



News from the President

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2014 – in this edition you will see that we have been incredibly busy over the past few months. In December, Carlo Castoro and I visited China to attend and speak at their National Day Surgery Conference in Beijing. During our short visit we were flown to the city of Chengdu, which is capital of the Sichuan province in southwest China where we had the opportunity to visit the 4,500-bed West China Hospital. We were deeply impressed by how they provide a health service on such a large scale and by their use of video linking technology for both education and the support of their distant peripheral hospitals. I believe we have much we can learn from the example we found in Chengdu. Equally impressive was the importance they placed on patient (and carer) education prior to surgery. Our thanks to our Chinese colleagues who looked after us during our visit.



During 2013 we completed 4 training workshops across Eastern Europe funded by a grant from the European Union - this was a major undertaking and my thanks go to all those involved. We also published an online 'handbook', which is now available for download in English, Hungarian, Romanian and Serbian ([click here](#)).

Some good news for 2014 - I am pleased to announce that the IAAS has received funding for 2014 with a **renewal of the operating grant** from the European Commission Consumers Health and Food Executive Agency (CHAFAEA). The grant will co-fund our activities for this year.

The main activities of the 2014 work plan include:

- Training workshops in Croatia and Greece
- Exchange visits to and from countries and organizations participating in the workshops
- Update of the IAAS Training Manual
- A special workshop on "Rethinking the Benchmarking Survey"
- A special workshop on "The Future of Day surgery"

Lastly, the IAAS has put in place an evaluation strategy aimed at acquiring feedback on our activities and products. Therefore, we kindly invite you to participate in our Newsletter and Journal survey. Please let us know what you think about our Newsletter and our Journal *Ambulatory Surgery*.

For the Newsletter: <http://tinyurl.com/oobo6sr>

For Ambulatory Surgery: <http://tinyurl.com/oqm73vv>

As you can see, it will also be another busy year for the IAAS.

Ian Jackson, President

International News and Comments

Training Workshops – Kolarovo, Slovakia and Belgrade, Serbia

The third and fourth IAAS Training Workshops entitled *Day Surgery: Making it Happen* were held in Slovakia and Serbia at the end of 2013. These courses built on the workshops in Hungary and Romania earlier this year.

The 2013 training workshops were a great success, appreciated by participants and trainers alike.

Kolarovo, Slovakia

Three members of IAAS Executive Committee visited Slovakia in November to the region around Kolarovo, district Komarno for a 2½ day training course and to share expertise on Day Surgery.

The audience consisted of 25 professionals from surgeons of different specialties, anesthesiologists, nurses and managers. This was a nucleus around the host, Dr Miklos Viola, general surgeon from MEDCHIR Health clinic in Kolarovo. The IAAS representatives also had the opportunity to visit a private clinic where one day surgery is performed in different surgical specialties.

It was striking for the IAAS personnel to experience how eager the participants absorbed the knowledge and the experiences of the speakers. The nucleus around Dr Viola was very enthusiastic and willing to expand Day Surgery in Slovakia.

Jan Eshuis, IAAS Honorary Secretary and Trainer IAAS Workshop, Slovakia

Belgrade, Serbia



Last December, another team of IAAS trainers went to Belgrade, Serbia, for the fourth and final training workshop for 2013. The weather was cold but the enthusiasm and hospitality of our Serbian colleagues made up for it. A total of 41 surgeons, anesthesiologists and nurses participated in this event. Besides the Serbian colleagues, three participants were from Croatia, and two from Slovenia. All were impressed with the quality of the workshop and usefulness of the information provided. Discussions during the workshop gave us the opportunity not only to share our knowledge but also to learn how Day Surgery is being carried out in this area of Eastern Europe and to add to the growing IAAS network of Day

Surgery professionals.

Moreover, this workshop was the first public event organized by the Serbian Association for Ambulatory Surgery (SAAS) and coincided with the founding of this society. It was an honor and privilege to be part of this experience.

Carlo Castoro, IAAS Past-President and Trainer IAAS Workshop, Serbia

News from Member Associations

Ambulatory Surgery Center Association - ASCA, Alexandria, VA, USA

ASCA's Webinars—Live and Recorded—Now Available Internationally

If you have Internet access, you may be able to access ASCA's 2014 webinars—a series of programs that provide state-of-the-industry updates on everything from safe disposal of pharmaceutical waste and best practices for providing anesthesia in an ASC to quality improvement, maximizing the use of information technology in the ASC environment, the safe use of social media and more. Countries that have access to the live and recorded programs include: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and United States

To see a full list of ASCA's 2014 webinars and access the live programs that are still scheduled to be presented this year, go to www.ascassociation.org/webinars. To order a recorded program, go to www.ascassociation.org/learningcenter and select the "Digital Resources" button on that page.

You Are Invited: ASCA's Annual Meeting in Nashville, Tennessee, May 14–17, 2014

ASCA 2014, the annual meeting of the US-based Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (ASCA), will take place at the Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee, May 14-17, 2014. Each year, this meeting continues to attract the largest audience of any ambulatory surgery center (ASC) meeting in the US and offers the largest exhibit hall focused exclusively on products and services for ambulatory surgery providers. Register now and join the more than 2,200 expected to attend.

This year's program will feature more than 65 sessions, multiple networking opportunities and more than 170 exhibitors. The expert faculty will include specialists on patient safety, sterile processing, infection prevention, quality improvement, anesthesia in the outpatient setting, business management, US coding and billing practices, US marketplace trends, future planning, US regulatory requirements, human resources, clinical excellence and more all with an eye on what matters most to health professionals who provide ambulatory surgical care. Attendees will include ASC professionals with firsthand experience in every aspect of ASC operations from across the US and abroad. For a complete copy of the meeting program, go to www.ascassociation.org/ASCA2014.

Online and fax registration information is available at:

www.ascassociation.org/ASCA2014/Registration

We would certainly help make arrangements for those interested in attending!

Arnaldo Valedon, ASCA

Calendar

India – April 19-20, 2014

The 7th National Conference, ADSCON 2014, will be held in Chennai. Dr. Ian Jackson, President, IAAS and Dr. William Norton, Editor, The Journal of One Day Surgery, UK, have agreed to join us and share their experiences in Day Surgery. For more information: www.daysurgeryindia.org

United States - April 24-27, 2014

The Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia SAMBA 29th Annual Meeting will be held at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront, Baltimore, MD. For more information: www.sambahq.org

Spain – May 3, 2014

The IAAS Executive-Committee Meeting and General Assembly will take place in Barcelona.

Portugal – May 18-20, 2014

The 3rd Iberian Congress - 8th APCA Congress will be held in Troia. Main Congress topics include: Pelvic floor surgery new advances, Crisis influence in DS developing in Europe, Future of DS in Spain, DS in Pediatrics, DS in Portugal challenges and objectives, Laparoscopy in DS, Myths and rituals in DS.

Spain – October 2-3, 2014

10th National Symposia of ASECOMA will be held in Las Palmas (Canary Islands)

United States - October 10, 2014

The Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia SAMBA 2014 Mid Year Meeting will be held in New Orleans, LA, the day before ANESTHESIOLOGY, the American Society of Anesthesiology's annual meeting. For more information: SAMBA : Society for Ambulatory Anesthesia - Home



IAAS 11th World Congress, Barcelona 2015 May 10-12 . XII Spanish National Congress and 4th Iberian Congress

ASECOMA will be the host of the next IAAS International Congress. Drafting of the Scientific Program is in progress by National and International Committees according to IAAS Executive Committee rules. We are making every effort to organize a congress with a high scientific level combined with a rich social program. Our aim is to make you feel comfortable in Barcelona.

At the same time as the IAAS congress, we will be organizing the 12th Congress of the Spanish Association and the 4th Iberian Congress on Ambulatory Surgery with the Portuguese Association.

The Local Organizing Committee is chaired by Dr. Miquel Prats, President of the Spanish Association. The venue of the congress will probably be at Barcelona International Convention Center. It is located near the seaside in north of the city with excellent airport access. We have a wide range of accommodation possibilities: 4.800 hotel rooms within walking distance from Congress Venue, economical and all categories are included.

Barcelona is the capital of the Autonomous Community of Catalonia. It is a first-class tourist destination and the ideal setting for meetings and congresses. We have excellent weather in the month of May but the setting means you can choose between going to the beach or going skiing one and a half hours away from the city.

We hope to see you in Barcelona in 2015

More information be posted, as it becomes available, on the congress website.

Congress office information: www.asecoma.org; www.inspiranetwork.com; fax +34915470507

Fernando Docobo, ASECOMA

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We all recognise that recall of post-operative information given to our patients can be variable and inexact and indeed several studies over the years have addressed this issue. In this edition we publish an observational study from Epsom, England evaluating memory recall after day case arthroscopy in 96 patients. The authors suggest that memory impairment may be significant for up to 2 hours after anaesthesia which indicates the importance to all of us of providing written post-operative instructions to our patients in addition to discussing the outcome of any procedure with both patient and carer!

Our second paper relates to patient satisfaction questionnaires. It is a fundamental principle in day surgery units to evaluate patient satisfaction. While a single audit of opinion is of little value, repeated audits over time can be an invaluable tool in assessing trends in patient outcomes. Often these measured outcomes are metrics required by the service provider and may not necessarily reflect the

patients' perception of quality. From Torquay, England, comes an audit highlighting the importance of allowing the patient the opportunity to comment on their experience rather than only answering the set questions asked. The authors added the open question 'how can we further improve your day surgery experience?' Of 315 patients completing the survey, 94.6% expressed positive remarks regarding their care but interestingly, over 7% of patients commented about outcome measures such as inadequate waiting facilities or excessive perioperative waiting times which were not part of the standard questionnaire. It just goes to prove that sometimes the most revealing outcomes are found not in what you ask, but in what you don't ask!

Over the years, we have received and reviewed many submissions on day case laparoscopic cholecystectomy. This paper from Chesterfield, England serves to remind us that while day case laparoscopic cholecystectomy may now be routine for many, for others, the learning curve continues. An interesting comment from the authors relates to drain insertion and failure to discharge on the day. We would certainly concur with this but suggest as others have done that removal of the drain is possible after a few hours, allowing the patient to still be discharged the same day.

Finally, from Townsville, Queensland we have a paper addressing the issue of whether early or late mobilisation and activity following ambulatory urethral sling surgery for stress incontinence provides the better outcome. A prospective study of 50 patients demonstrated no difference between the groups suggesting no contraindication to early mobilisation. It is nice to see yet another study of day case surgery proving the advantage of returning to normality as soon as possible rather than artificially delaying normal patients' recovery.

Doug McWhinnie, Editor

Day case laparoscopic cholecystectomy, room for improvement: A United Kingdom District General Hospital experience

Ramez Antakia, Sameh Abd Elsayed, Wissam Al-Jundi, Ryan Dias & Krish Ravi

The effects of general anaesthesia on memory recall following day-case knee arthroscopy

S. El Shafie, J. Craik, AM. Day, J. Desborough, N. Bardakos & R.Twyman

The Role of Patient Satisfaction Surveys to Improve Patient Care in Day Surgery

R.R. Thurairatnam, G.S. Mathew, J. Montgomery & M. Stocker

Does early return to physical activity affect the cure rates for mid-urethral sling surgery?

Jay Iyer & Ajay Rane

[Click here if you wish to download the Journal](#)

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