Message from the Secretary General

The “odd years” activities of our Association primarily focus on the meetings of our Regional Associations.

The first meeting of the Asian-Pacific HPBA has taken place in Fukuoka, between March 21st -23rd 2007 under the leadership of the first A-PHPBA President, Professor Tadahiro Takada.

The congress chairman, Professor Masao Tanaka should be congratulated for the excellent organisation, a well balanced, high quality scientific program, and outstanding social activities.

The kid’s seminar encouraging children to become surgeons was a very successful new initiative.

The spring meeting of the AHPBA under the presidency of Sean J. Mulvihill was held, April 19-22 in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA and the scientific program as well as combined SAGES/AHPBA program was outstanding (www.ahpba.org).

Professor Claudio Bassi has also prepared a nice scientific and social program for the EHPBA meeting to be held June 6-9 2007 in Verona (www.ehpba2007.com).

The Kenneth Warren Foundation is developing well under the leadership of the Foundation President Henry Pitt and contributions can now be made easily (http://www.ihpba.org/warren-foundation.html).

Our new President, Professor Markus Buchler is coordinating the new Research Committee and preparing an IHPBA trial head office. Further information will follow during the Verona meeting.

Last but not least is the start of a new membership campaign to reach the 1500 member level by the start of the IHPBA World Congress in Mumbai (http://www.ihpba.org/world-congress.html).

Dirk J. Gouma
IHPBA Secretary General
Message from the President

Dear IHPBA-Member!

The inaugural meeting of the Asian-Pacific Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (A-PHPBA) in Fukuoka, Japan closed at the end of March and HPB Surgeons in Asia-Pacific have found a new home! The organisation of the meeting by the founding president of the A-HPBA Professor Tadahiro Takada and the congress chairman Professor Masao Tanaka was outstanding and the extraordinary hospitality which is so unique to Japan could be felt by all. The scientific content of the meeting was excellent with a well-balanced mixture of debate sessions, panel discussions, symposia, teleconferences, and more than 350 poster presentations. The meeting definitely set high standards for upcoming A-PHPBA conferences. The 2nd biennial meeting of the A-HPBA themed “Best Practice in HPB Surgery” will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from March 25th to March 27th, 2009 under the leadership of Professor Vibul Sachakul – so please mark the date on your calendar (www.2-aphpba2009.org).

The next steps for the IHPBA are…

… to increase the membership and attract HPB surgeons from all over the world to the IHPBA,
… to start establishing a strong network of IHPBA trial units and set up the stage for successful international randomized controlled trials under the auspices of the IHPBA in the future,
… to strengthen the bonds between the IHPBA and the three regional associations (AHPBA, EHPBA and A-PHPBA),
… and in particular, to improve the quality of our journal HPB.

The IHPBA membership has once again grown in the last year to include more than 1100 members. During the meeting in Edinburgh an impressive number of 176 new members were recruited, proving the importance of successful international and continental meetings for our association. Establishing the A-PHPBA as the leading association for HPB surgeons from the Asian and Pacific region with its enormous potential, will further support our goal of at least 1500 active IHPBA members after Mumbai 2008. New national chapters and the training program for young fellows, allowing them to obtain hepatopancreato-biliary surgical experience in internationally renowned departments, will further attract young HPB surgeons in particular. These developments will increase our means of consolidating the IHPBA as the leading international organisation in our field.

Turning to the scientific future of the IHPBA, we must realize that evidence-based medicine is affecting the field of HPB surgery and influencing all departments in the daily work. With the established IHPBA Research Committee, we aim to select and attract as many research-oriented institutions within the IHPBA as possible to take part in important trials. Official “IHPBA Trial Requirements” and definitions of “IHPBA Trial Units” are in their final stages of development. This will give us the basis to establish a sound IHPBA trial network. Our ambitious programme should start recruitment for a first IHPBA trial by the end of 2008.

We are proud to build upon three strong and important regional associations. The primary goal of the IHPBA must be to serve as the connecting umbrella organisation; to further permit independence as much as possible while preserving the world concept of our HPB network as the only way to move into the future (http://www.ihpba.org/associations.html).

And last but not least is the goal to improve the visibility and quality of our journal HPB (http://www.ihpba.org/hpb-journal.html). Successful world associations in medicine all build on first class journals, and it is in this direction that we need to look to in the future. Our journal is still young and we have made good improvements; however, most HPB surgeons do not send us their top papers for publication. Herein lies the secret to success for our journal; namely to become attractive for such core publications.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming regional meeting of the EHPBA in Verona, Italy. And again, please mark the date (February 27th-March 2nd) of the next World congress of the IHPBA in Mumbai in 2008. The abstract submission is now open (www.ihpba2008.com).
The First Biennial congress of the Asian –Pacific Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (A-PHPBA) was held on March 21st - 23rd, 2007, at the Fukuoka International Congress Center. Under the theme of “New Asian-Pacific Horizon in HPB”, 6 lectures, 4 plenary sessions, 2 debates, 5 symposia, 2 video symposia, 2 panel discussions, and 387 poster presentations were organized. A total of 446 participants from 19 countries, not only in the Asian-Pacific region but also in other parts of the world, engaged in active discussion, and the 1st Congress of the A-PHPBA ended successfully. Above all, 2 international teleconferences and high –definition quality live surgery using super-fast broadband Internet highways between the conference venue and other Asian-Pacific countries have received an excellent reputation for the higher image quality than those of any previous conventional systems. This high-quality image system is expected to promote an active cooperation between specialists and contribute to further global medical developments. During the congress “Kids Seminar to be a Surgeon” was also held for young high school students to understand the activities of surgeons as well as the invaluable importance of life through exposure to the surgeons’ activities to save the lives of patients. Wearing operating gowns and using medical equipment, the excited teenaged students, as well as the A-PHPBA participants, enjoyed this significant program and the unique experience it offered. As the Congress Chairman of this congress, I would like to show my appreciation for all the efforts and cooperation of all the delegates of the IHPBA, A-PHPBA, participants, local organizing committee, companies contributing to the exhibition, and staffs of the Department of Surgery and Oncology, Kyushu University, and the congress organizer Congre Japan. I believe that this successful congress in Fukuoka has really opened the New Horizons of HPB in the Asian-Pacific countries.

Masao Tanaka, MD, PhD, FACS
Congress Chairman
First Congress of A-PHPBA

Warren Family Pledges $500,000

The IHPBA leadership is pleased to announce the creation of the IHPBA Kenneth Warren Foundation. After reviewing the first five years of the Warren Fellowship (http://www.ihpba.org/warren-fellowship.html), Tom and George Warren, Ken’s sons, agreed to continue to support the Fellowship with an initial goal of creating enough funds to support the salary of two Warren Fellows each year. Tom Warren and his two sons, Matt and Brad, attended the World Congress in Edinburgh and subsequently pledged US $500,000 from the Warren Family.

Henry A. Pitt, M.D.
Foundation President
Award Winners from the 2006 IHPBA World Congress in Edinburgh

The IHPBA would like to once again congratulate the 2006 IHPBA World Congress award winners!

Chadrankanth Are
- YIA Liver

Femke Luttgendorf
- YIA Pancreas

Aaron Quyn
- YIA Biliary

Shimul Shah
- YIA Transplantation

Felice Guilante
- Best Video

Jacques Belghiti, Satoshi Ogata
- Best Poster 1st

Kazuyasu Takizawa
- Best Poster 3rd

Upcoming Events

The IHPBA is pleased to announce the following upcoming events:

AHPBA – Chapter Ecuador

1st International Congress of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery
12 - 14 September 2007
San Cristóbal Island, Galápagos, Ecuador
Congress Chairman: Dr. Nester Gomez
www.ahpbaecuador.com

2nd Biennial Congress of the Asian-Pacific Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association

25 – 27 March 2009
Bangkok, Thailand
Congress Chairman: Dr. Vibul Sachakul
www.2-aphpba2009.org

8th Congress of the EHPBA

18 – 20 June 2009
Athens, Greece

8th World Congress of the IHPBA

- 27 February – 2 March 2008
  Mumbai, India
  Congress Chairman: Dr. Palepu Jagannath
  » www.ihpba2008.com

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