



Newsletter

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

December 2023

Note by the ISS/SIC President



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

Dear Members of ISS/SIC

In less than a year, we will be meeting at the International Surgical Week in Kuala Lumpur which will be on from 25th to 29th August 2024. I would like to invite members to sign up for this meeting. Please log in at <https://www.isw2024.org> for the latest programme. Malaysia is a favourite destination for conferences, and there are many tours that one can take before or after the conference.

The ISS/SIC Council held a virtual meeting on 2 September 2023, which lasted from 10 am to 5 pm CEST. Covid has demonstrated that virtual meetings are almost as good as face-to-face meetings, although networking opportunities are better with face-to-face meetings. Another problem with virtual meetings is that the council members span the whole world – with different time zones. Hence the meeting can start as early as 1am for those in USA and end as late as 3 am for others in Australia.



The Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

December 2023

You may be aware of the societies which are associated with ISS/SIC. One of them is the Peruvian Society of General Surgeons (SCGP) who held their annual scientific meeting in Lima from 1–3 August 2023. ISS/SIC sent a team of speakers comprising of the myself, Drs Hermann Kessler, Andrew Hill, Jamie Murphy and Kristin Long, to this meeting, where we gave several lectures and took the opportunity to promote the upcoming ISW 2024 in Kuala Lumpur. The ISS/SIC team were conferred honorary membership of the SCGP by the President, Dr Jenner Rusman Bettaleluz Pallardel.

At the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in Boston from 22–25 October 2023, the ISS/SIC executive committee who were attending the conference, that is, myself, Ken Boffard, John Hunter, Ari Lepäniemi, and Gerard Doherty, met for an informal meeting. At this meeting, we also met with surgeons from Mexico to discuss the possibility of having the next International Surgical Week 2026 in Mexico City.

Ken Boffard and I were invited to the US Chapter of the ISS/SIC Annual Meeting on 25 October 2023, where I gave an update of the ISW 2024 in Kuala Lumpur. The President of the US Chapter of the ISS/SIC is Dr Krista L. Kaups, and there are over 400 members in the Chapter. We then attended the ISS/SIC Lecture which was delivered by Dr. Ewen Harrison from Edinburgh, Scotland. Dr Harrison spoke on “Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Global Surgery”.

I have been invited to attend the Cambodian Society of Surgery Annual Meeting in Phnom Penh on 24–25 November 2023, followed by the 24th Asian Congress of Surgery. Philippine College of Surgeons meeting in Manila from 3–5 December 2023. At these meetings I hope to promote the ISS/SIC as well as the ISW 2024 in the region.

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



Receiving the honorary membership of the SCGP from Dr Jenner Pallardel, SCGP President, 2 August 2023



Meeting with the Mexican surgeons in Boston 23 October 2023

Report Secretary-General



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

“May you live in interesting times” is an English expression, that while seemingly being a blessing, the expression is normally used ironically. Life is generally better in “uninteresting times”, more characterized by peace and tranquility. Despite being known as the “Chinese Curse”, the saying is apocryphal, and no actual Chinese source has ever been produced. (Source: Wikipedia).

There is no doubt that we are currently living in interesting times. There are civil conflicts or war in several countries, and the effect on climate change of the world’s activities is increasing. The global scenario, despite the world to a large extent shaking itself free of the pandemic and trying to return to “normality” is much more “interesting” and far less secure.

Your Society is playing an increasing role on the global stage. We are represented in G4 and developing projects with the World Health Organization. We have members in 109 countries globally, all dedicated to improvement of surgical care. Through its Integrated Societies, and other activities, we have ongoing education courses happening in nearly 40 countries across the world. We have involvement of colleagues and courses happening at the highest level, yet place for involving the next generation with the wonderful mutual benefit of our association with the International Association of Surgical Student Societies (IASSS). We have mutual benefit from our Associated Societies in Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Peru, COSECSA, the Egyptian Surgical Society, FELAC, and others.

The decision to hold International Surgical Week in Kuala Lumpur, postponed due to Covid, but very much now back

on track means that this important meeting will become even more important, and accessible to our members and their colleagues in the Asia Pacific Region. It is very cost-effective, and we are hoping that the meeting will be much more affordable for those who do not live in high income countries.

I am delighted that we will hold International Surgical Week in Mexico City in April 2026, together with the Mexican Association for Surgical Endoscopy (Asociación Mexicana de Cirugía Endoscópica, AMCE), and the Mexican Association for Digestive Surgery (Asociación Mexicana de Cirugía del Aparato Digestivo, AMCAD). More details next year...

We are entering a new era for our Journal, the World Journal of Surgery WJS, and will be changing publishers effective 1 January 2024. We welcome and look forward to working with Wiley and with our current Editorial Team being confident that we can increase our influence and reach even further and more widely. If you have something you wish to submit, do it now. The world is increasing

global, and so is our Journal. If you wish to make a contribution, now is the time. The need has never been greater.

The Society has two different Foundations. The ISS Foundation, headquartered in the USA supports surgical travelers, and others as well, especially to join ISW. Their activities are reported by Michael Sarr in this newsletter. Our newer Foundation is the Foundation for Global Surgical Care, whose mission is to take our teaching out to where there is a local need. The FGSC is based in Europe with Peter Vogelbach as President. This means that whether you are European, or resident in the USA, the tax incentives for a donation fully apply in your region. More details elsewhere in this newsletter.

This is your Global Society.

Wishing all our members a wonderfully successful year to come, and a peaceful time over the holiday season.

Kenneth D. Boffard
Secretary-General ISS/SIC



The Kuala Lumpur Convention Center – aerial view

The Foundation for Global Surgical Care (FGSC)



*Peter Vogelbach,
President FGSC*

The Foundation for Global Surgical Care (FGSC) could not perform any projects in this year 2023.

Several projects are planned for the upcoming time.

First a participation and support of a hands-on surgical workshop in Nepal, in Kathmandu and in Pokhara is planned for January 2024.

During the International Surgical Week in KL, in August 2024, a hands-on practical workshop will be organized for junior participants of the congress on Sunday, 25th of August.

Members of the Board of the FGSC will organize this one-day practical course, together with the local organizing team.

With best regards.

Peter Vogelbach
President FGSC



can align with a surgeon's values and provide them with an avenue to make a meaningful impact on global health disparities.

3. Professional Solidarity: Surgeons may feel a sense of professional solidarity with their colleagues in regions with limited resources. By supporting the FGSC, they can contribute to developing surgical skills, training, and infrastructure in these areas, ultimately helping fellow surgeons provide better care to their patients.
4. Expertise Contribution: Surgeons possess valuable surgical expertise and knowledge. They may see their financial support as an opportunity to contribute financially and share their skills and insights through training, mentorship, or collaborative efforts with surgeons in underserved areas.
5. Access to Safe Surgery: Safe surgical care is fundamental to public health. Surgeons may recognize that supporting the FGSC can help reduce mor-

talities and morbidity rates by ensuring more people can access safe and timely surgical interventions.

6. Capacity Building: The FGSC often focuses on capacity building, which includes training local healthcare providers and developing sustainable surgical systems. Surgeons may appreciate the long-term impact of these efforts on improving healthcare infrastructure in resource-limited settings.
7. Personal Fulfillment: Surgeons may find personal fulfillment in contributing to a cause that aligns with their professional expertise and values. Knowing that their donations are helping to save lives and improve the quality of surgical care can be a powerful motivator.
8. Networking and Collaboration: Donating to the FGSC may lead to opportunities for collaboration and networking with other surgeons, healthcare professionals, and organizations involved in global surgical care, enabling the exchange of knowledge and ideas for continuous improvement.

In summary, a surgeon may donate money to the Foundation for Global Surgical Care for a combination of professional, humanitarian, and personal reasons, driven by their commitment to improving surgical care worldwide and reducing healthcare disparities in underserved regions.

Why to Donate?

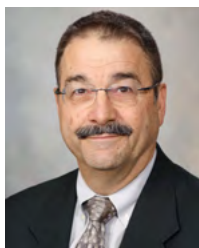
A surgeon may choose to donate money to the Foundation for Global Surgical Care (FGSC) for several compelling reasons:

1. Global Health Impact: The FGSC is dedicated to improving surgical care in underserved and low-resource regions worldwide. Surgeons are acutely aware of surgery's critical role in saving lives and alleviating suffering. They may be passionate about supporting organizations that work to enhance access to surgical services in areas where they are limited.
2. Humanitarian Efforts: Surgeons often have a solid humanitarian ethos driven by their commitment to alleviating human suffering. Donating to the FGSC



Peranakan Mansion, the typical home of a rich Baba of a century ago

Report ISS Foundation



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

Dear members of the ISS/SIC

This report will focus on the 2024 International Surgical Week (ISW 2024) in Kuala Lumpur and the TRAVEL AWARDS that are available. We estimate that there will be about 10 awards to be given out by ISSF. These awards should fully cover all expenses of travel to and from Kuala Lumpur as well as housing and meals; in addition, the registration for the meeting will also be covered. This is a great opportunity for appropriate young surgeons to attend an international multidisciplinary meeting of surgery and surgical science and to interact with other surgeons from around the world.

The International Society of Surgery Foundation (ISSF), in conjunction with the European ISS foundation called the Foundation for Global Surgical Care (FGSC) run by Dr Peter Vogelbach, will be coordinating the travel award committee. The travel awards are limited to young surgeons (less than 40 years old) from the devel-

oping world who have some interaction with education of other surgeons in their country. The applicant must fill out the application form in its entirety – failure to fill the application form completely will disqualify the candidate from receiving one of these awards. The applications can be found both on the ISSF website (issfoundation-issf.org) or the ISS website (iss-sic.com). The applications will need to be fully submitted by January 24th 2024, and a decision of the awardees will be made within a month.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA FOR APPLYING:

- Applicants must have demonstrated some form of commitment to teaching and clinical or basic research by their country-of-origin standards.
- Applicants should provide separate lists of all published scientific journal articles, book chapters, and abstracts (avoid articles in development or in press).
- Applicants must provide a short statement of personal goals and career objectives in the discipline of surgery and/or anesthesia.
- Applicants should have a working knowledge of English (proceedings of the ISS/SIC Congress are in English only).
- Applicants must submit a letter of recommendation from not more than three

of their colleagues, one of whom must be the chairman of the department in which they hold their appointment or their senior surgeon in charge. This letter must include a specific statement detailing the nature and extent of the applicant's past interest in teaching and other academic involvement.

- Also, each applicant must submit an abstract for potential presentation to the meeting and include this abstract with the application (submission at <https://www.isw2024.org/abstracts>).
- Travel scholars will be required to submit a report of the experience provided through their scholarship to the ISS Foundation office at the meeting's completion.
- Recipients of a previous travel award from the ISS are not eligible.

Further information and travel award applications for the International Surgical Week ISW 2024 can be obtained from the ISS Foundation website (issfoundation-issf.org) or from the ISS/SIC Office (surgery@iss-sic.com).

We at the ISS/SIC look forward to receiving as many applications as possible. Good luck to all applicants.

Michael Sarr
Secretary/Treasurer of the ISSF

Report Editor in Chief WJS



*Julie Ann Sosa,
Editor in Chief WJS*

Hello and happy fall to members of the International Surgical Society (ISS/SIC) and readers and authors of the World Journal of Surgery (WJS)! We continue to embrace change, as long as it is informed by evi-

dence. The biggest change and news to share is that our WJS editorial leadership is hard at work preparing for a new publisher; we will be transitioning from Springer Nature to Wiley on January 1, 2024, but preparations began over the summer. The new submission site is: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/wjsurgery>. Stay tuned for a slightly new WJS look and continued innovation around content, style and the dissemination of our scholarship!

In 2023, we have managed 1,128 total submissions to the journal, of which 787

were original articles. We continue to be selective, with an overall acceptance rate of 21.7% and a 16.6% acceptance rate for original manuscripts. And we are committed to providing efficient peer review to our authors; the average time to first decision at the journal is just 28 (!) days. Thanks to the hard work of our editorial office and managing editor (Laura Shearer), our authors and their impactful science, we have seen our WJS article downloads accelerate in number: so far in 2023, there have been 768,695 downloads, and we are on pace to have a re-



Dr Diamantis Tsilimigras, Columbus, OH, USA, Social Media Editor



Dr David Hindin, Palo Alto, CA, USA Story and Design Editor



Dr George Barreto, South Australia Associate Editor, GI and HPB Surgery



Dr Sherry Wren, Palo Alto, CA, USA Associate Editor, Surgical Oncology and GI Surgery

cord-breaking year. Our impact factor did drop this year, but so too did the IFs of 84% (n=176) of all surgery journals. The loss of COVID urgency meant that a number of highly cited manuscripts focusing on the pandemic were no longer cited at the same rate. It is important to note that nearly 24% of our publications are Open Access, which is significantly higher than most other mature journals (about 8–10%). Indeed, we have the second highest percentage of open access content among broad or leading sub-specialty surgery journals.

We have continued to increase and improve our social media presence to promote the science (and the scientists!) published in the WJS. This summer, we welcomed another new visual abstract editor, Dr Diamantis Tsilimigras, from the

United States and our inaugural Story and Design Editor, Dr David Hindin, also from the United States. Dr Hindin comes from a background in biodesign (and trauma/acute care surgery), and planning is underway to accelerate innovation around how we communicate our authors' scholarship to our international audience. This will coincide with our move to Wiley.

We added 3,800 new Twitter followers over the last year, and there have been nearly 5 million interactions with WJS content since 2018, which means that for many people, WJS on social media is the way they interact with the journal (ie. Not necessarily reading full text content).

We are committed to bringing energy, passion, and creativity to the WJS, and we are excited to see new faces from

around the world join our leadership team. This summer, we welcomed Dr George Barreto of Beford Park, South Australia to serve as our associate editor for GI and Hepatobiliary Surgery; he replaces Dr Sandra Wong of the United States. We welcome Dr Barreto, and thank you for your service, Dr Wong! And Professor Sherry Wren of Palo Alto, CA, USA, has become our associate editor for Surgical Oncology and GI Surgery, replacing Dr Hitoshi Katai of Japan. Welcome Dr Wren and thank you, Dr Katai!

It is an honor to serve as Editor in Chief of the WJS; I am thankful for the privilege of serving the ISS/SIC, our authors and our readers from around the world! 2024 is going to be an exciting next chapter for our journal!

Julie Ann Sosa
Editor in Chief WJS

From January 2024, Wiley will be the new publisher of World Journal of Surgery.

Wiley was founded in 1807 in New York City. For more than 200 years, Wiley has been helping people and organizations develop the skills and knowledge they need to unlock human potential. With more than 5,000 colleagues in 40+ countries, Wiley's scientific, technical, medical and scholarly journals, books, and other digital content build on a strong heritage of quality publishing.

Wiley is the world's largest society publisher, having partnerships with more than 600 scholarly and professional organizations, and more than 800 of their journals. Because of this, Wiley has a unique ability to support ISS/SIC in advancing its mission.

We warmly encourage you to submit your latest research via the new submission site at: <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/wjsurgery>

Report Administrative Office



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

Dear ISS/SIC member and reader

Many of you have received the notification to renew your ISS/SIC membership and we are happy to support if you have any query or concern in this regard. Your membership keeps the ISS/SIC up and running, thank you! Also please check your e-mail address for correctness as this is the only means to contact you from our side – do not forget to notify us of any change. You may access your membership data at: <https://www.iss-membership.org/Login>

You are kindly invited to follow us on social media and let us know if you want to get featured on our social media account. Let us know why you joined the ISS/SIC and how this move did benefit your career – send us your portrait picture accordingly (surgery@iss-sic.com).

Preparatory works for ISW 2024 in Kuala Lumpur are advancing nicely and the Preliminary Scientific Program is published at www.isw2024.org – have a look and prepare your congress participation already now. The Abstract Center has been opened in August 2023 and submissions are coming in, deadline for submissions has been set to 17 January 2024. We are happy that many awards for abstract submitters can be offered as well as great support for Travel Scholars, all information is available at the congress website. Kindly spread the information amongst your networks.

The registration facilities for ISW 2024 will be ready these days and we like to point out that ISS/SIC members may profit from very advantageous fees when registering before the end of January 2024 – make sure that you profit from this opportunity.

Still the ISS/SIC Council is open to receive **nominations for Prize Winners and ISS/SIC Honorary Fellowships**, more information about these awards and nomination form is available at <https://www.iss-sic.com/awards>. Nominations must be received at the administrative office (surgery@iss-sic.com) by the extended deadline 31 January 2024!

The end of the year is approaching quickly now, and we take the opportunity to wish you a peaceful and rewarding Holiday Season full of joy and health!

With our best wishes.
Administrative Office team

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



Divers in Malaysia

Message from LOC ISW 2024



Hisham Abdullah,
President LOC ISW
2024



Hanafiah Harunashid,
Secretary
LOC ISW 2024

International Surgical Week 2024, 25th – 29th August 2024

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The Local Organising Committee, under the leadership of Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, has gone into full swing to assist and support the ISS/SIC Council and secretariat in organising and arranging for the 50th World Congress for ISS/SIC (International Surgical Week) to be held on 25th to 29th August 2024 at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

The scientific and academic content being prepared by the ISS/SIC, the Integrated and participating Societies will definitely be top-notch addressing the latest advances and updates in the management of medical conditions and diseases in their respective fields. Arrangements are also being made for social activities as these will present golden opportunities for the participants to mingle and interact.

"To know Malaysia is to love Malaysia". A multiracial and multicultural nation in which Malays, Indians, Chinese and peo-

ple of various other ethnicities live together in peace and harmony. The diversity of cultures, the warm and friendly people the peaceful and stable political situation makes it a country safe and enjoyable to visit. Kuala Lumpur is the capital of Malaysia. Its modern skyline dominated by the 451m-tall Petronas Twin Towers is also home to British colonial-era landmarks such as the Kuala Lumpur Railway Station and the Old Federal Courthouse. Kuala

Lumpur is the main gateway to the other states and cities in Malaysia including Sabah and Sarawak in the Borneo Island.

Confirm your participation in ISW 2024 and make plans to visit the many exciting and exotic destinations in Malaysia.

Hanafiah Harunarashid
Honorary Secretary LOC ISW 2024



*Noor Hisham Abdullah and
Hanafiah Harunarashid*

The Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre



Tourist Attractions of Kuala Lumpur



KL Tower



Batu Caves



Petronas Twin Towers



Old Federal Courthouse



Putra Mosque



Banjaran Hotsprings



Christ Church, Malacca



Waterfront, Malacca



Tun Sakaran Marine Park, Sabah



Kek Lok Si Temple, Penang

Food

Malaysia is famous for its food, so do try out the local cuisine while you are in the country.



Nasi Lemak



Roti Canai (best bread by TasteAtlas 2023)



Nasi Kerabu



Satay



Nyonya Kuih



Prawn Mee

Report IAES



*Jan Zedenius,
President IAES*



*Stan Sidhu,
Secretary-Treasurer
IAES*

IAES Update Aug 2023

The IAES group have been active in 2023. Preparations have been made for the IAES portion of the ISS/SIC meeting in Malaysia in 2024 with a solid programme in place. We are currently in negotiations to confirm the IAES Hotel and venue for the IAES dinner.

We have planned a series of educational seminars with the first webinar been posted provided by Dana Hartl on surgical management of nodal disease in papillary thyroid cancer. Further webinars on adrenalectomy and primary hyperparathyroidism are being planned.

The Interest group led by Inne Rinkes has undertaken a very successful visit to Nepal with Prof Amit Agarwal from India. They have provided the first thyroid surgery course in that country.

A number of IAES members attended and participated in the successful World Congress of Thyroid Cancer meeting held June 15-17 London UK 2023. This event brought together a multidisciplinary group of thyroid cancer surgeons, endocrinologists, radiation and medical oncologists to share ideas regarding new developments in thyroid cancer management.

Further, Janice Pasieka and Haggi Mazeh have developed an IAES education programme to be delivered as part of the Global Surgical Oncology Summit in Jerusalem Israel January 30-February 2, 2024.

A large collection of speakers from IAES have committed their time and efforts to providing a sophisticated Endocrine Surgery programme for this meeting.

Notably we have mourned the passing over two of our Founding fathers in Professor Orlo Clark and Professor Tom Reeve and tributes from around the world have flowed from all of us to their families.

We look forward to Malaysia August 2024.

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



*Street food vendor
at Petaling street KL*

Report IATSIC



iatsic

International Association for Trauma Surgery and Intensive Care



*Scott D'Amours,
President IATSIC*

IATSIC members continue their work on several projects and educational efforts geared toward improving care of the injured in a variety of environments. We thank all who are participating for the

work you contribute and efforts you are making. Below, please find updates on many of the projects which are underway.

DSTC and DATC training course activities

- Work is well underway and revision of the current DSTC Manual continues by a team of contributors led by Editors J.O. White and K. Boffard. Publication is planned for third quarter of 2024. Thank you to all who are working on this important project.

NTMC (National Trauma Management Course)

- Both slide materials and text are currently being revised by a team led by Drs Ranjith Ellawala and Tim Hardcastle. Once these are nearing completion, selected countries will be invited to pilot the updated materials on provider courses.

IATSIC Webinar Series

- This series of successful collaborative online educational partnerships

continue. You can stay up to date on the planned sessions through the IATSIC website as these are confirmed – www.iatsic.org/Webinars/

- Watch for the next webinar late November/early December- it will be in partnership with the American Association for the surgery of Trauma (AAST) and its WITS (Women in Trauma Surgery) section. This energetic group highlights the phenomenal contribution of women to the advancement of academics, education and training in trauma surgery worldwide. IATSIC is proud to promote this webinar to all of its membership.
- If you have suggestions of other partnering societies for this IATSIC webinar series leading into 2024 – we would love to hear your ideas and work towards including them.
- Another series of cooperative webinars is planned between IATSIC and Prof Antonio Marttos and the University of California. Watch for announcements on this exciting series soon.

Global commitments

WHO Collaboration

- IATSIC and the WHO continue to finalise materials for the new advanced operative trauma management course. Prof Tina Gaarder and Prof Tim Hardcastle are pulling together incredible work from a number of talented IATSIC contributors from around the world. IATSIC is excited to be partnering with the WHO to bring this course to as much of the world as possible. It is likely that the first course will be piloted

in Ethiopia during the second quarter of 2024 with support of many regional partner countries. A venue has recently been assessed in Addis Ababa and we are excited to have the support of the Ethiopian Minister of Health in this venture.

ERATIC

- A new project has been launched in collaboration with the ERAS Society looking at best evidence and practice in a broad range of topics central to the management of surgical trauma patients. Dubbed 'ERATIC' (Enhanced Recovery after Trauma in Intensive Care) – this work was recently commenced and we look forward to updating you on these efforts in a future newsletter

50th International Surgical Week (ISW) 2024 – Kuala Lumpur conference preparation:

- August 25-29, 2024 are the planned dates for our next Congress. Now is the time to start making plans to attend! We are excited at the prospect of holding ISW in Malaysia. The IATSIC hotel has been chosen – and we are pleased to announce that the RuMa Hotel is the preferred hotel for IATSIC members and friends. We hope that many of you will choose to stay here with your IATSIC colleagues.
- The IATSIC program has been finalised for ISW 2024. IATSIC Program Chair Prof Tina Gaarder and the IATSIC executive team have created an exciting trauma program spanning an incredible array of trauma subjects and sessions

with an amazing faculty including some familiar names and many rising stars.

- The IATSIC Dinner venue is being finalised and promises to be a great night to remember.
- Pre-congress workshops will commence Friday 23rd August and are planned to include DSTC/DATC, IATSIC/WHO Operative Trauma Course and the World Health Assembly ECO resolution. Again watch for further confirming information on the ISW and IATSIC websites.

IATSIC and IASSS:

- IATSIC is proud to be associated with IASSS – the International Association of Student Surgical Societies. We all know the future of our profession is amongst the best and brightest minds of the engaged and enthusiastic members of this group.
- The IASSS recently launched an effort to match members of their society with potential Surgeon Mentors from the various integrated societies of the ISS/SIC. We hope that many of our interested IATSIC members will consider partnering with IASSS in a mentoring role.

Best wishes from the IATSIC executive committee.

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

Report BSI



Owen A. Ung,
President BSI



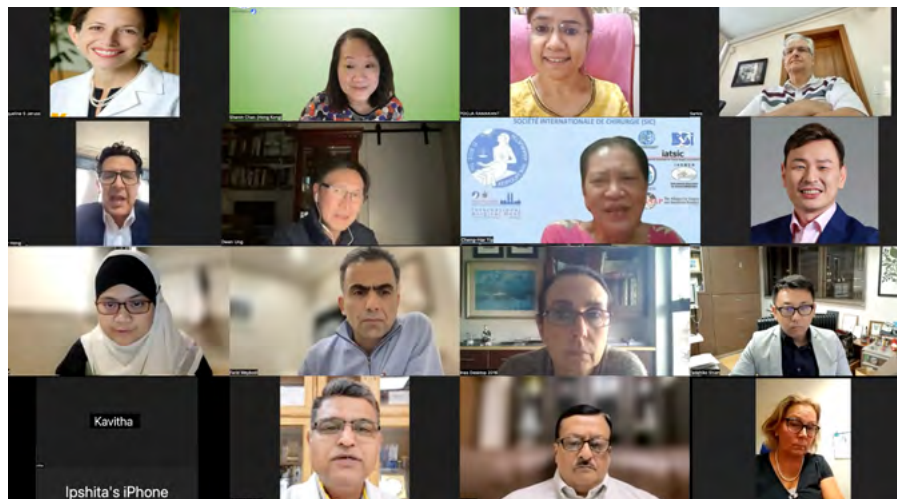
Sharon W.W. Chan,
Honorary Secretary
BSI

It is with great pleasure and honour that BSI will be part of the World Congress of Surgery International Surgical Week 2024. As we approach this much-anticipated biennial meeting of ISS/SIC, we are excited to extend an invitation to all of you that is brimming with opportunities for collaboration, learning and professional growth.

The ISW 2024 BSI program promises to be an exceptional event, featuring renowned speakers, engaging workshops,

and thought-provoking panel discussions. BSI council member met the Congress President Prof Yip and the Local Organising Committee Dr Ng Char Hong online and have carefully curated a program that encompasses the latest research,





2nd BSI Council Meeting

cutting-edge techniques, and emerging trends in breast surgery. We are excited and ambitious about the idea of organizing not just one, but three pre-congress workshop this year: the popular “Advanced Oncoplastic and Reconstructive Breast Surgery Course”, the “Breast Ultrasonography and Interventions Course” and the “Intraoperative Radiotherapy Course” will be held on 24–25 August. These workshops will provide unique opportunities for attendees to enhance their skills, broaden their knowledge, and engage in meaningful discussions. The BSI main sessions will cover management of axilla, neoadjuvant therapy, breast conservation and radiotherapy, locally advanced breast cancer and metastatic disease and innovative breast surgical procedures. The greatly anticipated and very informative “BSI debate” and “Stump the Expert” sessions are always a highlight of the BSI meeting

and will again be part of the program. The Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) and Breast Surgery International (BSI) will hold a joint session that will cover important topics in global health issues related to breast cancer care.

Hong Kong Society of Breast Surgeons ASM supported by Breast Surgery International 17 September 2023

The Breast Surgery International (BSI) is happy to partner with the Hong Kong Society of Breast Surgeons (HKSBS) for the meeting. This meeting is organised by Dr Sharon Chan and Dr Polly Cheung, which serves as a vibrant platform for breast surgical professionals to exchange knowledge and share experiences. Our president Prof Owen Ung gave an informative and inspiring keynote lecture on “Improving Outcomes for Breast Cancer Survivors.



Prof Owen Ung giving keynote lecture for Hong Kong Society of Breast Surgeons September 2023

Together with Prof Fiona Cheng from Taiwan and Mr Henry Cain from UK, their insightful lectures allow participants to delve into the latest developments and explore novel approaches that shape the future of breast surgical practices. A panel of experts presented complex cases, highlighting the dilemmas, treatment options and management strategies. The collective wisdom and shared experiences of the participants left a lasting impact on our professional journey.

Future Meetings

- i) The India Breast Meeting: 5–7th January 2024 in Mumbai at the Jio World Centre. BSI will support this consensus meeting in Jan 2024, where the goal is to evolve breast cancer clinical practice guidelines for LMICs.
- ii) SGPGI Breast Course 2024
BSI will be the supporting organisation for this annual meeting.

Before ISW 2024, we are thrilled to announce that a series of exciting webinars is on the horizon. Stay tuned for more details and we promise to deliver an enriching and immersive webinar experience. Last but not the least, please mark your calendar for ISW 2024, and we hope to see you in Kuala Lumpur!

Owen A. Ung
President BSI

Sharon W.W. Chan
Honorary Secretary BSI



Hong Kong Society of Breast Surgeons Committee

Report ISDS



*Jamie Murphy,
President ISDS*

Dear Colleagues

It gives me great pleasure to contribute to the latest ISS/SIC Newsletter and provide an update to our ISS/SIC friends and colleagues regarding the work of the International Society of Digestive Surgery (ISDS) so far in 2023. As you may imagine the majority of the work the ISDS Executive Committee has been involved with in recent months has focused on organising our scientific programme at the International Surgical Week. That will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia between the 25th and 29th August 2024. This will be the 50th World Congress of the International Society of Surgery, which is the oldest international Surgical Society in the world. I look forward to having the opportunity to celebrate that milestone with many of you in Kuala Lumpur during the meeting. You may already be aware that the International Surgical Week next year will be in conjunction with the College of Surgeons Academy of Medicine Malaysia, and I very much look forward to participating in the joint meeting. Preparations are well underway and it is shaping up to be a fantastic meeting already. For those of you who have yet to see it, the draft programme can be found at the following link – <https://www.isw2024.org>.

Following feedback from the ISDS membership we have changed the format of our scientific sessions for International Surgical Week 2024. We are organising themed 'pan-gastrointestinal' sessions rather than our traditional benign or malignant sub speciality gastrointestinal sessions. We hope that the change in format that we will try for the first-time next year will provide even more cross speciality discussion and debate. Our plans include exciting sessions covering - gastrointestinal surgical oncology, complex postoperative complication management, 'quick fire' updates in pan gastrointestinal hot topics, bariatrics and hernia management, 'top papers' of 2023/2024, video sessions where experts demonstrate their surgical techniques, in addition to a new technology session, and a debate session. I am also excited to announce that we are organising a number of other 'cross over' joint sessions with the other ISS/SIC integrated societies (IASMEN, IATSIC, IAES) and the Federation Latinoamericana de Cirugia (FELAC) which I am certain will be extremely stimulating with lively discussions.

I am also thrilled to announce the annual ISDS / SSAT joint breakfast meeting at Digestive Diseases Week (DDW) is also currently being planned and will take place in Washington D.C. as part of the DDW meeting that is schedule between May

18–21, 2024. The exact date and time of the symposium are yet to be confirmed. The symposium will cover the multidisciplinary management of upper and lower gastrointestinal functional conditions / pathologies with presentations from a truly outstanding panel. I hope all ISDS members who are at DDW will consider attending this symposium as I'm sure it will be an outstanding session.

Finally, the ISDS executive committee would like to remind you that we have a presence on social media! For those of you who are yet to follow the society we are on twitter with the handle @IntSocDigSurg and you can find us on LinkedIn by searching for IntSocDigSurg. We are keen to showcase the work of the ISDS, and more broadly the ISS/SIC, through social media channels and communicate more directly with our membership and the surgical community at large. As always if members have any questions for myself, or other members of the ISDS committee, please do reach out to us. Otherwise, I look forward to seeing many of you in Kuala Lumpur next year.

Sincerely

Jamie Murphy
President ISDS
murphyj15@ccf.org

Traditional costumes in Malaysia



Report ASAP



*Milliard Derbew,
President ASAP*

Dear Colleagues

The Alliance for Surgery and Anesthesia Presence (ASAP) remains committed to representing and engaging anesthesiologists, obstetricians and surgeons in low and middle-income countries, as well as all global physicians committed to representing and studying the challenges of providing surgical care to the patients in greatest need.

Since we last met in Austria in August 2022, ASAP has continued to reckon with how to best deliver on our mission of representing and engaging those serving patients in need in the most resource-constrained parts of the world. Engaging these colleagues, even with appropriate reduc-

tions in annual dues for members from low and middle-income countries, continues to prove a challenge and has been met with only a modest increase in membership. We appreciate that a multitude of barriers exist in addition to finances and will focus on better understanding and alleviating those, as well as better defining our colleagues' hopes and needs that ASAP and ISS might address.

I trust that my leadership will breathe new life into ASAP, as I have many ideas for collaboration with other surgical and anesthesia societies, both within and beyond the ISS/SIC, that I hope will engage surgeons and anesthesiologists young and old. The 2024 meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia will bring new ASAP voices to table, with anticipated topics including supporting quality in low-income countries and the importance of global partnerships in capacity building and research development. We are gratified that ISS's leadership continues to value and prioritize these topics and deeply appreciate President Cheng Har Yip's enthusiasm and dedication.



In addition, efforts are underway to memorialize the history to date of ASAP, so powerfully and eloquently summarized by my predecessor, Russell Gruen, during his Presidential address in Austria. We are indebted to Victor Bertschi for his support in this regard and we look forward to sharing this work with you in the near future.

I look forward to seeing you all in Kuala Lumpur in August 2024 and welcome your ideas and input on how we might collaborate, both leading up to that meeting and beyond. I hope that you will join me in helping to grow the global vision for ISS/SIC in the future!

Best regards,

Milliard Derbew
President ASAP

Report IASSS



*Jessica Davies,
President IASSS*

This year the IASSS has been focusing on 3 major goals:

1. **Member value** – for the world's future surgeons through educational lectures, workshops, research skills development and conferences. We have had a particular focus on adding value to our more senior surgeons.
2. **Mentorship** – Launching the world's first mentorship program - connecting specialist surgeons to trainees in the field from all over the globe and in various disciplines.
3. **International growth and sustain-**

ability – Expanding our national representation and maturing these teams in order to build sustainability

As we move into the last half of the year we are also starting to focus on:

- **Membership platform** with exclusive content
- **Strategic partnerships** – we are very proud to announce our collaboration with ProjectIMG
- Nominations and selection of our **2024 Executive and Sub-Committee** and ensuring a smooth handover
- Preparation for **International Surgical Week in Kuala Lumpur 2024** where we once again will be selecting delegates for The Future Surgeons Program and launch the Top Knife Award. In collaboration with the Malaysian Student Surgical Society we will be hosting the Non-Technical Skills in



Surgical Performance Workshop, and 3 interesting academic sessions.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sulé Burger
General Secretary IASSS

WE NEED MENTORS!
BY THE MENTORSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL OUTREACH PORTFOLIO
The IASSS's first-ever cross-continental **Mentorship Program** will act as a platform for mentors and mentees from across the globe to engage in numerous fields related to general surgery, global surgery, and surgical research.

Through this program, we hope to encourage equitable access to mentorship and skills-sharing across all countries and regions in international collaboration.

We hope to provide trainees with opportunities for important discussions, lay strong academic foundations, nurture a passion for surgery and provide guidance for informed decision-making.

Mentors must be:

- Qualified surgeons working in clinical practice or
- Qualified surgical researchers or
- Surgical trainees/registrars or
- Senior medical officers working in a surgical discipline (>= 3 years)

Interested MENTORS can indicate their interest by completing the program interest survey: <https://shorturl.at/kxIN0>

All mentors who indicate their interest will be added to the mentorship platform (Together platform) when we launch.

Queries can be sent to: outreach@iasss.org

WE HAD OUR VERY FIRST WORKSHOP! BY THE EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO

The IASSS collaborated with Mr. David O' Regan, the founder of Black Belt Academy Surgical Skills (BBASS), to conduct our very first virtual surgical skills workshop on March 8, 2023 via the Zoom platform. The topics covered in the workshop include Operating Room Basics, Surgical Asepsis, and Scrubbing and Gowning.

PLANS FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2023...

2023 has been an eventful and fruitful year for the IASSS and we plan to host further webinars, workshops and skills sessions for our members in the remainder of the year.

Our Mentorship programme will be launched in the coming months and applications for the 2024 Committee are well underway. In November, applications for the Future Surgeons Program will open and the delegation finalised by December for ISW in 2024.

We look forward to plans for 2024 and the expansion of our committee to include new portfolios namely: The Surgical Advancement and Policy Development Portfolio and

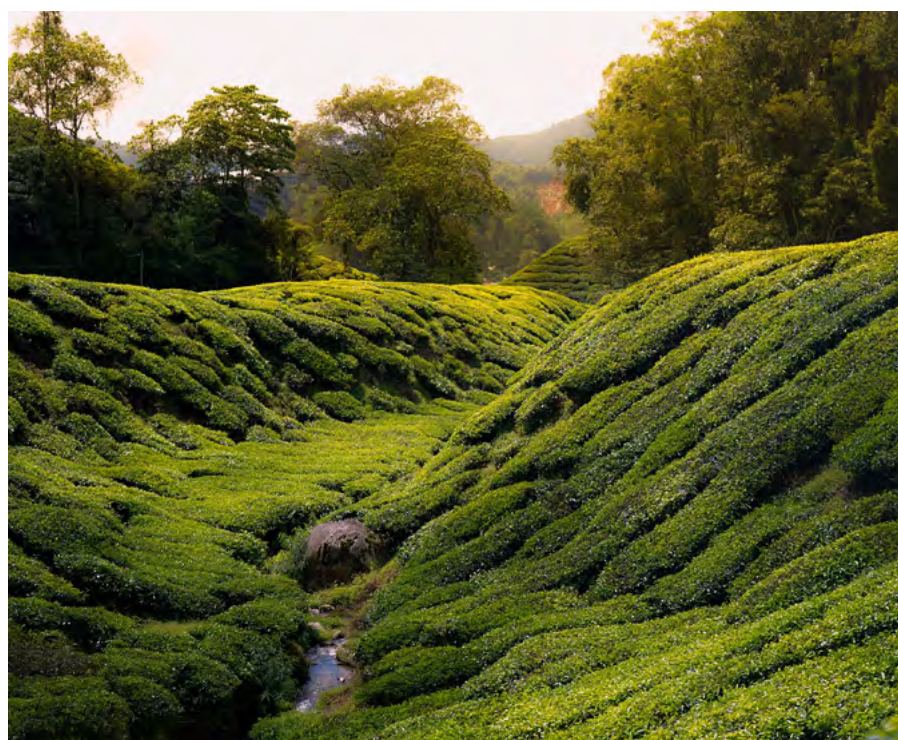
Surgical Education Portfolio. These will aim to advocate for surgical policy development as well as to develop an IASSS database of resources for surgical trainees worldwide.

We hope to continue to expand the National Delegate network and collaborate with the ISS/SIC National Delegates to advance the field of surgery in every region around the world.

We would like to thank the ISS/SIC for their continued support throughout our journey and we look forward to future collaborations going forward!

Jessica Davies
President IASSS

president@iasss.org



The Cameron Highlands, Malaysia

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Obituary:

Thomas Smith Reeve AC CBE

23 November 1923 – 20 August 2023, ISS/SIC Honorary Fellow 1999



Tom Reeve passed away in Sydney on Sunday 20th August, just three months short of his 100th birthday. Thomas Smith Reeve

was born on 23rd November 1923 in the small country town of Queanbeyan, New South Wales and received his high school education in Canberra. As a young child he was moved by the death of a young friend from diphtheria, and was encouraged by his general practitioner, Dr John James, to enter medicine. He graduated MBBS from The University of Sydney in 1947 and spent a short time in country general practice before taking the then unusual step of travelling to the United States for specialty training.

His subsequent career as one of the world's leading thyroid surgeons was entirely serendipitous as he initially obtained a residency in gynecology at Albany Medical College in New York State. In his own words ... "I was walking down the hospital corridor in Albany when I encountered a nurse leaving a patient's room white as a sheet, calling for help. On entering the room I encountered a woman, she was stridulous with a massive hematoma after thyroidectomy. With great fear and trepidation I removed the sutures in the ward, drained the hematoma, and she rapidly regained her airway".... the surgeon happened to be John McClintock, Secretary of the American Goitre Association (now the ATA), the patient was the wife of the leading senator from New York, and Tom entered surgical training becoming one of the first Australians ever to be board certified in the USA.

It was in Albany that he also met Mary Jo, a scrub nurse whom he married. They returned to Sydney to spend the rest of their lives together and with their children in their home in Beecroft. On his

return to Australia he was appointed to a research post at the Royal North Shore Hospital and subsequently established The University of Sydney Endocrine Surgical Unit. He was appointed Professor of Surgery by the University of Sydney in 1974. His clinical interests were not confined to endocrine surgery however, as he made major contributions in the areas of diagnostic ultrasound, breast disease, and surgical oncology. Tom was active in Vascular surgery and with other surgeons helped introduce vascular and cardiothoracic surgery to Royal North Shore Hospital. He was Department of Surgery Chair at The University of Sydney and became the 4th President of the International Association of Endocrine Surgeons in 1985.

Having retired from academic practice in 1988 he continued to work tirelessly in numerous areas, being elected President of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons and being appointed Chairman of the Board of Northern Sydney Area Health Service including Royal North Shore Hospital. In association with the Cancer Council of Australia he was responsible for developing multiple evidence based, cancer care guidelines for the Australian Cancer Network. Tom's contributions to surgery were widely recognised internationally as he was awarded Honorary Fellowships of the American College of Surgeons, the American Surgical association, the College of Surgeons of South Africa, the Philippine College of Surgeons, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the Asian Surgical Association, and the American Association of Endocrine Surgeons. Tom's work and contributions to improving surgical care were recognised by his country by the award of Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) and as Commander of the British Empire (CBE), and by The Royal Australasian College of Surgeons with the award of the Hugh Devine Medal, its highest Honour.

Despite retiring from primary surgical care in 1988, he continued to attend

the operating room for two decades, scrubbing in and assisting with thyroid and parathyroid procedures. This provided him the opportunity to meet and teach all the surgical fellows appointed to the TS Reeve International Fellowship in Endocrine Surgery over that time, a most significant legacy. In the words of Jan Zedenius, one of the first TS Reeve Fellows:

"Prof Reeve instilled trust, respect and admiration, something I don't think he really aspired to, but which came naturally, through his knowledge, experience and academic appearance. We had many meetings during my year, sometimes one-on-one with afternoon tea, and he always had extremely good advice to give; he became a true mentor with his wisdom and his understanding of all the doubts and sometimes delusions of the younger colleague. I believe that in many ways he functioned as a father figure, and I am sure that this experience is shared by many of the fellows who came to follow over the years. We will never forget his work, his experienced and friendly manner, and the role model he set. And many of us will miss his Christmas letters, always signed "Prof" with a silver Montblanc fountain pen..."

Tom is revered by generations of surgeons not only for his teaching and mentoring but also for his intellect, his innovative achievements, the exemplary care he gave his patients, and the very evident concern he had for their wellbeing, but, above all, for his friendship. The Endocrine Surgery Unit at the Royal North Shore Hospital which he nurtured is a legacy International Unit and Prof Reeve undoubtedly laid the foundation for others to continue the great work to this day.

Tom is survived by his three children, Tommy, Anne, and Graham.

Professor Leigh Delbridge, 16th President of the IAES

Professor Jan Zedenius, 22nd President of the IAES



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
25-29 August 2024



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

International Surgical Week

The World's Congress of Surgery

isw2024.org

Jointly organized with the 51st Annual Scientific Congress of the
College of Surgeons Academy of Medicine of Malaysia (CSAMM)



International Society of Surgery ISS / SIC
and its Integrated Societies

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

#ISW2024KualaLumpur

Deadline for Abstract submission:
January 17, 2024

surgery@iss-sic.com
isw2024.org