



# Newsletter

ISUCRS | Fall 2013

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## ISUCRS *President's Report*

The summer months have been very productive for the Society, and our global reach continues to expand. Later in this newsletter you will read about strong recruitment measures being taken in several different countries, including Hungary, Israel, Iraq and Poland. ISUCRS has also had a presence at conferences in Mexico and Japan.

Our Interim meeting, held in May of this year was a great success. With the town of Vilnius, Lithuania serving as a scenic and historic backdrop, over 250 international colon and rectal surgeons attended the 2-day event, participating in several valuable presentations and several special events.

A membership survey was recently sent out to the society, canvassing their opinions on the Society and what we do, and ways to augment and improve our services. Thank you to all of our members who participated, and I encourage those who have not yet done so to take a few moments and complete it. We have also begun an initiative to update and improve the Society's website, and more changes will be announced in future newsletters. I invite your feedback in all that ISUCRS does – your input is vital in helping us maintain a strong organization.



FIDEL RUIZ-HEALY, MD  
*ISUCRS President*

## ISUCRS *Director General's Report*

I hope this newsletter finds our membership well and in good health. It has been a landmark period for the ISUCRS. Under the inspired leadership of Professor Narimantas Samalavicius, Chief of Oncology Institute of Vilnius University, Vilnius, Lithuania, President of the Lithuanian Society of Coloproctologists and our Associate Director General of ISUCRS a marvelous scientific meeting with extraordinary international participation, strong local support from Lithuania and the Baltic States and Europe was convened in Vilnius at the end of May and beginning of June in 2013. The members of our society still are commenting how successful this meeting was in terms of scientific content, social program as well as attendance and board participation. As we know this kind of endeavor requires a tremendous dedication and strong work, on behalf of the leadership of ISUCRS I want to personally extend our profound gratitude to Naras for his dedication to ISUCRS and for what appears, to me, to be a first in a major off year meeting.



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Dr. Joseph W. Nunoo-Mensah, a consultant colorectal and laparoscopic surgeon at King's College Hospital, London, UK as well as regional Vice President of ISUCRS for Northern Europe and England, in addition to Professor Narimantas E. Samalavicius our Associate Director General of ISUCRS are holding a special course under the auspices of King's College and ISUCRS – **Dilemmas in Colorectal Surgery on December 7, 2013 at the Strand Campus of King's College London**. The strong faculty and excellent program will prove to be an extraordinary meeting. I will look forward to seeing many of you in London.

As if these extraordinary efforts by our colleagues to showcase the educational aspect of the ISUCRS mission weren't enough, we are gearing up for what will prove to be an extraordinary meeting in South Africa in 2014. Under the leadership of Professor Paul Goldberg, the program has been developed to engage the leading experts of the world, and South African societies, to offer a special scientific program in conjunction with a social program that will showcase the beauty of South Africa at that time of the year. I know many of you are planning to participate in this once in a life time meeting.

To further demonstrate the increased vigor and vibrancy of our organization, I would like to bring to your attention the activities of the *World Journal of Colorectal Surgery*, the ISUCRS electronic journal. After many years of struggling to put out issues, we have energized the editorial board and are making many strategic decisions that have been implemented by our editorial board. I would like to take credit for this as the Editor in Chief, but would rather give the credit to the outstanding young surgeons that are reviewing the articles that have been submitted and are working with the authors to create a better paper for publication. It is no longer our policy to merely review and accept or reject but to help the young surgeons from the international community to make a better paper/publication. I am delighted to announce that 3 new editions of the *World Journal of Colorectal Surgery* are on the way. The first has recently been published, thanks to the monumental efforts of Dr. Marc Brozovich, our Co Editor in Chief. Marc has overseen the review and publishing of over 60 articles. He has energized a young crew of academic surgeons to review our submissions critically. Dr. Brozovich is an academic colorectal surgeon on the faculty of the University of Pittsburgh Medical School and the Journal has benefitted from his enthusiasm and establishing a high standard of quality peer review. Two additional editions will be published in the upcoming months, and we are actively investigating the possibility of indexing the articles, which would allow them to reach an even greater audience. This is a tremendous step for the Journal and the Society, and again I thank Dr. Brozovich for his leadership in this project. Be sure to visit the ISUCRS website and read the good work of your colleagues.

You may notice a recurrent theme in this address. We are energizing the young of our society to pursue leadership roles and to take the mantle of our educational endeavors and publications. If our society is to flourish in the next 50 years, it will be secondary to the seeds that our leadership is planting today. Dr. Park, our past president, convened an extraordinary meeting in Seoul, South Korea. We are anticipating a great meeting in South Africa under Dr. Paul Goldberg. Dr. Fidel Ruiz Healy our current president is moving forward with practice guidelines and under the leadership of Raul Cutait we reengineering our internet based activities. Dr. Khubchandani our President elect is leading our strategic imperatives planning for the next 5 years.

All in all the status of society is healthy and I look forward to our spring newsletter. On a personal note, I want to thank my friends and colleagues who have reached out to me over the last few months. I am doing great, fully recovered, and looking forward to seeing you in London and South Africa. Rumors of my death were greatly exaggerated and premature. Please drop me a note with any suggestions for our society. All the best.

## Vilnius 2013: ISUCRS Interim Meeting

### *World Colorectal Conference*

The Old Town of Vilnius, Lithuania, one of the largest surviving medieval old towns in Central Europe, provided the backdrop for the 2013 World Congress on Colorectal Surgery and the interim meeting of the ISUCRS. Colorectal surgeons from around the world attended the congress, held at the scenic Hotel Panorama on May 31st and June 1st, 2013, representing a wide array of countries including Argentina, Brazil, China, Denmark, India, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Nepal, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland, The United Kingdom, The United States and Venezuela.



*Continued... Attendees of the 2013 meeting on the shore of Lake Galve, across from Trakai Island Castle.*

## ABOUT THE ISUCRS!

The Society was founded in Mexico City, Mexico on November 24, 1962. Founding members were Harry E. Bacon, MD, Stuart E. Ross, MD and Fidel Ruiz-Moreno, MD.

### Mission Statement

*The purpose of the Society is to contribute to the progress of Colon and Anorectal Surgery, and to hold congresses and meetings throughout the world in order to interchange scientific knowledge.*

### Why Join ISUCRS?

- Networking with world-renowned colon and rectal colleagues.
- Free access to the World Journal of Colon and Rectal Surgery, ISUCRS' official on-line, open access journal. The unique format allows rapid publication of articles of any length, with color pictures and even video clips. The journal will enable members to keep abreast of all pertinent topics with a just a click of a button.
- Reduced registration fees for ISUCRS' biennial congress.
- Quarterly newsletter with updates about the society and colon and rectal surgery activities.

*Encourage your colleagues to visit [www.isucrs.org](http://www.isucrs.org) to apply today!*

Over 250 attendees registered for the 2-day event. Notable presentations included a World Hemorrhoidal Summit hosted by Dr. Indru Khubchandani, a presentation from the Oncology Institute of Vilnius University showing the diversity of colorectal cancer cases and the need for an individualized approach, and the Residents Research Hour where residents made high level presentations of cases on which they collaborated with attendant surgeons during their residency program at the Oncology Institute of Vilnius University. The ISUCRS Board of Directors also held two meetings during the conference, discussing ideas to ensure the future strength of the Society.



*Attendees at the opening session of the conference.*

The Board will work to host interim meetings in various international locations each year, inviting participation from world class experts in colorectal surgery so to enliven the Society, to better promote its mission and goals to the profession, and to attract and maintain new members.

Social events for the conference attendees included a welcome reception featuring Lithuanian cuisine, a gala dinner featuring live jazz at the close of the conference's first day, and a very special closing party in the medieval city of Trakai. Located 30 kilometers from Vilnius, Trakai has been the de facto capital of Lithuania for over six centuries. The closing night reception was held at Apvalaus Stalo Klubas, a restaurant situated on the peninsula of Lake Galve, facing the marvelous 600 year old Trakai Island Castle. Following the conference, attendees were also invited to enjoy a one day tour of Druskininkai A spa resort dating back to the 19th Century, located on the Neman River in southern Lithuania, close to the borders of Belarus and Poland. Attendees enjoyed a visit to beautiful city, experiencing mud baths, going to sculpture museums, and finally experiencing a very special sauna session followed by barbecue dinner at the private home of Juozas Sarkus, President of the Lithuania Sauna Association).

## *Greetings from JJ Jackman* Executive Director of ISUCRS

Greetings to the Society! My name is JJ Jackman and I have recently taken on the role of Executive Director for ISUCRS. From an extensive background in the non-profit and higher education professions, I possess over 20 years experience in organizational communication and efficiency, and 11 years of management experience with non-profits. A native of North Carolina and now a resident of Los Angeles, I have worked with a number of organizations that enjoy a strong international constituency, both in their student body and faculty, their committees and Boards of directors and their organizational leadership, including the Keck Graduate Institute for Applied Life Sciences, the Southern California Institute of Architecture, and the American Film Institute. I am excited and eager to collaborate with the leadership of your Society as we endeavor to maintain a strong and relevant presence in the profession of colorectal surgery. As members of ISUCRS, I welcome your input and ideas and look forward to working with you.



JJ JACKMAN

# *Recent Activities from the Regional Vice Presidents*

## **HUNGARY**

### **Dr. Istvan Zollei**

I have sent letters to the President of the Hungarian Surgical Society and the president of the Coloproctological Section of the Hungarian Surgical Society. I will personally discuss about the ISUCRS with the young surgeons. There is an organization: the Section of Hungarian Young Surgeons. The president of this Section will send the papers of ISUCRS to 350 members of this Section. The young surgeons are interested in the work of ISUCRS. I hope we will have good result in that way. Additionally, the papers of the ISUCRS are on the homepage of the Hungarian Surgical Society.

## **IRAQ**

### **Dr. Ameer Tawfeeq**

1. A meeting with some fellow general surgeons in February 2013, discussing general information about the ISUCRS & the upcoming conference in South Africa on 2014.
2. A meeting with some surgeons of other specialties of surgery in May 2013.
3. A meeting with my medical students on June 2013 explaining the nature of the ISUCRS & whether they are interested in attending the upcoming conference.

I had also informed the Dean of the college & the Chancellor of the University about my position in the ISUCRS and they had expressed their readiness to cooperate.

I need to know whether the ISUCRS arranges any surgical training courses as most of the surgeons that I had met described their interest in such activities. Also I would like to know whether you are ready to send visiting surgeons to our university which is near the historic city of Babylon.

## **ISRAEL**

### **Dr. Alex Waizer**

Allow me to thank you again for appointing me as the Society's Regional Vice Presidents in Israel. To my regret, I remained the sole member of the society in Israel and decided to try and recruit the best surgeons in Israel to join the society and participate in its activities. To this end I contacted - by phone, letters, and email - 22 surgeons and department heads in 6 large medical centers and organizations that provide medical services across Israel. In my letters and conversations, I outlined the principal activities and history of the society, as reflected in the book which we purchased in Bologna last year. I intend to continue creating a relationship between the Israeli Association for Colorectal Surgery, with the goal of forming ties with our society.

## **JAPAN – CHUBU**

### **Dr. Koutarou Maeda**

We are promoting IECUS meeting in Japan. I am promoting it as editor-in chief of our Journal.

## **JAPAN – KANSAI**

### **Dr. Jin-Ichi Hida**

I recommend my colleagues in Osaka in Kansai in Japan to participate XXVI ISUCRS Congress in Cape Town on September, 2014. Furthermore, I ask my colleagues in Osaka in Kansai in Japan to apply the ISUCRS membership. Now, two colleagues in my institution (Kinki University School of Medicine, Osaka, Kansai, Japan) are applying the ISUCRS membership .

## **JAPAN – KANTO**

### **Dr. Fumio Konishi**

At the meeting of the board of directors of Japan Society of Coloproctology (JSCP) that was held in March 2013, I explained the importance of the collaboration between JSCP and ISUCRS and also of the participation in the biennial meetings of the ISUCRS.

As for the Japanese membership in ISUCRS, we have the largest number of members next to USA, and we have agreed to increase the Japanese members as much as we can.

For the purpose of enhancing my activity as the regional vice president I asked Professor Kazuo Hase who is the chairman of JSCP International Committee to become Regional Secretary. He has agreed, and I asked the council members of ISUCRS to accept Professor Hase as Regional Secretary of Kanto area. My proposal was approved at the council meeting of ISUCRS in Phoenix Arizona in May 2013.

I have discussed with Dr. Paul Goldberg about active participation by the Japanese colorectal surgeons in the next ISUCRS meeting in Cape Town. JSCP has proposed the following subjects to be chosen as the topics at the time of ISUCRS Cape Town meeting.

1. Controversies in rectal cancer surgery – low anterior resection, Laparoscopic surgery, Robotic surgery, Intersphincteric Dissection, Preoperative chemoradiation
2. Management for disordered defecation, Sacral nerve stimulation and other modalities for the treatment of anal incontinence.

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## **MEXICO (EAST)**

### **Dr. Martin Arroyo**

Active Promotion of ISUCRS in two different Meetings. Second International Joint Congress of Mexican Societies of Colon and Rectal Surgery and Coloproctology held in the City of Queretaro, Mexico, April 2013. (In photo, left to right, Dr. Martin Arroyo, Dr. Fidel Ruiz Healy and Prof. Jose Alfredo Reis Neto, from Brazil). Banner and desk with information promoting the next ISUCRS Biennial Congress in South Africa, 2014. During the Latin American Congress of Coloproctology, held in San Salvador, Central America, June 2013. Promotion of the next Biennial Congress in 2014, as well as, several applications from Latin American surgeons, got filled out for membership in ISUCRS.



## **NEW ZEALAND**

### **Dr. Mark Thompson-Fawcett**

In New Zealand there are about 30 colorectal surgeons, of which 5 have a University appointment. New Zealand has about 4.5 million people, there are not specific national colorectal meetings held within the country where one might promote ISUCRS. Our scale is small. My activities in relation to ISUCRS therefore relate mainly to informal one to one conversations with colleagues. This is to emphasize the value of ISUCRS as a truly global organization, which I think is particularly important as it includes membership from less well resourced nations and also to make them aware of and encourage them to consider attending the biannual conferences. Many I believe do receive the ISUCRS mailings. If you do have a list of those who are on the mailing list that may help me target those who are not, or to see if those who are not will agree to receive mail if I approach them.

## **POLAND**

### **Dr. Zbigniew Lorenc**

During the last six months, I have managed to establish the connections between our members in Poland, with the main goal to integrate with the members from other countries of Eastern Europe. We are on the way to reach our aims, resulting in regional and international cooperation, meetings, trainings and exchange programs of the young surgeons.

As the new president of Silesian Chapter of Polish Surgeon Society, and the president-elect of Polish Colorectal Club I do have great opportunity to promote the ISUCRS, and I am performing it already on all of our scientific events. It is also a great chance to recruit new members for our Society. Currently, we have already sent the documents of one new colleague, and are during the negotiations with seven others. I hope next three months will be even more effective. My team and I will do our best to make it so.

## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

### **Dr. Igor Pravosudov**

I would like to inform you that I will be chairing one of the Sessions of the VIII All-Russia Cancer Congress which will be held in St. Petersburg in September 2013. This Session will be devoted to colorectal cancer and I will do all my best to promote ISUCRS.

## **SOUTHERN AFRICA**

### **Dr. Paul Goldberg**

1. 2014 congress progress presented at ISUCRS Board Meeting in Phoenix
2. 2 new members recruited and forms submitted for approval



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