INTERNATIONAL HEPATO-PANCREATO-BILIARY ASSOCIATION

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INTRODUCTION

The International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (IHPBA) was created in Boston in 1994. As documented in the preceding chapters, considerable international liver, pancreatic and biliary association activity had been taking place in the 16 years prior to the creation of the IHPBA. David Carr-Locke and Robin Williamson were Secretary General of the International Hepato-Biliary-Pancreatic Association (IHBPA) and the World Association of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery (WAHPBS), respectively, when these two groups merged to form the IHPBA. They devoted considerable time and energy to this merger, created new Bylaws, and played a key role in designing the first IHPBA meeting. Henry Pitt had served on the Program Committee of both the IHPBA and the WAHPBS and chaired the first Program Committee for the initial IHPBA meeting in Boston. David Carr-Locke became the first IHPBA President (1994-96) whereas Robin Williamson was the first Secretary General before becoming the second IHPBA President (1996-98). Subsequently, the Secretary General has served for four years and, as with many associations, has the responsibility to keep the organization active and moving forward. Thus, the authors of this chapter, which documents the first 18 years of the IHPBA, are the five Secretary Generals, Robin Williamson (1994-96), James Toouli (1996-2000), Henry Pitt (2000-04), Dirk Gouma (2004-08), and John Windsor (2008-12).

ORIGINS

The origins of the IHPBA are nicely documented in the first three chapters of this history. The “mother organization” was the International Biliary Association (IBA) which held its first meeting in 1979 (Chapter 1). Ron Tompkins served as the first President of the IBA (1979-81) and was a key driver in the development of this new association. As documented in Chapter 2,
the WAHPBA was initiated in 1986. Stig Bengmark was the driving force behind the creation of the WAHPBA and hosted the first meeting in Lund, Sweden in 1986. Stig Bengmark served as the fourth, and final, president of the WAHPBS (1992-93). In response to the creation of the WAHPBS, the IBA under the leadership of Les Blumgart (President in 1986) and John Wong (President in 1987) evolved into the IHBPA in 1988. This evolution acknowledged the need to have an organization that focused on the liver and pancreas as well as on the biliary system. In addition, the IHBPA also addressed the challenge from the WAHPBS to become more inclusive in its membership and to reach out to developing countries. After a few years, however, the duplicity and commonality of these two associations became obvious to many leaders of both organizations, and the merger was finalized in 1994 (Figure 1).

With two exceptions, John Wong (IBA President 1987) and Miles Little (first WAHPBS President 1986-87), all of the IBA, WAHPBS, and IHBPA Presidents had come from Europe or the United States (USA). For the IBA, the seven presidents included four from Europe, two from the USA, and one from Hong Kong (see Chapter 1). The WAHPBS had four presidents in eight years; two from Europe, one from the United States and one from Australia (see Chapter 2). Similarly, the six IHBPA presidents came exclusively from Europe (n=3) and the USA (n=3) (see Chapter 3). In 1991 Tadahiro Takada created the Asian Society of Hepato-Biliary and Pancreatic Surgery (ASHBPS) (Chapter 4, Figure 1). Thus, in the early 1990s before the IHPBA was formed, the IHBPA was meeting annually, the WAHPBS was meeting biennially in the even years, and the ASHBPS started meeting biennially in the odd years. The American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA) was created in 1994 (Chapter 5) under the leadership of Mike Henderson, Bill Meyers and Henry Pitt (Figure 1). A year later Basil Kekis and his European colleagues created the European Chapter of the IHPBA (Chapter 6, Figure 1). Both the AHPBA and the European Chapter began meeting biennially, like the ASHBPS, in the odd
years. Thus, in 1997 when the HPB movement was celebrating its 20th year, the IHPBA met in the even and the three regional associations (AHPBA, European Chapter and ASHBPS) were meeting in the odd years (Figure 1).

LEADERSHIP

The IHPBA presidency spans two years to correspond to the biennial meetings. From 1994 to 2012, the IHPBA has had nine presidents (Table 1) three from Europe, three from the Asia-Pacific region, and three from the United States. Under the leadership of Joseph Lau, the 5th President, a decision was made to rotate both the presidency and the World Congress among the three regions. From 1994 to 2012, the IHPBA has held eight World Congresses with ten Congress Chairmen (Table 2), four from Europe, three from the Asia-Pacific region, and three from the Americas. Similarly, the Executive Committee (Past-President, President, President-Elect, Secretary-General, Treasurer and Chair of the Scientific Committee) has been balanced with representatives from the three regions. Moreover, the Council as a whole including the Congress Chairman, Secretary-Elect, Presidents of the three Regional Associations and Councilmen-at-Large also has been balanced by the three regions. Leadership of the Development Committee (Past President), the Executive Committee (President), the Scientific Committee, and the Membership Committee (Secretary General) has come from Council initially to conserve funds for travel expenses. In 2006, an Education and Training Committee was formed and initially led by Henry Pitt, and a Research Committee was created and led by Marcus Büchler. Currently, these committees are led by individuals with expertise in Education/Training and Research, respectively, rather than a President or Past-President. A brief summary of the background and accomplishments of the nine IHPBA presidents follows.
David Carr-Locke, First President – 1994-1996

David Carr-Locke (Figure 2) was a native of the United Kingdom who had immigrated to the United States before his IHPBA presidency. As documented above, David Carr-Locke had been the Secretary General of the IHBPA at the time of the merger with the WAHPBS to form the IHPBA. David’s abilities as a negotiator and his willingness to compromise on issues such as annual versus biennial meetings were key to the merger. At the time of his presidency, David was Chief of Endoscopy at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston. David worked closely with Robin Williamson, Secretary General of the WAHPBS on the merger, with Blake Cady, the Local Arrangements Chairman in Boston, and with Henry Pitt, the Program Chairman of the first World Congress to make that meeting a success. Larry C. Carey from the United States was the IHBPA President, and Stig Bengmark from Sweden was the WAHPBS President at the time of the first World Congress. Having a background in Europe and experience in the United States, David Carr-Locke was able to work with both of the Presidents to facilitate the merger and the first World Congress. David Carr-Locke went on to preside over the second World Congress in Bologna, Italy which, again, was a great success despite the untimely passing of the Congress Chairman, Antonio Cavallari. Whereas the first World Congress in Boston had approximately 800 participants, the second World Congress in Bologna had approximately 1,000 registrants from around the world. Thus, David Carr-Locke’s primary legacies were the merger of the IHBPA with the WAHPBS and the accomplishment of the first two World Congresses. David also was very supportive of the simultaneous development of the AHPBA in the Americas (1994) and the European Chapter in Europe (1995).


Robin Williamson (Figure 3), another native of the United Kingdom, had moved from Bristol to London as the Director of Surgery at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School,
Hammersmith Hospital, before his IHPBA presidency. As documented above, Robin Williamson had hosted one of the WAHPBS meetings in London and had been Secretary General of the WAHPBS at the time of the merger with the IHBPA to form the IHPBA. Robin worked very closely and diplomatically with his countryman, David Carr-Locke, to appease the multiple egos, to develop new Bylaws for the IHPBA and to begin the process of balancing representation of the three regions. When Robin moved into the IHPBA presidency in 1996, James Toouli from Australia was chosen to be the second Secretary General. At this point the IHPBA had very meager financial resources and no executive secretariate. Thus, keeping track of the membership as well as the dues collection and the overall finances fell to the Secretary General. Each of the World Congresses was run by the Congress Chairmen and the Local Organizing Committee. Under Robin Williams’ leadership, the IHPBA received renumeration for each attendee at the World Congress which was the first step in financial stability for the Association. Attendance at the third World Congress in Madrid exceeded 1,000, but accounting was complicated by the fact that the Congress Chairman Enrique Moreno-Gonzales held his annual postgraduate course at the same time. Another key decision that was made during Robin’s presidency was the plan to create a new journal HPB (see Chapter 9). An initial Publication Agreement was signed with Isis Medical Media in 1997, and David Carr-Locke was appointed as the first Editor. Thus, Robin Williams’ major legacies were the initial organization of the IHPBA, taking the first steps toward financial stability, and creation of an official journal for the association.

Huug Obertop, Third President – 1998-2000

Huug Obertop (Figure 4), a native of the Netherlands, was the Chief of Surgery at the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam during his presidency. Huug’s predecessor, Neils vander Heyde, had been the third president of the WAHPBS, and Huug had been the Congress
Chairman when the WAHPBS met in Amsterdam (see Chapter 2). As mentioned above, the ASHBPS had emerged in 1991, the AHPBA was formed in 1994, and the European Chapter started in 1995 (Figure 1). Thus, the relationship between the IHPBA and what evolved to be the three Regional Associations was a key issue during Huug’s presidency. In an effort to solidify the relationship between the IHPBA and the ASHBPS, a decision was made by Council to hold the fifth World Congress in Tokyo in 2002 with Tadahiro Takada as the Congress Chairman. Similarly, the AHPBA was awarded the sixth World Congress in 2004 in Washington, DC, and C. Wright Pinson subsequently emerged as the Congress Chairman. These decisions created a balance whereby each of the three regions had hosted two of the first six World Congresses. During Huug’s presidency, the concept of developing a Bid Manual for the potential hosts was developed by Secretary General, Jim Tooulı. This Bid Manual was modeled after the one established by the World Congress of Gastroenterology and was applied, for the first time, to the 2004 World Congress in Washington.

Another major accomplishment during Huug Obertop’s presidency was the launch of HPB with Robin Williamson as the first Editor (see Chapter 9). Initially, only four issues were published each year, and no link was made between presentation at any of the HPB meetings and publication in HPB. However, an IHPBA Newsletter was included as a regular feature of HPB. The fourth World Congress in Brisbane, Australia, over which Huug Obertop presided and Jim Tooulı, IHPBA Secretary General, was Congress Chairman, was very well organized and scientifically sound. In addition, this World Congress was generously supported by industry and, therefore, quite profitable. While the IHPBA had only contracted for a fee per attendee, the attendance was approximately 1,200. Thus, by 2000 the IHPBA had accumulated a modest reserve of $65-75,000. In summary, accomplishments during Huug Obertop’s presidency included closer relationships with the Regional Associations, development of the Bid Manual,
the launch of HPB, the first Asian-Pacific World Congress and the beginnings of a financial reserve.

James Toouli, Fourth President – 2000-2002

James Toouli (Figure 5), a native of Australia, was the Chief of Surgery at the Flinders Medical Center in Adelaide during his presidency. As mentioned above, Jim had served four years as Secretary General, had developed the Bid Manual for World Congresses, and had been the Congress Chairman in Brisbane in 2000. During his presidency, Henry Pitt from the United States, had been elected as the third Secretary General. Together, they embarked on a plan to 1) incorporate the IHPBA in the United States, 2) rewrite the Bylaws in the process, 3) hire an Executive Secretariate, 4) establish a website for the association, and 5) develop National Chapters in addition to the Regional Associations. Thus, the IHPBA became a US corporation, in 2001 in the state of Wisconsin where Henry Pitt was living. As the new Bylaws were written, the role of Treasurer became more formalized as previously the Secretary General had been responsible for dues collection. In addition, the Treasurer became the chair of a newly formed Publication Committee to oversee the financial aspects of HPB. As mentioned above, the Past President also was given the job of running a Development Committee to help support the World Congresses. In addition, the concept of profit-sharing between the World Congress host organization(s) and the IHPBA was introduced.

The search for an Executive Secretariate included firms in Europe and the United States. Ultimately, MedConnect from Germany was chosen, in part because of the relationship which President Toouli had with this association management company which also managed the World Congress of Gastroenterology. Henry Pitt, Secretary General, negotiated the contract with Bridget Barbieri and worked with her to develop the first website (www.ihpba.org). With the assistance of the Executive Secretariate, regular meetings of the Executive Committee during the
ASHBPS, the Council during the European Chapter meeting, and the Scientific Committee during the AHPBA meeting were held. In addition, the Secretary General chaired a new Membership Committee which met during the ASHBPS, the European Chapter and the AHPBA in the odd years as well as during the World Congress in the even years. This forum was used to develop National Chapters as each country with a minimum of ten members in the IHPBA had representation in the Membership Committee. Under President Toouli’s leadership, Council made decisions to hold the seventh World Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland with O. James Garden as Congress Chairman and the eighth World Congress in Mumbai, India with Paneplu Jagannath as Congress Chairman. Hong Kong also had been proposed by President-Elect Joseph W.Y. Lau to host the eighth World Congress and would have been a “safe” decision as a prior IHBPA meeting had been held in Hong Kong. However, the development of a National Chapter in India and the need to reach out to the developing world were key factors that influenced Council. The fifth World Congress in Tokyo, Japan, over which President Toouli presided and Tadahiro Takada was Congress Chairman, set a new record for attendance at approximately 1,600. The final major development that occurred under Jim Toouli’s leadership was the creation of the Warren Fellowship which is chronicled in more detail below (Chapter 10).

**Joseph W.Y. Lau, Fifth President – 2002-2004**

Joseph W.Y. Lau (Figure 6), a native of Hong Kong, was the Chief of Surgery at the Chinese University of Hong Kong during his presidency. Joseph’s predecessor, Arthur Li, had hosed an IHBPA meeting with Henry Pitt as the Scientific Committee Chair and Joseph as Chair of the Local Organizing Committee. A major focus for Joseph Lau as President was to formalize the vision of the IHPBA as the world association with three Regional Associations and multiple National Chapters relating to the IHPBA in a federated manner. At this point the AHPBA had been incorporated in the USA for several years, had four 2-year Presidents, had held recent
meetings with the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES) and the American College of Surgeons, had professional association management, had held strategic planning meetings and was financially sound (Chapter 5). In comparison, the European Chapter was just evolving from its founding six-year President, Basil Kekis to its second President, Christoph Bröelsch, was not incorporated and did not have professional management. On the other hand, the ASHBPS had one leader, Tadahiro Takada, for a decade who had developed the Journal of Hepato-Biliary and Pancreatic Surgery. Thus, President Lau and Secretary General Pitt worked with their counterparts in the European Chapter, President Bröelsch and Secretary General Andrea Frilling to develop new bylaws and create the European Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (EHPBA) which would be incorporated in Germany (Chapter 6). This plan was accepted by the European leadership, and the Chapter did evolve into the EHPBA in 2005 (Chapter 6). On the other hand, the Japanese leadership of the ASHBPS, which included Masatoshi Makuuchi and Yuji Nimura as close confidants of Tadahiro Takada, resisted the notion of an Asian-Pacific Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (A-PHPBA) (see Chapter 4). Nevertheless, a memorandum of understanding was hammered out and signed in Chennai, India at the 7th ASHBPS meeting in 2003 (Chapter 4). This document, known as the Chennai Agreement, outlined the transition from the ASHBPS to the A-PHPBA (Chapter 7, Figure 7).

By 2003, Taylor and Francis had become the publisher of HPB through a series of acquisitions (Chapter 9). However, the original Publishing Agreement with Isis Medical Media was unclear regarding ownership of the journal. In addition, the journal was not yet profitable and was still being published only four times per year. Therefore, a new Publishing Agreement was worked out by Secretary General, Henry Pitt, which a) established that HPB was owned by the IHPBA, b) created a profit-sharing plan between the publisher and the association, c) outlined a plan to move to six issues per year, and d) clarified the roles of the IHPBA Publishing
Committee and the Editor, e) spelled out the mutual goal to have the journal indexed and f) established the parameters for publication of IHPBA and EHPBA abstracts. By 2004, Secretary General Henry Pitt also had negotiated an agreement with the AHPBA to have co-ownership of HPB in return for voluntary submission of AHPBA meeting manuscripts and publication of meetings abstracts. Two additional accomplishments that were initiated by President Lau were Chinese membership growth and career HPB leadership recognition. To accomplish both of these goals Joseph established a foundation in Hong Kong. With the funds that were raised he was able to initially pay the membership fees for 30 HPB surgeons from mainland China. This step was very important with respect to the creation of the Chinese Chapter of the IHPBA under the leadership of Xiao-Ping Chen of Wuhan. As mentioned above, the Indian Chapter had recently been developed by Paneplu Jagannath, and the Brazilian Chapter also emerged at this time. Thus, by 2004, the HPB movement was established in three of the largest, most rapidly developing countries. In 2003, the IHPBA also published its first Membership Directory with the assistance of its Executive Secretariate, MedConnect, as well as Taylor & Francis. Moreover, Joseph Lau with the assistance of his foundation and Council also established the HPB Medallion to acknowledge career accomplishments (Chapter 11). Finally, the sixth World Congress in Washington, DC over which President Lau presided and C. Wright Pinson was Congress Chairman, was held in association with the AHPBA. During this meeting, Council chose Buenos Aires, Argentina as the host for the 2010 World Congress with excellent bids coming from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Vancouver, Canada. The sixth World Congress was attended by approximately 1,200 members and guests and was again successful scientifically and socially.
Henry A. Pitt, Sixth President, 2004-2006

Henry A. Pitt (Figure 8), a native of the United States, was Vice-Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Indiana University in Indianapolis, Indiana during his presidency. Dirk Gouma from The Netherlands served as Secretary General, and Bridget Barbari from MedConnect was the Executive Secretariat. A major initial task for Henry was the development of a Membership Questionnaire which was administered electronically. This effort led to a profile of the active membership which was 1,059 in 2004 (Table 3). The robust global response was used as guidance for the Executive Council’s day long Strategic Planning Meeting held immediately prior to the EHPBA’s European Congress in Heidelberg, Germany in May, 2005. This effort led to new vision and mission statements as well as a number of strategic initiatives (Table 4). The results of both the Membership Questionnaire and the Strategic Planning Meeting were subsequently published in HPB.1 Some of the membership’s response confirmed the status quo with a) biennial meetings for the IHPBA in the even years and for the Regional Associations in the odd years as well as b) ongoing efforts to grow both the number and strength of the National Chapters. Similarly, the basic outline of the World and Regional Association Congresses as well as the relative independence from other international surgical, gastroenterologic or liver organizations was substantiated. The recently initiated plan to communicate via regular electronic newsletters and the need to improve the quality as well as the frequency of publication of HPB also were requested by the membership and planned by the leadership. Subsequent discussions with the new leaders of the EHPBA also led to another agreement regarding co-ownership of HPB in return for voluntary submission of EHPBA meeting manuscripts and publication of meeting abstracts. In 2004 Jim Toouli took over as Editor of HPB succeeding Robin Williamson who capably kept the journal going during a succession of publishers during its first five volumes (Chapter 9).
Several initiatives also grew out of the member’s responses, and the IHPBA’s strategic planning efforts. First, the importance of education and training as a key mission for the organization was fully appreciated. As a result, the Bylaws were amended to create an Education and Training Committee with membership to include the president’s of the three Regional Associations as well as the Council Members-at-Large from the three regions. This newly formed Committee, under President Pitt’s leadership, developed both an HPB Fellowship Registry on the association’s website as well as Guidelines for Training in HPB Surgery which were approved by Council in 2006. Second, the IHPBA Kenneth Warren Foundation was conceived to assure ongoing funding for the Kenneth Warren Fellowship (see Chapter 10). This new foundation was incorporated in the state of Wisconsin, and Ken Warren’s son Tom and his two grandsons, Matt and Brad, attended the World Congress in 2006 in Edinburgh to help launch the foundation. A third initiative that grew out of the strategic planning process was the creation of a new Research Committee with President-Elect Marcus Büchler as its first Chair. More details of this committee’s efforts are outlined below. The fourth new plan proposed by President Pitt and endorsed by Council in 2006 was the effort to document the history of the IHPBA going back to its origin, the IBA, in 1978.

As outlined above, both the EHPBA (Chapter 6) and the A-PHPBA (Chapter 7) were incorporated during Henry Pitt’s presidency. In 2005 the AHPBA met with SAGES and the American College of Surgeons in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, the ASHBPS held its final meeting in Manilla, the Phillipines, and the EHPBA was hosted by Marcus Büchler in Heidelberg, Germany. During this period, multiple national chapters also were meeting, and the IHPBA leadership supported many of these meetings by participation as faculty in their educational programs. Among the largest of these meetings were the Brazilian Chapter meeting in Sao Paulo with approximately 600 participants, the Indian Chapter meeting in Hyderabad with 800 attendees and
the Chinese Chapter meeting in Wuhan with 1,000 members and guests. The seventh World Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland, over which Henry Pitt presided as IHPBA President and O. James Garden was Congress Chairman, was held in conjunction with the Association of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland. During the meeting, Council chose Paris, France as the host for the 2012 World Congress with very competitive bids also coming from Amsterdam, Cairo, Cape Town, and Zurich. From the welcome by Princess Anne at the opening ceremonies, to the attendance by 1,600 registrants, to the excellent scientific program, to fireworks over the Edinburgh Castle as well as the gala banquet complete with kilts and hagas, this World Congress was another great success.

**Marcus W. Büchler – Seventh President, 2006-2008**

Marcus W. Büchler (Figure 9), a native of Germany, was Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the University of Heidelberg in Heidelberg, Germany during his presidency. With Dirk Gouma from the Netherlands as Secretary General and the Executive Secretariate, MedConnect, based in Germany, a number of President Büchler’s and the IHPBA’s objectives moved forward seamlessly (Table 5). Three of the objectives that were a priority for President Büchler were increased membership, HPB clinical trials, and the quality of HPB. IHPBA membership had hovered in the 900-1000 range at the turn of the 21st century. Earlier maneuvers to create Regional Associations, National Chapters, and a Membership Committee had created a federation of HPB associations which resulted in modest growth in membership for the IHPBA to 1,100-1,200 by 2006. However, both Henry Pitt and Marcus Büchler had pushed for growth in membership to 1,500. In 2007 the Regional Associations again held very successful meetings in Miami, Florida (AHPBA), in Fukuoka, Japan (A-PHPBA) and in Verona, Italy (EHPBA). Under Sean Mulvihill’s leadership in 2007, the AHPBA made a decision to partner with the IHPBA and the Argentine Chapter to host the 2010 World Congress in Buenos
Aires. In 2008 with Bruce Schirmer as AHPBA President, a decision also was made to offer combined AHPBA and IHPBA membership at a reduced price. Both of these moves grew membership in the Americas. Moreover, a policy had been initiated in 2006 and repeated in 2008 to link registration at World Congress with membership in the IHPBA. As a result, the 2006 World Congress in Edinburgh enhanced membership from the United Kingdom and Europe. Similarly, the 2008 World Congress in Mumbai grew IHPBA membership in India and the Asian/Pacific region. Thus, at the end of President Büchler’s term at the Eighth World Congress in Mumbai, he was able to announce that the IHPBA had achieved, at least temporarily, the goal of having more than 1,500 dues-paying members. Of course, retention of members who attend World Congresses remains an ongoing challenge.

A major focus for President Büchler was the development of the new IHPBA Research Committee. IHPBA Trials Guidelines including a) study proposals, b) trial requirements, and c) trial unit standards were approved by Council in 2008. Appointments to the committee included international leaders with expertise in clinical trials. Another key step was the creation of a clinical trials office for the IHPBA at President Büchler’s Heidelberg University. Marcus was able to accomplish this step through funding he had received from the German government as well as university support for national and regional clinical trials. The next steps taken by President Büchler were to establish mechanisms for preparing and evaluating clinical HPB trials. These processes were proposed and discussed by the Research Committee in 2007 during the European Congress in Verona and approved by Council in 2008 at the World Congress. Dirk Gouma became the Chair of the Research Committee following the World Congress and was charged with the responsibility of approving, organizing and conducting future clinical trials within the IHPBA infrastructure.
During President Büchler’s presidency, a number of the IHPBA’s Objectives also moved forward (Table 5). The Standards for HPB Training initially developed in 2006 by Henry Pitt were posted on the association’s website (www.ihpba.org) and were updated in 2008. Following the 2008 World Congress, Pierre Clavien took over from Henry Pitt as Chair of the Education and Training Committee and was given the responsibility for updating the Fellowship Registry and for overseeing fellowship accreditation. In 2007 the association’s website (www.ihpba.org) was updated and the E-Newsletter, which began in 2005, was published quarterly. In addition, the Membership Directory, which had been published in hard copy in 2003 and 2005, became web-based in a members only section of the website in 2007. Moreover, the IHPBA logo, which was developed in 1994, was updated in 2008 (see accomplishments and Figure 12).

One of the major Objectives outlined during the 2005 Strategic Planning meeting was to establish HPB, the official journal, as an outstanding journal in the field. As documented above, a Publishing Agreement was signed with Taylor & Frances in 2003; Jim Toouli took over as Editor in 2004; an agreement with the AHPBA was signed in 2005; and an agreement with the EHPBA was signed in 2006. As Treasurer and Chair of the Publication Committee, C. Wright Pinson had spearheaded an effort to fully index HPB in 2006 (see Chapter 9). While this effort was not initially successful, HPB became profitable in 2005, and six issues per year were published with Volume 9 in 2007. With these accomplishments a new Publishing Agreement was negotiated with Wiley Blackwell by outgoing Treasurer Pinson in 2008, and a new Editor, O. James Garden, was appointed by Council in Mumbai. Moreover, both the IHPBA and the AHPBA councils made key decisions in 2008 to require publication of oral presentations in HPB (see Chapter 9). Thus, in 2009 HPB had a new Publisher, a new Editor, and a new flow of manuscripts for Volume 11 and, therefore, was poised to become an outstanding journal in the field.
The eight World Congress in Mumbai, India with Marcus Büchler as IHPBA President and Paneplu Jagannath as Congress Chairman, was held in conjunction with the Indian Chapter. During the meeting, Council enthusiastically chose Seoul, Korea as the host for the 2014 World Congress when an anticipated Chinese bid never materialized. Again, the social aspects of the meeting were outstanding as was the scientific program. Sally Warren, Ken’s daughter, represented the Warren family in Mumbai. The attendance was approximately 1,600, and the meeting was financially successful. As a result, the IHPBA after 15 years had approximately $200,000 in reserves and was headed toward financial stability.

**Yuji Nimura – Eighth President, 2008-2010**

Yuji Nimura (Figure 10), a native of Japan, retired as Chairman of the Department of Surgery at Nagoya University in Nagoya, Japan during his presidency. John Windsor from New Zealand became Secretary General in 2008, but MedConnect decided to consolidate their efforts on another client and withdrew as Executive Secretariat at the end of the year. A search for a new Executive Secretariat was undertaken, and Crow Segal, who was the Executive Secretariat of the AHPBA, was chosen. With this change Phil Pyster became the Executive Director of the IHPBA.

In 2009 the Regional Associations again held very successful Congresses in Miami, Florida (AHPBA), in Bangkok, Thailand (A-PHPBA) and in Athens, Greece (EHPBA). The concept of combined memberships with the Regional Associations continued to evolve especially for the AHPBA and the EHPBA. However, the ASHPBS has developed its own journal, and this factor remained an issue for the A-PHPBA.

As mentioned above, the leadership of *HPB* changed significantly in 2009. The new Editor, James Garden, appointed Associate Editors, Mark Callery from the United States and Saxon Conner from New Zealand. The Publisher, Wiley Blackwell, changed the cover, using the
new logo, as well as the style and began to attract advertisements. With the new flow of manuscripts the number of issues increased from six to eight to ten per year, and the quality of manuscripts improved. With all of these improvements subsequent efforts to achieve full indexing were finally successful.

The ninth World Congress in Buenos Aires, Argentina with Yuji Nimura as IHPBA President, W. Scott Helton as AHPBA President and Eduardo de Santibañes as Congress Chairman was a joint effort of the IHPBA, the AHPBA and the Argentine Chapter. During the meeting, Council chose São Paulo, Brazil as the host of the 2016 World Congress despite strong bids from Vancouver and Toronto, Canada. The decision to return to South America was certainly influenced by the superb organization of the Argentine Chapter, the significant growth of the Brazilian Chapter, and the full support of the AHPBA which continued to hold annual meetings in North America. While the eruption of a volcano in Iceland limited attendance from Europe, the World Congress in Buenos Aires did not skip a beat. The tango was as spectacular as advertised, and the scientific program was superb. Attendance was more than 800 from South America, and more than 1,600 were registered. Tremendous fund raising efforts by the local organizers more than doubled the IHPBA reserves.

C. Wright Pinson – Ninth President, 2010-2012

C. Wright Pinson (Figure 11), a native of the United States, was Chief Executive Officer of the Vanderbilt Health System during his presidency. As he assumed the Presidency in Buenos Aires, Wright Pinson held another strategic planning meeting which largely reaffirmed the vision, mission (Table 4) but updated the goals (Table 6). As initial focus for Wright Pinson following the planning meeting, was to increase communication among the Executive Committee and Crow Segal through regular teleconferences. Regular electronic Newsletters were reinstated. With his business background, Wright Pinson also saw that financial reserves were properly
being managed, he and Treasurer W. Scott Helton hired Sun Trust to assist with the management of reserves. Efforts to maintain membership and to create new National Chapters also were undertaken. In this regard, the creation of a Japanese Chapter was a significant political accomplishment. Outreach to countries from the former Soviet Union also was undertaken.

In 2011 the Regional Associations again held very successful Congresses in Miami, Florida (AHPBA), in Melbourne, Australia (A-PHPBA) and in Cape Town, South Africa (E-AHPBA). As the EHPBA held its first Congress outside of Europe and its first in Africa, they changed their name to the European-African Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. Similarly, the AHPBA made a more subtle, but equally significant, change in their name from the American to the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. Moreover, the Melbourne Congress was the first for the A-PHPBA in the southern hemisphere. Thus, as the Regional Associations have become of age, they have truly reached out to fulfill their mission with respect to education in their region. By the end of 2011 IHPBA membership, again, was more than 1500 (Figure 13).

In 2011, HPB was published monthly and achieved its first impact factor of 1.24. Manuscripts were being submitted from all oral presentations at the annual AHPBA meetings, but peer review was required. Specified oral presentations at the 2012 World Congress also were required to be submitted to HPB. These efforts led to an impact factor of 1.61 in 2012. The initial Publishing Agent with the publisher, Wiley Blackwell, extended until December 31, 2013. Thus, during 2012, negotiations to extend the Agreement for an additional five years were undertaken.

The tenth World Congress in Paris, France with C. Wright Pinson as IHPBA President and Jacques Belghiti as Congress Chairman was held in conjunction with the Association Française de Chirurgie Hépato-Biliare et de Transplantation Hépatique and the European-African Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. Paris was the site for the second IBA meeting in 1980,
and, fittingly, was the first city to host two international HPB Congresses. The meeting was held from July 1-5, and many delegates took the opportunity to holiday in France before or after the meeting. During the meeting, Council chose Zurich, Switzerland as the host for the 2018 World Congress over bids from ________________. As has been the tradition, both the social and the scientific programs were outstanding. A private reception at the Museé d’Orsay was the highlight of the social program, but all of the famous tourist sites of Paris were enjoyed by the delegates. Sally Warren again represented her family to support the Warren Fellows and Foundation. Attendance was over 3,000, by far the largest in the history of the IHPBA, and membership after the meeting reached an all-time high of _______ (Figure 13).

MEETINGS

From 1979 through 2012, 52 international (n=29) and regional (n=23) hepatopancreato-biliary meetings had been organized. The IBA held nine annual meetings from 1979 through 1987 (Chapter 1). Similarly, the IHBPA had six annual meetings from 1988 through 1993 (Chapter 3). In comparison, the WAHPBS organized four biennial meetings from 1986 through 1993 (Chapter 2). In 1991 the ASHBPS began holding biennial meetings and convened eight Asian Congresses through 2005 (Chapter 4). The first A-PHPBA Congress was held in 2007 with the second and third in 2009 and 2011, respectively (Chapter 7). The AHPBA began biennial Congresses in 1994 but moved to annual meetings in 2006 (Chapter 5). As a result, by 2012, the AHPBA had held 12 Congresses. The European Chapter began biennial meetings in 1995 and had held nine Congresses, more recently as the EHPBA, through 2009 and the E-AHPBA through 2011 (Chapter 6). From 1994 through 2012, the IHPBA has held ten World Congresses (Table 2).
First World Congress – 1994

The First World Congress of the IHPBA was held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA in 1994. This meeting was pivotal in reuniting the hepatopancreato-biliary community as the IHBPA President, Larry Carey, and the WAHPBS President, Stig Bengmark, were honored at the first meeting of the IHPBA. David Carr-Locke, the IHBPA Secretary General, was the Congress Chairman and became the first IHPBA President during the meeting. Blake Cady, from Boston, chaired the Local Organizing Committee, and Henry Pitt, from Baltimore, chaired the Scientific Committee. Attendance was approximately 800, and industry support was sufficient for the meeting to be financially a “break-even” endeavor.

Second World Congress – 1996

The Second World Congress of the IHPBA was held in Bologna, Italy in 1996. During this meeting, the IHPBA Presidency was transferred from David Carr-Locke to Robin Williamson, the former Secretary General of the WAHPBS and the first Secretary General of the IHPBA. The Congress Chairman, Antonio Cavallari, died prior to the meeting, but his capable colleague Alfonso Principe did an outstanding job to assure the meeting’s success. Huug Obertop chaired the Scientific Committee. The international attendance was approximately 1,000 with major local support coming from the Italian Chapter. Again, the Congress was financially sound.

Third World Congress – 1998

The Third World Congress of the IHPBA was held in Madrid, Spain in 1998. During this meeting, the IHPBA Presidency was transferred from Robin Williamson to Huug Obertop, the former Scientific Committee Chair. The Congress Chairman, Enrique Moreno Gonzales, also held his annual surgical postgraduate course in conjunction with the World Congress. As a result, the attendance exceeded 1,000, and industry support was robust. However, the final financial
accounting became complicated and led to some strain between the IHPBA leadership and the local organizers.

**Fourth World Congress – 2000**

The Fourth World Congress of the IHPBA was held in Brisbane, Australia in 2000. During this meeting, the IHPBA Presidency was transferred from Huug Obertop to James Toouli, the second IHPBA Secretary General as well as the Congress Chairman. Marcus Büchler chaired the Scientific Committee, and the scientific program was generally acknowledged as the best World Congress program to date. During this meeting, the terminology of liver anatomy and resections was developed. Attendance at this first Asian/Pacific and first south of the equator World Congress approached 1,200. An outstanding faculty was assembled despite the fact that they were not reimbursed for their travel. The gastroenterologic association of Australia co-sponsored the meeting which had strong industry support.

**Fifth World Congress – 2002**

The fifth World Congress of the IHPBA was held in Tokyo, Japan in 2002. During this meeting, the IHPBA Presidency was transferred from Jim Toouli to Joseph Lau. The Congress Chairman, Tadahiro Takada, President of the ASHBPS, rallied excellent attendance from his Japanese colleagues. As a result, attendance was approximately 1,600, a new record for an IHPBA World Congress. Under Professor Takada’s leadership, the number of parallel sessions was increased so that a larger number of presentations were possible in the traditional three and one-half day format. Again, industry support was robust so that the meeting was financially successful both for the local organizers and the IHPBA.

**Sixth World Congress – 2004**

The sixth World Congress of the IHPBA was held in Washington, DC in 2004 in conjunction with the AHPBA. During this meeting, the IHPBA Presidency was transferred from
Joseph Lau to Henry Pitt, the third IHPBA Secretary General. The Congress Chairman, C. Wright Pinson, worked closely with the Chair of the Scientific Committee, Jacques Belghiti, and his Vanderbilt colleague Ravi Chari to organize a solid scientific program. Approximately, 1,200 members and guests attended the meeting, and one of the social highlights was the performance of Vanderbilt University’s rock-and-roll band “Soul Incision” which features Wright Pinson as the drummer. Again, the meeting was nicely supported by industry and, therefore, also met financial expectations.

**Seventh World Congress – 2006**

The seventh World Congress of the IHPBA was held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 2006 in conjunction with the Association of Upper Gastrointestinal Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (AUGIS). During this meeting, the IHPBA Presidency was transferred from Henry Pitt to Marcus Büchler, who had chaired the Scientific Committee and hosted an EHPBA European Congress. O. James Garden served as the Congress Chairman, and he was ably assisted by his colleague Rowan Parks. During this meeting, the Standards for HPB Training were established. Again, the scientific program was outstanding, and the 1,600 members and guests who attended the Congress were entertained royally by Princess Anne at the Opening Ceremony as well as by the IHPBA leadership in their kilts at the gala banquet. Once again, industry support was robust, and both the IHPBA and the AUGIS profited from the meeting.

**Eighth World Congress – 2008**

The eighth World Congress of the IHPBA was held in Mumbai, India in 2008 in conjunction with the Indian Chapter of the IHPBA. During this meeting, the IHPBA Presidency was transferred from Marcus Büchler to Yuji Nimura, a former IHPBA Treasurer. Paneplu Jagannath served as the Congress Chairman, and he was assisted by Surendra Mathur and other members of the Local Organizing Committee. Thomas van Gulik from the Netherlands served
as Chair of the IHPBA Scientific Committee, and a large number of IHPBA members from around the world traveled to India to serve as faculty. A new feature was “Living Legend” lectures provided by Henri Bismuth and Russel Strong. During this meeting, the HPB Curriculum was established as were IHPBA Trials Guidelines. Attendance by members and guests again approached 1,600. From morning yoga by the lake, to native dances and costumes all who attended were immersed into the Indian culture. Industry support was outstanding so that both the Indian Chapter and the IHPBA achieved financial solvency after the World Congress.

**Ninth World Congress – 2010**

The ninth World Congress of the IHPBA was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2010 in conjunction with the Argentine Chapter of the IHPBA and the AHPBA. During this meeting, the IHPBA Presidency was transferred from Yuji Nimura to C. Wright Pinson, a former IHPBA Treasurer and Congress Chairman. Eduardo de Santibañas served as the Congress Chairman, and he was ably assisted by Oscar Imventarza and Javier Lendoire. W. Scott Helton was President of the AHPBA, which co-hosted the Congress. While volcanic ash from Iceland cancelled many flights from Europe, the “show went on” with faculty from the rest of the world ably substituting for those who were stranded. Attendance from South, Central and North America as well as Asia was excellent and more than 1,200 individuals were present despite the national disaster. Juan Acosta provided a “Living Legend” lecture, but Hans Beger was unable to attend. A highlight was tango dancing by local professionals and hosts as well as the quality of the scientific program. The combination of excellent industry support and proper insurance resulted in significant financial success for the Argentine Chapter, the AHPBA and the IHPBA.
The tenth World Congress of the IHPBA was held in Paris, France in 2012 with the Association Française de Chirurgie Hépato-Biliaire et de Transplantation Hépatique and the European-African Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association as the hosts. During this meeting, the IHPBA Presidency was transferred from C. Wright Pinson to O. James Garden, a former Congress Chairman and Editor of HPB. Jacques Belghiti served as the Congress Chairman, and Ronnie Poon from Hong Kong chaired the IHPBA Scientific Committee. Again, faculty came from around the world to give update lectures, to provide symposia and to debate current issues. Attendance by members and guests exceeded 3,000 which broke all records with respect to prior World Congresses. The social highlight was a private reception at the Musée d’Orsay. Despite financial uncertainty in Europe, industry support was solid, and the IHPBA remained solvent following the Congress (Figure 14).

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Many of the IHPBA Objectives (Table 5) outlined in the 2005 Strategic Planning Meeting have been accomplished (Table 7). Over the past decade, HPB surgery has increasingly been recognized as a super specialty around the globe. A federation of international, regional (Chapters 5, 6, 7) and national organizations (Table 7) have been developed. As a result, HPB conferences have been held regularly in all regions of the world for the past 20 years so that research findings and best treatment practices are being disseminated. By the end of 2012, fourteen volumes of HPB have been published, and the IHPBA and AHPBA have mandated publication of oral presentations. The IHPBA website (www.ihpba.org) has patient care guidelines for acute pancreatitis and gallstones as well as for the surgical management of chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer and colorectal metastases. The website also contains the IHPBA
Thus, the mission of disseminating research findings and best treatment practices has received robust attention.

The goal to advance HPB specific training also has moved forward. HPB surgery training guidelines and curriculum have been posted on the IHPBA website. In addition, 92 HPB surgery fellowships have been listed on the website on the HPB Fellowship Registry. These training programs include 37 in the Americas, 26 in Europe/Africa and 29 in the Asia/Pacific region. In the Americas training programs on the Registry include 7 in Argentina, two in Brazil, four in Canada, three in Mexico and 21 in the United States. In Europe/Africa programs on the Registry include two in France, one in Georgia, three in Germany, one in Greece, one in Israel, one in Portugal, one in Switzerland, four in the Netherlands and 12 in the United Kingdom. In the Asia/Pacific region programs on the Registry include 10 in Australia, one in China, nine in India, one in Indonesia, three in Korea, one in Malaysia, one in New Zealand, one in Singapore and two in Taiwan.

The mission to foster research and innovation has been moved forward by the Kenneth Warren Fellowship (Chapter 10). The first Warren Fellow, N.T. (Tjarda) van Heck from the Netherlands was appointed in 2001. Since then, Warren Fellows have been chosen from Australia, Chile, France, India, Mexico, Italy, Japan, Russia, Singapore, Sweden and the United Kingdom. Each of these fellows has spent a year of research in the laboratory of an IHPBA mentor, and their research accomplishments have been outstanding. To continue this international research tradition, the IHPBA Kenneth Warren Foundation was established in 2006 (Chapter 10). By the end of 2012, the Foundation had more than $200,000 in reserves and was providing $20,000 per year to each Warren Fellow. In addition to the Warren Fellowship, the IHPBA under Marcus Büchler’s leadership has developed guidelines for cooperative study
proposals, requirements for trials and standards for trials units. A challenge for the future will be to see whether this infrastructure will lead to successful clinical trials fostered by the IHPBA.

By 2012, the IHPBA had become a mature professional organization. The IHPBA was incorporated in the United States in 2001, and MedConnect in Germany was hired as the Executive Secretariat that same year. The website (www.ihpba.org) was established by 2002 and significantly expanded and modernized in 2006. E-Newsletters were started in 2005 shortly after the Strategic Planning meeting. In addition, the IHPBA logo which had been developed in 1994 to acknowledge the merger of the IHBPA and the WAHPBS was modernized in 2008 (Figure 12). By the end of 2008, the membership goal of 1,500 had been achieved, and a financial goal to have reserves equal to the annual budget also had been reached for the first time. In 2009 the Executive Secretariat was switched to Crow Segal in the United States. Following the World Congresses in Buenos Aires in 2010 and in Paris in 2012, the IHPBA was financially sound and had a bright future. In 2010, HPB became fully indexed and developed its first impact factor of 1.24 in 2011 which increased to 1.61 in 2011 and is projected to continue to increase.

THE FUTURE

Details with respect to the immediate future are reviewed in Chapter 12. C. Wright Pinson from the United States was the IHPBA President for 2011-12, and his 2010 strategic planning meeting set new goals (Table 6). The 10th World Congress was held in Paris, France in 2012, and O. James Garden from Scotland took over as the IHPBA President for 2012-14. The 11th World Congress is planned for Seoul, Korea in 2014 with Sung Gyu Lee as the Congress Chairman. The 12th World Congress will be held in São Paulo, Brazil with Paulo Herman as the Congress Chairman, and the IHPBA President will be Paneplu Jagannath who hosted the 8th World Congress in Mumbai and subsequently became President of the Asian-Pacific Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association. In 2009 Crow Segal from the United States took over as the
Executive Secretariat, and this management company serves the same role for the AHPBA. As mentioned above, Volume 11 of HPB was launched in 2009 with a new Editor, O. James Garden, and a new publisher Wiley-Blackwell. Under their direction, full indexing and a growing impact factor have been achieved. Membership continues to grow, and HPB training has been established throughout the world. Thus, after 35 years since its origin as the IBA and 19 as the IHPBA, the future for hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery is bright.
REFERENCES

1. Pitt HA. International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association: who are we and where are we going? HPB 2006;8:243-47.

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<th>Years</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Huug Obertop</td>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>2012</td>
<td>Jacques Belghiti</td>
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Table 3. IHPBA 2005 Membership Profile

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Table 4. IHPBA Vision and Mission

Vision

The IHPBA will be the premiere international organization devoted to relief of worldwide human suffering caused by hepato-pancreato-biliary (HPB) disorders by improving education, training, innovation and patient care.

Mission

The Mission of the IHPBA is to improve evidence-based care and optimize the outcomes of patients with HPB disorders throughout the world by:

- Disseminating research findings and the best treatment practices
- Advancing HPB specific training
- Fostering research and innovation
- Encouraging multidisciplinary collaboration
Table 5. IHPBA Objectives*

- Foster the development of HPB as a specialty
- Have the World Congress be the premiere international HPB meeting
- Establish HPB as an outstanding journal in the field
- Set standards for and accredit HPB fellowship training programs
- Strengthen ties with HPB Regional Associations and National Chapters
- Foster mutually beneficial relationships with other specialty organizations supporting our mission and principles
- Expand education and support for HPB patients
- Support HPB research and career development through the Warren Fellowship
- Encourage HPB clinical trials to advance evidence-based medicine
- Develop HPB-related practice guidelines
- Expand membership to 1,500
- Manage the association in a financially sound, effective, and efficient manner
- Optimize communication by a web-based membership directory, an e-newsletter, and an online journal
- Acknowledge significant individual contributions through the HPB medallion
- Document the rich history of the association

* Established at 2005 Strategic Planning meeting
Table 6. Goals

• Planning
  – Strategic discussion in Buenos Aires
  – Discussions with regional councils

Foster education, research and career development
  – Continue raising monies for Warren fellows
  – Standards for training
  – Expansion of Education and Training via the Web site

• Encourage exchange of clinical and scientific knowledge
  – Support HPB meetings
  – Assist with chapter development
  – Spread awareness of the IHPBA
  – Membership retention
  – Continue support of the journal, HPB
  – Improve housekeeping
    – Financial solvency and management
    – Better communications
    – Write new charges for all committees
    – Executive committee teleconferences
    – Improvement of Regional Association & Local Chapter working relationships
    – Maximize working relationship with Crow Segal
    – Update bid manual and other documents
Table 7. IHPBA Accomplishments

- Establishment of HPB surgery as a specialty
- Creation of a federation of international, regional and national organizations devoted to the relief of human suffering caused by HPB disorders
- Dissemination of research findings and best treatment practices through coordinated international, regional and national conferences
- Communication of clinical and basic research advances in the official journal, HPB
- Collaboration with Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract on patient care guidelines
- Development of HPB surgery training guidelines and curriculum
- Encouragement of international research mentoring through the Kenneth Warren Fellowship
- Support of the Warren Fellowship through the IHPBA Kenneth Warren Foundation
- Initiation of an international HPB trials network
- Incorporation as a not-for-profit corporation
- Management by an Executive Secretariate to coordinate web, electronic and personal communication
- Completion of a strategic planning process
- Accomplishment of membership and financial goals
- Evolution from a historical to a modern logo
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LEGENDS

Figure 1. Origins of the IHPBA: The First 20 Years (1978-1997)

Figure 2. David Carr-Locke, First President 1994-1996

Figure 3. Robin Williamson, Second President 1996-1998

Figure 4. Huug Obertop, Third President 1998-2000

Figure 5. James Toouli, Fourth President 2000-2002

Figure 6. Joseph W.Y. Lau, Fifth President 2002-2004

Figure 7. Evolution of the IHPBA: The Next 15 Years (1998-2012)

Figure 8. Henry A. Pitt, Sixth President 2004-2006

Figure 9. Marcus W. Büchler, Seventh President 2006-2008

Figure 10. Yuji Nimura, Eighth President 2008-10

Figure 11. C. Wright Pinson, Ninth President 2010-12

Figure 12. A. IHPBA Logo 1994-2007

B. IHPBA Logo After 2008

Figure 13. IHPBA Membership (2000-2012)

Figure 14. IHPBA Reserves (2000-2012)
Figure 1. Origins of the IHPBA: The First 20 Years (1978-97)

Associations: IBA → IHBPA
WAHPBS
ASHBPS
AHPBA
IHPBA

Figure 7. Evolution of the IHPBA: The Next 15 Years (1998-2012)

**Associations:**
- IHPBA
- ASHBPS
- AHPBA
- European Chapter
- EHPBA
- A-PHPBA
- AHPBA*
- E-AHPBA

**Years:** 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012

*AHPB changed name from American to Americas*
Figure 2.

Figure 3.
Figure 4.

Figure 5.
Figure 8.

Figure 9.
Figure 10.

Figure 11.