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Editorial

The International Association for Ambulatory Surgery (IAAS)

Some ten years since its foundation, it is perhaps time to give an update on recent changes in the IAAS and what the future holds.

The last year has not been entirely smooth sailing. Unexpectedly, at the beginning of the year, the IAAS office in Brussels became unavailable and a new office had to be found. This has now been achieved and the office will become fully functional in January, 2004. The new address is:

The International Association for Ambulatory Surgery
c/o The British Association of Day Surgery
The Royal College of Surgeons of England
35–43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London
WC2A 3PN
United Kingdom

Details of dedicated telephone and fax numbers will be posted on the IAAS website (www.iaas-med.org) as soon as they are known. The website, itself, has become somewhat out of date over the last year. This has been due to the management upheavals.

At present, the site is being revised and expanded. On a positive note, the IAAS has developed a number of guidance notes on the following ambulatory surgery subjects:

- Universal Clinical Indicators
- Extended Recovery
- Patient Selection Criteria
- Patient Discharge Criteria
- Patient Satisfaction

These will be available on the website or from the office from January 2004.

In May 2003, the IAAS held its 5th International Congress in Boston, USA. This was a great success with an attendance of over 2,200 delegates from 24 countries. The next International Congress will be held in Seville, Spain from 24th to 27th April 2005 (see www.iaascongress2005.org). Following that, the congress will be in Amsterdam, The Netherlands in 2007, Brisbane, Australia in 2009 and in Aarhus, Denmark, 2010.

From its inception, the IAAS has had three membership categories—full member, associate organisation member and associate individual member. With these, there has been a steady increase in the number of members of the IAAS. The Executive and the General Assembly of the IAAS, however, have been disappointed by the lack of membership applications from individuals or organisations from countries of low economic status. It is these very countries that can gain so much from the cost effective treatment that day surgery can provide. Consequently, a new class of membership has been introduced—corresponding member. Details of all types of membership together with application forms are available from the IAAS office or on the website.

The IAAS enters its second decade on a firm basis but still with much to achieve if it is to meet its main objectives of promoting and developing high quality ambulatory surgery worldwide.

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