Pathway to Paediatric Surgery" and a dedicated side event, "Future of Africa Summit – A Call to Action: Shaping Africa's Paediatric Surgery Future." A qualitative study based on the panel discussion has been accepted as a

manuscript at the upcoming ISW 2026 in Mexico City. IASSS was represented by Biruk Bekele and Nathan Kengo, thanks to the generous support of PAPSA and LifeBox.



## Webinars of May 2025

**22, 25, 29 May 2025: IASSS India**

### "Precision Under Pressure – The Trauma Surgery Series"

An intensive, three-part webinar series hosted by IASSS India to empower participants to make swift, life-saving decisions. Sessions covered: 1. Introduction & Thoracic Trauma, 2. Abdominal Trauma, and 3. Head Trauma.



**December 2025**

## 28 May 2025: IASSS Jordan

### "Insider on a Surgeon's Experience in Gaza"

IASSS Jordan hosted the second episode of our series. The session explored the challenges of providing maternal healthcare in high-stress, resource-limited environments



## June 2025: The Month of Career Pathways and Specialised Surgery

### Future Surgeons Programme, for International Surgical Week 2026.

The Future Surgeons Programme (FSP) is a prestigious collaborative initiative between IASSS and the International Society of Surgery (ISS/SIC). The application period for the Future Surgeons Programme 2026 successfully ran over the course of June 2025. Following a rigorous selection process that involved over 100 applicants, 24 outstanding young leaders, scholars, and aspiring surgeons were selected from around the world, ranging geographically from Ghana to Fiji and the UK to Mexico. The IASSS delegation comprises these 24 delegates, supported by an 8-member organising team and a 5-member on-site team. This programme grants delegates an impactful space to network with leading surgeons globally. Each delegate is carefully chosen not only for their achievements but also for their dedication to the field of surgery, both for themselves and their peers. Please be on the lookout for a formal introduction to the delegates, and we invite you to meet the team in person in Mexico City in April 2026!

International Association of Student Surgical Societies (IASSS)



### Webinars of June 2025

#### 04 June 2025: IASSS Mexico: Introduction to Cardiothoracic Surgery

The Committee on Cardiothoracic Surgery of IASSS Mexico hosted a virtual session titled "Introducción a la Cirugía Cardiotorácica." Tailored for medical students, general practitioners, and residents, the webinar covered the fundamentals, scope, training, and innovations of the field. It featured Prof. Maria del Sol Garcia Ortegon, an esteemed cardiac surgeon with over 26 years of experience and Attending Physician at the National Medical Centre "20 de Noviembre" (ISSSTE).



## December 2025

## 05 June 2025: IASSS Belgium & Netherlands: Through the Scalpel: Foundations on Spinal Surgery

IASSS Belgium & Netherlands hosted this session featuring Mr Marcin Czyz, who discussed the fundamentals of spinal surgeries within the field of neurosurgery.



## 06 June 2025: Precision in Hepatobiliary Surgery - Integrating Technology, Teamwork, and Data to Transform Patient Outcomes

Prof. Fong Zhi Ven presented on the future of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) surgery. The session explored integrating technology, team-based multidisciplinary planning, and real-time intraoperative data to transform patient outcomes.



## 14 June 2025: IASSS Cameroon: IASSS 101 Webinar - «Discover the Platform of Aspiring Surgeons»

IASSS Cameroon hosted an introductory session targeted at students and residents in Africa. Speakers Nathan Kengo and Nanfa Joël presented the platform to aspiring surgeons.



## 15 June 2025: Critical Cuts: Surgical Cases that Challenge and Teach - GI Edition

Dr Ose Okharedia led an interactive webinar designed to challenge medical students with complex gastrointestinal (GI) surgical cases.



## 22 June 2025: IASSS Nigeria: Critical Interventions

Focused on "Exploring Frontiers in Trauma Care and Anaesthesia for Nigeria's Next Generation of Surgeons," this session offered a deep dive into the realities, pathways, and opportunities within the Nigerian landscape. It was led by Dr. Tatenda Cassandra Mbanje and Dr Kehinde Abraham Ojifinni.



**22 June 2025:**

**IASSS Belgium Webinar:**

**Introduction to the Trauma Bay**

IASSS Belgium hosted a specialised session focusing on trauma guidelines and emergency surgery. The event featured expert insights from Dr Rald Groven, MD, PhD, der Uniklinik RWTH Aachen.



**22 June 2025:**

**IASSS Oceania Suturing Workshop:**

**Where Scarcity meets Ingenuity**

Dr Ilaitia Delasau led a live, interactive session dedicated to accessible surgical education. The workshop specifically focused on the unique challenges and opportunities of surgical practice in resource-limited settings across the Oceania region.



## July 2025: The Month of Career Pathways and Specialised Surgery

### Webinars of July 2025

**08 July 2025:**

**IASSS Jordan:**

**Women in Surgery**

The “Women in Surgery” series continues to inspire. Dr Suzan Marouf Al-Bakhit, a leading Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon from Amman, shared her journey, offering behind-the-scenes insights, lessons on navigating surgery as a woman, and engaging in a live Q&A.

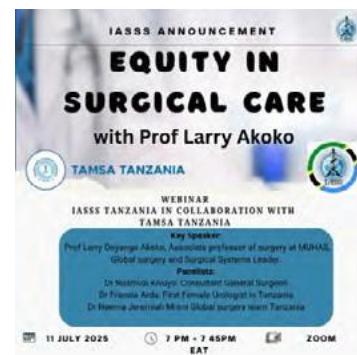


**11 July 2025:**

**IASSS Tanzania/TAMSA:**

**Equity in Surgery**

The “Equity in Surgery” online session explored global surgical care, highlighting Tanzania’s journey and emphasising that access to safe surgery is a right, not a privilege. Organised by IASSS and TAMSA, the event connected medical students with mentors and fostered discussions on building a more inclusive future in surgery.



**December 2025**

**12 July 2025:**

**IASSS Jordan & IASSS Talks:**

**Her Scalpel, Her Story: Cutting through stereotypes**

A collaboration between IASSS Jordan and our Talks team, a powerful panel was held where female surgeons from demanding specialities like neurosurgery and orthopaedics shared their journeys and challenged traditional gender norms.



**13 July 2025:**

**IASSS Jordan:**

**Insider on a Surgeon's Experience in Gaza**

IASSS Jordan hosted Dr Tareq Al-Tamimi for the fourth episode of 'Insider on a Surgeon's Experience in Gaza.' The session explored his firsthand experiences providing orthopaedic and trauma care in a conflict zone, highlighting the clinical, logistical and ethical challenges of surgery under life-threatening conditions.



**26 July 2025:**

**Webinar:**

**Surgery in Low-Resource Environments**

Dr Mogahed Halaly (MPH in Emergency Management, researcher, and humanitarian work activist) led this interdisciplinary webinar. The session explored how healthcare professionals can adapt and innovate to deliver safe and effective surgical care when resources are limited, emphasising creative problem-solving and resourcefulness. The audience included students across medicine, nursing, midwifery, radiology, and anaesthesia.



**26 July 2025:**

**IASSS Mexico:**

**Anatomía con corazón**

IASSS Mexico hosted a virtual session featuring Dr César Omar Ávalos Gómez, a cardiothoracic surgeon specialising in minimally invasive cardiac surgery. The session offered medical students, residents, and healthcare professionals insights into clinical anatomy, imaging and thoracic surgery.



**December 2025**

**29 July 2025:**  
**IASSS UAE:**  
**Surgery 101 Series**

With the aim of demystifying surgery, IASSS UAE executed a webinar specifically targeted at medical students. In the first of this series, Dr Reema Fathima, Dr Aisha Ismail, and Dr Tasnima Tayb shared about how to determine if surgery is the speciality for you, how to make the most of your surgical rotations, essential study strategies and clinical skills, getting involved in research and electives that matter, insights into surgical subspecialties and more!



**27 July 2025:**  
**IASSS Turkey/Sweden:**  
**Through the Scalpel Neuromodulation and Social Media Awareness in Surgery.**

A collaboration between IASSS Turkey and IASSS Sweden brought an interesting webinar in which Dr Georgios Matis (MD, MSc, PhD, FINR) shared insights on neuromodulation techniques, their role in surgical treatment, and the importance of social media awareness for surgeons.



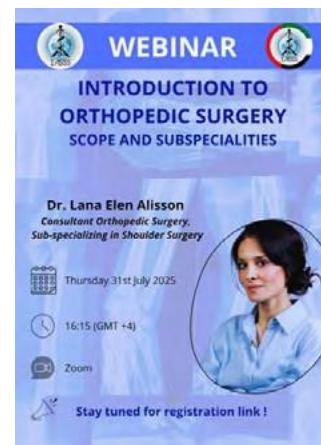
**30 July 2025:**  
**IASSS UAE:**  
**From idea to Impact- a practical guide to research**

Aimed at medical students and junior doctors (interns), IASSS UAE hosted Dr Maha Aymen and Dr Mariam Shadan, who led a lively discussion and Q&A that centred on the topics of generating a research question, conducting a literature review, and preparing one's publication.



**31 July 2025:**  
**IASSS UAE:**  
**Introduction to Orthopaedic Surgery, Scope and Subspecialties.**

IASSS UAE hosted an insightful webinar led by Dr Lana Elen Alisson, a consultant specialising in shoulder surgery. The session explored the dynamic fields of orthopaedics, covering key procedures, subspecialties like trauma, sports medicine, spine, and joint replacement, and included a lively discussion for medical students and interns.



# August 2025: Building Global Links and Empowering Local Leadership

## Welcoming New Partnerships

The International Association of Student Surgical Societies (IASSS) is thrilled to announce our new partnership with the Journal of Medical Insight (JOMI), a leading peer-reviewed surgical video journal and virtual operating theatre. The subscribers of JOMI may benefit from the following:

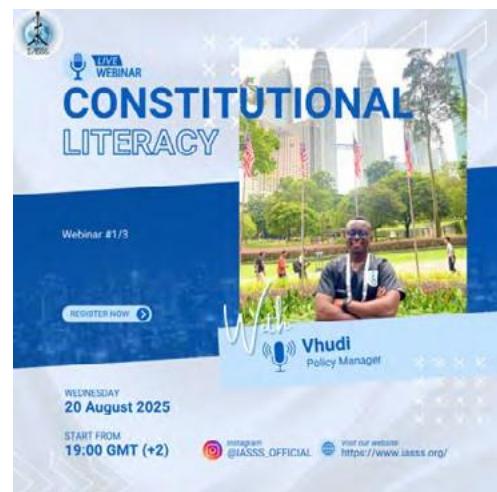
- Watch world-class surgeries from incision to closure
- Learn directly from top surgeons at hospitals like Massachusetts General, Brigham & Women's, Charité Berlin, and more
- Gain high-quality insight into General Surgery, Urology, Orthopaedics, Neurosurgery, and ENT
- Access exclusive short-form surgical cases and full-length procedures

Get 20% off your JOMI subscription with code: IASSS20



## IASSS Constitution Series

In preparation for the release of the revised IASSS Constitution, scheduled for early 2026, Dr Vhudzi Rhavutsi, IASSS Constitution and Advocacy Manager, hosted a series of successful Constitutional Literacy workshops. These workshops were specifically aimed at committee member empowerment and equipping committee members with the necessary skills for understanding and analysing the new constitutional document. By building this foundational knowledge, IASSS ensures its leadership is fully capacitated to interpret and implement the revised governance framework upon its release.



## IASSS UAE - Exploring new approaches for regional membership needs

IASSS United Arab Emirates (UAE) has proactively explored new approaches to fulfill local membership needs and generate greater regional interest, resulting in two key initiatives designed to enhance the professional development of aspiring surgeons: the creation of a Local Surgical Bulletin aimed at supporting and publicising the work of local medical students and surgical trainees, and the launch of a dedicated Mentorship Program to contribute directly to the career growth of local members.



December 2025

## IASSS México - Semana Quirúrgica Multidisciplinaria

La International Association of Student Surgical Societies México se complace en informar sobre el éxito de la Semana Quirúrgica Multidisciplinaria 2025, la cual se llevó a cabo de manera virtual del 4 al 8 de agosto. Este evento reunió a un destacado grupo de ponentes que abordaron temas clave en diversas áreas quirúrgicas, cumpliendo con el objetivo de fomentar la educación médica continua y el intercambio académico entre los participantes. Agradecemos a todos los asistentes por su interés y entusiasmo, lo que contribuyó a fortalecer la preparación de las futuras generaciones de cirujanos.

The International Association of Student Surgical Societies – Mexico is pleased to report on the success of the Multidisciplinary Surgical Week 2025, which was held virtually from August 4<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>. This event brought together a prominent group of speakers who addressed key topics in various surgical areas, achieving the goal of promoting continuous medical education and academic exchange among participants. We thank all attendees for their interest and enthusiasm, which contributed to strengthening the preparation of future generations of surgeons.



**IASSS MEXICO**  
Aspectos esenciales del cáncer de mama

04 de agosto 2025  
7:00 p.m. GMT-6  
Dr. Andrés Meraz Brenez

- Especialidad en Medicina Interna y Subespecialidad en Oncología Médica en Instituto Nacional de Ciencias Médicas y Nutrición Salvador Zubirán
- UMAE Hospital de Gineco Obstétrica N.4 Luis Castelazo Ayala, IMSS, CdMx

<http://www.iasss.org> | [@iasss\\_oficial](#) | [@IASSSsoc](#)

**IASSS MEXICO**  
Avances del tratamiento quirúrgico en cáncer de mama

04 de agosto 2025  
8:15 p.m. GMT-6  
Dra. Mara Lenina Mayorga Rangel

- Especialista en Ginecología Oncológica
- UMAE Hospital de Gineco Obstétrica N.4 Luis Castelazo Ayala, IMSS, CdMx

<http://www.iasss.org> | [@iasss\\_oficial](#) | [@IASSSsoc](#)

**IASSS MEXICO**  
Generalidades del uso de apósitos en quemaduras

05 de agosto 2025  
7:00 p.m. GMT-6  
Dr. Juan Manuel Ascencio Reyes

- Médico Cirujano y Partero de la Universidad de Guadalajara, Centro Universitario de Ciencias de la Salud
- Maestría en Gestión del Servicio Social en la Unidad de Atención Integral a Niñas, Niños y Adolescentes con Quemaduras del Antiguo Hospital Civil Fray Antonio Alcalde

<http://www.iasss.org> | [@iasss\\_oficial](#) | [@IASSSsoc](#)

**IASSS MEXICO**  
Mano Traumática en Edad Pediátrica

06 de agosto 2025  
10:00 a.m. GMT-6  
Dr. Adrián Flores Ríos

- Médico ortopedista y traumatólogo con subespecialidad en ortopedia pediátrica
- Curso en la fundación Miller Cadera y Rodilla en Berna Suiza
- Ex presidente del Colegio Michoacano de Ortopedia y Traumatología
- Catedrático de Patología Quirúrgica y clínica quirúrgica en la UNMSNH

<http://www.iasss.org> | [@iasss\\_oficial](#) | [@IASSSsoc](#)

**IASSS MEXICO**  
Complicaciones de cirugía inguinal

07 de agosto 2025  
7:00 p.m. GMT-6  
Dr. Óscar Alejandro Romero Argüello

- Residente de tercer año de cirugía general Hospital Universitario de Saltillo
- Maestría en Investigación multidisciplinaria en salud en la Universidad Autónoma de Coahuila.

<http://www.iasss.org> | [@iasss\\_oficial](#) | [@IASSSsoc](#)

**IASSS MEXICO**  
Cirugía oncoplástica como pilar de la oncología mamaria moderna

08 de agosto 2025  
7:00 p.m. GMT-6  
Dr. Abisal Montaño Martínez

- Especialidad en Ginecología Oncológica
- UMAE Hospital de Gineco Obstétrica N.4 Luis Castelazo Ayala, IMSS, CdMx

<http://www.iasss.org> | [@iasss\\_oficial](#) | [@IASSSsoc](#)

## Webinars of August 2025

**17 & 24 August 2025:**

**IASSS Poland**

**«Roadmap to the USA»**

IASSS Poland hosted a two-part webinar series, 'Roadmap to USA,' guiding aspiring doctors on pursuing medical careers and clinical electives in the United States. The first session featured Dr Jyi Cheng Ng, sharing her journey from medical school to a PGY-1 residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital, while the second session highlighted Dr Udit Choubey's path from med school to electives at UAB and Johns Hopkins, providing practical insights, tips and step-by-step guidance for securing U.S. clinical opportunities.



**02 August 2025:**

**IASSS Ukraine:**

**Pitfalls in Abdominal Trauma Management**

IASSS Ukraine hosted Dr Angeline Neetha Radjou. The session explored common challenges in trauma care, including missed diagnoses and critical surgical decision-making, providing participants with practical insights on acting swiftly in high-pressure situations.



**15 August 2025:**

**IASSS Cameroon, Leadership in Surgery**

IASSS Cameron executed an exciting webinar that explored the critical role of leadership in surgery. This webinar featured Dr Biyouma Marcelle, a seasoned urologist and andrologist who shared about carving her path in a demanding and evolving speciality.

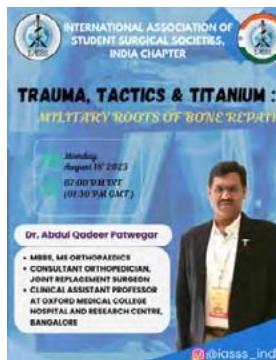


**18 August 2025:**

**IASSS India:**

**Trauma, Tactics, Titanium Military Roots of Bone Repair**

Dr Patwgar, an esteemed Consultant Orthopaedic and Joint Replacement Surgeon from Bengaluru, skillfully traced how demands of military trauma have historically driven the most significant advances in orthopaedic surgery, covering topics from foundational limb reconstruction to the evolution of bionic limbs and the future of osseointegration.



**December 2025**

26 August 2025:

IASSS UAE:

### AI in Scientific Research – From Tools to Ethics

IASSS UAE successfully presented an important webinar focused on AI in Scientific Research – From Tools to Ethics. The session provided attendees with practical skills and ethical guidance on integrating Artificial Intelligence across the entire research lifecycle.



27 August 2025:

Introducing IASSS UAE:

### Paging the Experts Series

IASSS UAE introduced our "Paging the Experts" series, and in Episode 1, it features Spotlight on General Surgery with Dr Mai- tha Alkhaiatt.



## September 2025: IASSS Celebrates Global Milestone

### IASSS surpassed 10,000 Members Worldwide!

Over the month of September 2025, IASSS is thrilled to announce that the IASSS has officially reached 10,000 members worldwide! Making us the largest, and one of the fastest growing pre-specialist surgical societies in the world!

This achievement reflects the collective passion, dedication, and vision of medical students and early career surgeons committed to advancing global surgical education, collaboration, and advocacy. Thank you to every member, partner, and supporter who made this milestone possible. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected surgical community for the future.



December 2025

## 10-13 September 2025: Minimally Invasive Surgery Week

IASSS was represented at the annual Minimally Invasive Surgery Week, hosted by the Society of Laparoscopic & Robotic Surgeons (SLS). Our delegates, Marie-Ève Truchon and Marie Desonniaux, actively participated in the highly interactive sessions, gaining exposure to the cutting edge of surgical innovation. Beyond conference attendance, Marie-Ève and Marie had an incredibly productive and engaging experience at the associated annual board meeting. During their time, they successfully initiated and discussed several promising areas for future collaboration, including shared social media and newsletter content, and expanding the IASSS mentorship program. The delegates received a warm welcome and reported a strong desire from the board to partner with IASSS. They will continue to pursue these collaborations and explore potential webinars, keeping the membership updated on all progress.



## 28 September 2025: IASSS Annual Patron Meeting

The IASSS President, Board, and Office members recently held a successful meeting with several of our esteemed Patrons. The primary focus of the session was to comprehensively review IASSS's key achievements throughout 2025 and to collaboratively discuss strategic plans moving forward. The discussion was exceptionally fruitful, and the leadership team received invaluable wisdom and guidance from our Patrons, reinforcing the direction and ambition of the association.



## Webinars of September 2025

### 01 September 2025: IASSS India «Ctrl-Alt-Heal: Resetting Patient Care with 3D printing»

This webinar focused on technology in healthcare, featuring speakers Dr Mahesh Kappanayil and Ms Rashi Gupta, was an extraordinary collaboration between medicine and biomedical engineering on 3D printing in modern healthcare.



## December 2025

**01 & 12 September 2025:**

**IASSS México**

**«Taller de suturas en cirugía cardiotorácica: fundamentos técnicos»**

This workshop was held in Spanish, targeting Spanish-speaking medical students and residents, by Dr Mario Eduardo Espinosa González on suturing techniques commonly used in cardiothoracic surgery.



**03 September 2025:**

**IASSS Jordan**

**«Insider on a Surgeon's Experience in Gaza»**

IASSS Jordan coordinated a talk held by two surgeons, Dr Osama Hamed and Dr Mohammad Amro, working in Gaza as frontline surgeons. They shared what it truly means to practice medicine under crisis.



**08 & 24 September 2025:**

**IASSS Jordan**

**«Women in Surgery Ep 4 & 5»**

IASSS Jordan presents an ongoing webinar series dedicated to women aspiring to be surgeons. This month, featuring Dr Mais Al Alkarmi and Dr Heba Rihani, who shared their personal life experiences with a Q&A session for attendees at the end.



**22 September 2025:**

**IASSS UAE**

**«Paging the Experts: Spotlight on ENT»**

Continuing our „Paging the Experts” series, IASSS UAE hosted a talk held by an ENT specialist, Dr Nader Naguib, who shared his personal journey and behind-the-scenes experiences.



**December 2025**

## 24 September 2025: IASSS UAE «Journal Club | First Session»

IASSS UAE started off a journal club series to guide students and residents in research. This talk featured Dr Ahmed Hafez Mousa, who guided our attendees through the fundamentals of engaging with scientific literature.



Join us on our first session of the IASSS UAE Journal Club, a platform for young clinicians and researchers to sharpen their critical appraisal skills and engage in evidence-based discussions.

23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2025  
2:00 PM GST +4  
Platform: Zoom

Learn how to systematically analyse a research paper from title to conclusion.

Understand how to evaluate study design, methods, results, and discussion.

See the process applied to a real example paper.

Participate in an interactive Q&A session.

Build confidence in reading, interpreting, and critiquing scientific literature.

**Speaker:** Dr Ahmed Hafez Mousa, MD Neurosurgery

## 24 September 2025: IASSS UAE «Navigating Series: How to Study for EMREE?»

This was a webinar held for students preparing for the EMREE, a multiple-choice exam required for entry into government residency programs in the UAE, with the help of Dr Aya Alsabba.



Introducing  
NAVIGATING SURGERY  
A SERIES BY IASSS-UAE

EPISODE 3 : HOW TO STUDY FOR EMREE

2:00-3:00 PM UAE TIME  
24TH SEPTEMBER, 2025

PREPARING FOR POST-GRADUATE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

- Breaking down the EMREE structure & format
- Smart strategies for effective preparation
- High-yield resources & study materials
- How to balance preparation with exam prep
- Time management & scheduling tips
- Handling stress & maintaining motivation
- Common pitfalls and how to avoid them

**GUEST SPEAKER**



DR. AYA ALSABBA  
GENERAL PRACTITIONER

## 25 September 2025: IASSS UAE «Systematic Review and Abstract Writing: A Practical Guide for Medical Students and Interns»

A webinar guide for those interested in systematic reviews was held by Dr Ambreen Ansar. Participants gain practical knowledge about framing research questions, conducting structured literature searches, screening and data extraction, and writing effective abstracts for conferences and publications



Systematic Review and Abstract Writing:  
A Practical Guide for Medical Students and Interns

This workshop introduces medical students and interns to the fundamentals of systematic reviews and abstract writing. Participants will learn how to frame research questions, search for relevant literature, conduct structured literature searches, screen and extract data, and write effective abstracts for conferences and publications

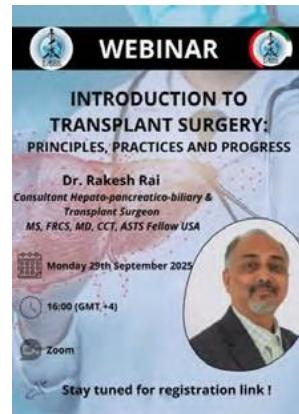
Date: 25 September 2025  
Time: 3:30 PM (UAE Time)  
Format: Online (Zoom)  
Audience: Medical students and interns



**Speaker:**  
Dr. Ambreen Ansar,  
MBBS, FCPS (Community  
Medicine), MPhil, EdD (Ed  
Lecturer, Public Health,  
College of Medicine, Dubai  
Medical University

## 25 September 2025: IASSS UAE «Introduction to Transplant Surgery: Principles, Practices and Progress»

An insightful webinar exploring the dynamic field of transplant surgery was given by Dr Rakesh Rai. Attendees get to explore the broad scope, key procedures, and diverse subspecialties, including liver transplant, pancreatic surgery, robotic surgery and more.



WEBINAR

INTRODUCTION TO  
TRANSPLANT SURGERY:  
PRINCIPLES, PRACTICES AND PROGRESS

**Dr. Rakesh Rai**  
Consultant Hepato-pancreatico-biliary &  
Transplant Surgeon  
MS, FRCS, MD, CCT, ASTS Fellow USA

Monday 29th September 2025  
16:00 (GMT +4)  
Zoom

Stay tuned for registration link!

31 October 2025:

«Critical Cuts: Surgical Cases That Challenge and Teach - HPB Edition»

Starring Dr Ose Okharedia, the IASSS talks team hosted a talk focused on the complexities of hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) surgical cases and sharing valuable lessons from challenging real-life surgeries.



## October 2025: IASSS Supports Breast Cancer Awareness Month

### IASSS Newsletter - Breast Cancer Edition

IASSS released a special edition Newsletter in recognition of

October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Globally, the month of October is recognised as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, highlighting the importance of early detection, education, and support for those affected by the disease. The IASSS administration team focused on promoting regular screenings, understanding symptoms, and providing comprehensive care, underscoring the impact of awareness and advocacy in improving outcomes for patients and their families.



### Webinars of October 2025

12 October 2025:

IASSS Poland «Webinar - Roadmap to Germany»

A career-focused webinar was held by Mr Philipp Müller for medical students and recent graduates aspiring to work in Germany. He provided practical tips on enhancing CVs and navigating electives in the German medical system.



December 2025

**18 October 2025:**  
**IASSS UAE «Paging the Experts Series:**  
**Spotlight on Pediatric Surgery»**

Featuring Dr Maithah Mohammed Alkaabi, a shared personal journey and live Q&A session from a pediatric surgery resident.



**30 October 2025:**  
**IASSS UAE «Surgery 101 Episode 3 - When Anatomy Comes to Life»**

Designed for premedical, preclinical, and early clinical students, the webinar was conducted to bridge the gap between theoretical anatomical learning and real-world surgical skills.



**31 October 2025:**  
**«Critical Cuts: Surgical Cases That Challenge and Teach - HPB Edition»**

Starring Dr Ose Okharedia, the IASSS talks team hosted a talk focused on the complexities of hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) surgical cases and sharing valuable lessons from challenging real-life surgeries.



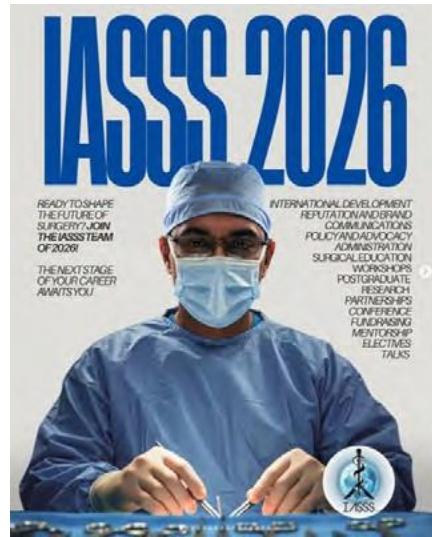
# November 2025: The Final Milestone and Transition

## A New Chapter Awaits

As the 2025 Executive Team successfully closes their chapter, IASSS is looking for dedicated individuals to open a new one. The IASSS Executive Team of 2026 will be responsible for shaping the future direction of the association and continuing our legacy of excellence, guiding IASSS through its next phase of growth and impact.

The 2026 Team will be led by Co-Presidents-Elect Angela Jia Jia Teo and Michael Petrus. They will be supported by a dedicated group of incoming directors, including Cathrine Nixon, Julius Ng, Swarali Chodnekar, Woon Tean Sia, Kavyesh Vivek, and Lina Bengherbia. Furthermore, the leadership is strengthened by two incoming office members, Kirtana Ponnuswamy and Rajeeka Singh Tak. The selection process for the remaining 2026 Executive Committee members, filling various specialised portfolios, is currently underway. We eagerly anticipate introducing the complete team that will drive IASSS's mission forward in the coming year.

#FutureOfSurgery



## Webinars of November 2025

IASSS Malaysia hosted the two-day webinar series, «**The Invisible Cut: RoboLap 2025**,» featuring a distinguished panel of pioneers in robotic surgery.

The event's primary Goal was to showcase how robotics is fundamentally reshaping modern surgical practice, providing key insights into the future of surgical care.



## 06 November 2025: IASSS Tanzania «Equity in Surgery»

IASSS Tanzania hosted a highly informative webinar titled "Equity in Surgery," in collaboration with TAMSA. The session offered a power-packed exploration of the current state of surgical care in Tanzania and facilitated a forward-looking discussion on strategies to ensure better reach and equitable access to surgical services across regions.



## December 2025

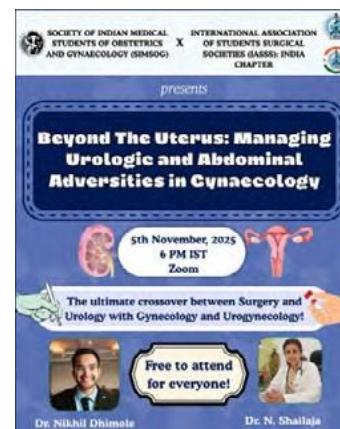
**08 & 09 November 2025:  
IASSS Poland «Research Guide Series»**

IASSS Poland successfully hosted the two-day "Research Guide Series," an intensive event focused on the fundamentals of research. This workshop was specifically aimed at students and young professionals looking to bridge the gap between completed research projects and published work, providing essential guidance on the publication path



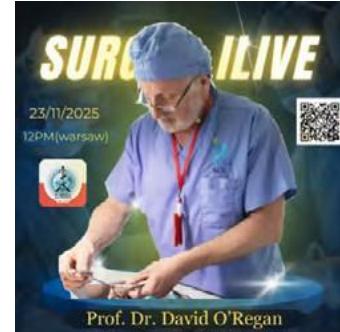
**12 November 2025:  
IASSS India «Beyond The Uterus»**

IASSS India hosted the collaborative event "Beyond The Uterus," in partnership with SIMSOG. This crucial session focused on the surgical intersections between gynaecology, urology, and general surgery. The discussion specifically delved into the complexities of managing urologic and abdominal adversities, highlighting the importance of multidisciplinary approaches in patient care.



**23 November 2025:  
IASSS Poland «Surgilive»**

IASSS Poland will be hosting "Surgilive," a highly interactive Suture & Dissection workshop. This live session guided participants through the fundamentals of dissection and suturing techniques. The workshop was led by a renowned cardiothoracic surgeon and educator, Prof. Dr David O'Reagan, providing participants with practical, expert-level surgical education.



**26 November 2025:  
IASSS Europe  
«Through the Scalpel: Paediatric Surgery — Little Patients, Big Challenges»**

This special collaboration between IASSS Romania & IASSS UK + Ireland, featuring Dr Amulya Saxena and Dr Irina Mărgărint, brings a live discussion on the realities and challenges of paediatric surgery across different countries, and how the future of paediatric surgery looks.



**29 November 2025:  
IASSS UAE «Journal Club – Case Reports:  
From Concept to Critical Appraisal»**

Part 2 of the Journal Club Series held by Dr Suhaila Ahmed offers a guide to refine case reports. This webinar is targeted at medical students and young researchers eager to master the art of case reports.



**As of 21 Nov 2025, IASSS celebrates having 10,952 official members from 133 countries around the globe.**

**Watch this space as we expand towards the  
# Future of Surgery**

*IASSS remains 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](mailto: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)



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Administrative Office  
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CH-8008 Zürich, Switzerland**

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Web: [www.iss-sic.com](http://www.iss-sic.com)





# 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



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

**#ISW2026Mexico**

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

**isw2026.org**  
**surgery@iss-sic.com**