



IHPBA Electronic Newsletter December 2006

Tuesday, 19 December 2006

■ **New IHPBA Website**

We are very happy to announce the new IHPBA website. The web site has been markedly changed and updated to reflect the vision of the International Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association with a renewed dedication to improving the accessibility to all members of throughout the world. The web site presents news about IHPBA activities and events, society news, access to other members, Fellowship information and applications, membership information and past issues of IHPBA e- news. The aim of the web site is now to provide a one-stop meeting-place for all issues in Hepato Pancreato Billiari news for all association members. Please visit us on

» www.ihpba.org

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■ **Message from the Secretary General**



Edinburgh Fireworks display

The 2007 World Congress of the IHPBA in Edinburgh together with AUGIS was one of the most successful meetings to date. The Congress President James Garden, President of AUGIS, Michael Griffin and together with the program chair Rowan Parks should be congratulated with the excellent organisation of this meeting. (Please see Highlights Report by James Garden).

During the General Assembly our President Henry Pitt shortly summarized the Ten Goals for his 2 years term, and due to his enormous efforts and constant inspiration most of these goals have been achieved. The HPB Fellowship Registry is established and doing well in all parts of the world. The HPB Training program requirements and accreditation are in final stage of completion. The establishment of the Warren Foundation is another important step forward guaranteeing the IHPBA Warren Fellowships and other research activities for the near future.

Stefano Crippa was selected as the 2007 Warren Fellowship winner.

The HPB Medallion was given to Russell Strong, M.D. for his enormous contribution to the HPB world which was summarized by the President during the opening ceremony in Edinburgh.

The new IHPBA website has been developed to further facilitate communication of the IHPBA and the Regional Associations as well as the National chapters.

Two changes in the bylaws were accepted: 1. The development of a new Research Committee with Markus Buchler as the first president and 2. A Treasurer-Elect was added as a new Council member. The proposal for new Council and Committee members was accepted and they are listed separately below.

Finally Markus Buchler took over the Presidents Medal from Henry Pitt and summarized again the enormous contribution of our past presidents in the development of the IHPBA during the past 8 years, and his vision and support for the development of strong Regional Associations. Lastly but not least Henry Pitt's, reinforcing the contributions to the establishment of the Warren Foundation. The IHPBA is doing well and 2007 will be another exciting year, an odd year, the domain of the Meetings of our Regional Associations and activities of National Chapters listed below.

Dirk J. Gouma
IHPBA Secretary General

■ Message from the President

Dear IHPBA-Member!

Edinburgh 2006 was a big success! We have never experienced a meeting which such a large attendance of over 1,700 participants. The scientific content was extremely well organized and managed by James Garden and his team was also a profound enrichment of our growing society's life.

I feel deeply honored that the council as well as the general assembly have given me the confidence to become your president for the upcoming two years, and I will do my very best to work for the future of our IHPBA. It is a particular pleasure for me to thank the former president, Professor Henry Pitt, for his great achievements during the past two years, during which time, the IHPBA has grown to over 1100 active members. Meanwhile, we have a training programme established for young fellows to be able to receive succinct HPB surgical experience within international renowned departments of our society. Another unique achievement of our former president, was the establishment of the Asian-Pacific Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association which will have its inaugural meeting in the upcoming March 2007 in Fukuoka, Japan.



Markus W. Büchler, MD
IHPBA President

These are just examples of the crucial steps we have achieved during the past two years. Thanks a lot: Henry Pitt!

Now coming to the future of our association.

A particular interest of mine is to canalize the wave of evidence-based medicine that is floating all over our departments into IHPBA. We have recently established a new IHPBA Research Committee which will focus on organizing and conducting randomized-controlled multicenter trials within IHPBA departments. For this we aim to select and attract research oriented institutions within our association who will be able and committed to participate in liver, pancreatic and bile duct surgery trials. One of the crucial issues regarding the operation of randomized-controlled multicenter trials is funding. The Research Committee will select members that have already gained a lot of experience in running controlled trials and will be highly committed to organizing third party funding, including the European Union Research Commission, to facilitate and enable such rewarding trials. I now encourage our members to come up with important trial ideas, as well as your commitment to participate. Please write to me if you want to contribute!

A second major goal for the upcoming two years, is increasing membership. By analysing the number of IHPBA-surgeons around the world there is plenty of space for attracting many more of our specialist surgeons and physicians to become members of the IHPBA. Only with a strong body of membership will we be able to influence the further establishment of our HPB speciality within our membership countries.

Mumbai 2008 is in front of us! After our most successful meeting in Edinburgh it is now a very specific aim and obligation to support our next World Congress which will be hosted by our Indian friends led by

Professor Jagannath in Mumbai, India. An excellent scientific programme as well as the prospect of exploring a beautiful country will be prepared for you and I do hope that you have already marked the dates for Mumbai 2008 (February 27th – March 2nd, 2008) in your calendar.

2007 will offer to our membership three important regional association meetings. In March 2007, the A-HPBA meeting in Fukuoka, Japan (March 21st-March 23rd, 2007), in April 2007, the AHPBA Meeting in Las Vegas (April 19th-April 22nd; don't forget your credit-card!), and in June 2007 the meeting of the EHPBA in Verona, Italy (June 8th-June 9th). Please make sure that you join at least one of these important regional organisation meetings, preferable the one in your region.

The IHPBA council is working hard to support its regional associations with the best of our knowledge and strength so that you will learn about the most recent developments in our HPB field.

Thank you indeed for the great opportunity of serving as your president for the next two years!

Markus W. Büchler, MD
President 2006-2008, IHPBA.

■ Edinburgh Report Highlights



C. Ravi, O.J. Garden, W. Pinson - Congress Gala
Celidh, The Royal
Museum of Scotland

The 7th World Congress in Edinburgh had a formidable challenge in meeting the successes of Brisbane (2000), Tokyo (2002) and Washington DC (2004). We had some anxieties regarding the support for the meeting given the changing international political situation but it was difficult to believe that all our planning delivered well beyond our expectations. The International Conference Centre proved an excellent venue and we were fortunate to have held the opening ceremony and reception immediately before the spectacular firework display that marked the end of the Edinburgh International Festival.

» [read more](#)

Congress photo's are available and are now posted on the website www.ihpba2006.com.

■ New IHPBA Council Members

The IHPBA executive committee attended many meetings during the Edinburgh, IHPBA World Congress. During one of these meetings New IHPBA Council Members were chosen to represent the IHPBA.

Please log onto www.ihpba.org for a detailed list of the new IHPBA council members.

■ Announcement of Research Committee

During the 7th World Congress of the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association in Edinburgh, the IHPBA Research Committee was created. The IHPBA as the leading scientific organization in the field of HPB diseases is the optimal platform for developing and performing large surgical trials in HPB surgery. These trials under the guidance and auspices of the IHPBA should be of the highest quality and credibility.

» [read more](#)
