

HPB Newsletter

9 January 2007



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Message from the President

Markus Büchler



Edinburgh 2006 was a great success! We have never before had a meeting with such a large attendance (over 1700 participants), and the scientific content – organized and managed by James Garden and his team – was also a rewarding and enriching contribution to the growing life of the Association.

It is a great honor for me to have been chosen as President for the coming two years by the Council and the General Assembly. I will do my very best to work for the future of the International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. It is a particular pleasure for me to express my thanks to the previous President, Professor Henry A. Pitt, for his great achievements during the last two years. The IHPBA has now expanded to include more than 1100 active members and has established a training program for young Fellows, allowing them to obtain hepato-pancreato-biliary surgical experience in internationally renowned departments. Another unique achievement by the previous President was the establishment of the Asian–Pacific Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association, which will be holding its inaugural meeting in the March 2007 in Fukuoka, Japan. These are just a couple of examples of the crucial steps forward that we have made in the last two years, thanks to Henry Pitt.

Turning to the future of the Association, one of my particular interests lies in channeling the wave of evidence-based medicine that is affecting the field and influencing all our departments. We have recently established a new IHPBA Research Committee, which will focus on organizing and conducting randomized and controlled multicenter trials in hepato-pancreato-biliary departments. We are aiming to select and attract as many research-oriented institutions within the Association as possible that would be willing to take part in important trials of this type in the field of surgery in the liver, pancreas and bile ducts. One of the crucial issues involved in conducting randomized and controlled multicenter trials is funding. The Research Committee – whose members already have a great deal of experience in running controlled trials – will be strongly committed to organizing third-party funding, including funding from the European Union Research Commission, to facilitate and make possible trials of this type. I would encourage members to start developing ideas for important trials and to consider taking part in such trials. Anyone wishing to contribute is welcome to contact me.

A second major goal for the coming two years is increasing the membership. When one looks at the numbers of hepato-pancreato-biliary surgeons around

the world, it is clear that there is plenty of scope to attract many more of our colleagues in the field to become members of the IHPBA. It is only with a strong membership that we will be able to influence the further establishment of the specialty within our membership countries.

Mumbai 2008 lies ahead of us! Following the extremely successful meeting in Edinburgh, I feel sure that members will show their support for the next World Congress, which is to be hosted by our Indian colleagues, led by Professor Jagannath in Mumbai. An excellent scientific program is being prepared, along with the prospect of exploring a beautiful country, and I hope that members will already be noting the dates for Mumbai 2008 (27 February–2 March) in their diaries.

Three important regional association meetings will be taking place in 2007. In March, there is the conference of the Asian–Pacific Hepato–Pancreato–Biliary Association (A-HPBA) in Fukuoka, Japan (21–23 March 2007), followed by the American Hepato–Pancreato–Biliary Association (AHPBA) meeting in Las Vegas (19–22 April 2007; don't forget your credit card!), and the European Hepato–Pancreato–Biliary Association (EHPBA) conference in Verona, Italy (8–9 June 2007). Members should be sure to attend at least one of these important regional meetings.

The IHPBA Council is making every effort to support the regional associations to the best of its ability and to ensure that members are always aware of the most recent developments in the HPB field.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks once again for having the tremendous opportunity to serve as President for the next two years.

The 7th World Congress of the International Hepato–Pancreato–Biliary Association

James Garden

The 7th World Congress in Edinburgh (3–7 September 2006) faced a formidable challenge in meeting the standard of the previous successful conferences in Brisbane (2000), Tokyo (2002), and Washington, D.C. (2004). We had some worries about support for the meeting, given the changing international political situation, but all the planning involved was rewarded well beyond our expectations. The International Conference Centre proved to be an excellent venue, and we were fortunate in that the opening ceremony and reception took place immediately before the spectacular firework display that marked the end of the Edinburgh International Festival.

Over 1700 registered delegates, invited faculty and exhibitors from 75 countries attended the meeting. We were honored to receive a visit on the first full day of the Congress from Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, whose visit to the meeting and

perceptive speech to the Association captivated the audience. The standard of presentation was maintained during the educational and scientific program, with all sessions being well attended and supported. The host association for the conference – the Association of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeons for Great Britain and Ireland (AUGIS) – provided excellent facilities and enhanced the program considerably.

The Edinburgh weather was kind to us, and the social program and the attractions of kilts, bagpipes and whisky seemed irresistible. The Gala Ceilidh at the Museum of Scotland was a highlight for all. It was a great pleasure for us to host the World Congress, and we trust that the momentum will continue to Mumbai, Buenos Aires and Paris in future years.

Asian–Pacific Hepato–Pancreato–Biliary Association Update

Tadahiro Takada

The first conference of the Asian-Pacific HPBA will be held in Fukuoka, Japan, on 21–23 March 2007, chaired by Professor Masao Tanaka. The meeting will mark the inauguration of the Asian–Pacific Hepato–Pancreato–Biliary Association (A-HPBA). We look forward to welcoming members to Fukuoka in March, and we feel sure that it will be a highly successful event, with rewarding exchanges of scientific information and opportunities to strengthen old friendships and form new contacts.

March is a wonderful season in Fukuoka, with warm weather and beautiful cherry blossoms. The city is also celebrated for its culinary specialties.

American Hepato–Pancreato–Biliary Association (AHPBA) Update

W. Scott Helton

The AHPBA has been busy over the spring and summer of 2006. We have a new management company, Crow Segal, that is now managing our affairs and our annual meeting. Kim O'Dell is our Executive Director and can be reached at kim@crowsegal.com or (407) 647-8839.

In May, during Digestive Disease Week in Los Angeles, the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT) and AHPBA co-hosted a conference on surgery in patients with liver disease, which was well attended. Several members of the AHPBA presented papers and posters at the hugely successful IHPBA meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, in September. Several papers derived from the AHPBA-sponsored consensus conference on colorectal hepatic metastases last January have now been published in the October issue of *Annals of Surgical Oncology*.

The AHPBA will be hosting its 7th Americas meeting at Bally's Hotel in Las Vegas on 19–22 April 2007. This will be the second time that the AHPBA

will be having a joint meeting with the Society of American Gastrointestinal Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), and we expect it to be just as successful as our first joint meeting with SAGES in Hollywood, Florida, in 2005. Reid Adams (Program Director) and Bill Jarnigan (Program Co-Chair) have put together a fantastic program that features over 40 invited faculty from all regional associations of the IHPBA (Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific). There will be over 100 oral and 225 poster presentations. There will be two AHPBA/SAGES joint symposiums: one on "Ablation Technologies" and one on "Evaluation of Pancreatic Neoplasms." Bruce Schirmer, President-Elect of the AHPBA, has put together an excellent postgraduate course on benign pancreatic disease (19 April 2007) that features a star-studded cast of internationally renowned surgeons, gastroenterologists, and radiologists in the field of pancreatic disease. We would encourage all members of the IHPBA and AHPBA to attend this meeting. Details on registration and the program can be found on our web page at www.ahpba.org.

Our Association was fortunate to obtain corporate support for two one-year research fellowships (\$30,000 each) for the coming year. Testimony to the society's growth and reputation is the fact that there were more applications (18) and fiercer competition for these grants than ever before. The Ethicon HPB Physiology/Biology Grant was awarded to Dr. Andres J. Vardanian of the University of California at Los Angeles for his project entitled "The role of type 1 and type 2 interferons in toll-like receptor 4 signal transduction: implications for liver ischemia-reperfusion injury." The Sanofi Aventis HPB Oncology Grant was awarded to Dr. Susan C. Pitt of the University of Wisconsin, Madison for her project entitled "Signaling pathways in gastrointestinal neuroendocrine tumors." Applications for next year's fellowship grants can be accessed via our web site at www.ahpba.org under "Fellowships."

European Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (EHPBA) Update

Dirk Gouma

The highly successful World Congress of the IHPBA held in Edinburgh in September 2006, organized by Prof. James Garden and AUGIS President Prof. Michael Griffin, was an opportunity to appreciate the high scientific quality of European HPB surgery. The conference provided a valuable stimulus for further development of the EHPBA.

At the EHPBA Council meeting held in Edinburgh, it was decided to establish an EHPBA membership category in addition to the IHPBA/EHPBA combined membership. Junior EHPBA membership will also be available to members under 35 years of age at an

annual fee of €60 per year, including a subscription to the journal HPB.

The EHPBA will also be discussing the European Standard for HPB surgery with the *Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes*/European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS), and Prof. Xavier Rogiers will be coordinating this process as representatives of the UEMS.

New guidelines have been developed for organizing the EHPBA meetings, including the establishment of a scientific committee to ensure that high-quality meetings can be prepared. This system has already been in use during preparations for the Verona meeting (6–9 June 2007). Together with the Congress President, Prof. Claudio Bassi, an excellent program has been prepared (see www.ehpba2007.com), and the social program in this historic city will also be a memorable one. These new developments and a proposal for a few changes in the bylaws concerning membership and membership fees will also be discussed during the General Assembly at the Verona meeting. We are looking forward to seeing everyone again in Verona.

Call for Warren Fellowship Applications

Applications for the 2007 Warren Fellowship are now being accepted for consideration. The deadline for submission is 30 April 2007. Applications should be sent to Prof. Dirk J. Gouma, Secretary-General, IHPBA. For more information on the application process and criteria, please visit the IHPBA web site.

Executive Secretariat Information

IHPBA Executive Secretariat

Any inquiries about IHPBA events, programs, or membership, should be addressed Ms Jenny Rasmussen at the IHPBA Executive Secretariat:

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Fax: +49-89-4141 9245
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Web site: www.ihpba.org

Future Meetings: Regional and World

Regional Congresses

A-HPBA, 1st Asian-Pacific Congress Fukuoka, Japan 21–23 March 2007

Chairman: Dr. Masao Tanaka
Secretariat: Congress Corporation

5F, 1-9-17 Tenjin Chuo-ku
Fukuoka 810-0001 Japan
Tel: +81-92-716 7116
Fax: +81-92-716 7143
E-mail: 1st-aphpba@congre.co.jp
Web site: www.congre.co.jp/1st-aphpba

**AHPBA, 6th Americas Congress
Las Vegas, Nevada**

20–23 April 2007

Chairman: Dr. Sean Mulvihill
Secretariat: BSC Management
Suite 600, 11300 Olympic Blvd.
90064 Los Angeles, CA, USA
E-mail: info@bscmanage.com
Web site: www.aphba.org

**EHPBA, 7th European Congress
Verona, Italy**

8–9 June 2007

Chairman: Prof. Claudio Bassi
Secretariat: Everywhere s.r.l.
Corso Porta Nuova 2
37122 Verona, Italy
Tel: +39-045-800 4114
Fax: +39-045-597 347

E-mail: info@ehpba2007.com, claudio.bassi@univr.it
Web site: www.ehpba2007.com

World Congresses

**8th IHPBA World Congress
Mumbai, India**

27 February–2 March 2008

Chairman: Dr. Palepu Jagannath
Chairman, Dept. of Surgical Oncology, Lilavati
Hospital

Secretariat: 22 Alka, 15th Road
Santacruz-W

400 054 Mumbai, India

Tel: +91-22-2640 6841

Fax: +91-22-2640 6841

E-mail: drjagannath@gmail.com, jagannath@vsnl.com

Web site: www.8thworldcongressihpba2008.org

**9th IHPBA World Congress
Buenos Aires, Argentina**

2010

Chairman: Prof. Eduardo de Santibañes

Tel: +54-11-4981 4501

E-mail: eduardo.desantibanes@hospitalitaliano.org.ar