

Stephen Shochat MD, President  
St Jude Children's Research Hospital  
262 Danny Thomas Place  
Memphis, TN38105  
Tennessee  
USA  
Phone: +390 498 213681  
Fax: +390 498 211781  
[Stephen.shochat@stjude.org](mailto:Stephen.shochat@stjude.org)



Roly Squire FRCS, Secretary  
Department of Paediatric Surgery  
The General Infirmary at Leeds  
Great George Street  
Leeds LS1 3EX  
United Kingdom  
Phone: +44 113 3926227  
Fax: +44 113 3925827  
[roly.squire@leedsth.nhs.uk](mailto:roly.squire@leedsth.nhs.uk)

Jörg Fuchs, MD  
Treasurer  
University Hospital  
Department of Pediatric Surgery  
Hoppe-Seyler Strasse 03  
D-72076 TUEBINGEN  
Germany  
Phone: +49 7101 298 6621  
Fax: +49 7101 298 4046  
E-mail address:  
[joerg.fuchs@med.uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:joerg.fuchs@med.uni-tuebingen.de)

**Executive Committee Members:**

Steven Warmann  
(Chairman, Programme Committee)  
Tuebingen, Germany

Simone Abib  
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Sajid Qureshi  
Mumbai, India

Sabine Sarnacki  
Paris, France

Giovanni Cecchetto  
(Past President)  
Padua, Italy

**Ex Officio:**

Piotr Czuderna, Gdansk,  
Poland  
(SIOP Scientific Committee Representative)

## **IPSO Newsletter: January 2015**

Dear Friends

I hope that 2015 is showing signs that it will meet your best expectations. Welcome to the first IPSO newsletter of the year.

This newsletter includes:

- Reports from the 2014 Annual Congress, held in Toronto in October
- Minutes of the 2014 AGM
- Photos from the IPSO Dinner
- Plans for the 2015 Congress in Toronto
- How to apply for the IPSO Scholarship
- Vacancies on the Executive Committee
- Messages from your Secretary & President

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**The 2015 IPSO Congress will be held in Cape Town on 8 & 9 October. The abstract deadline is 18 March 2015**

Please read page 2 of this newsletter for further details

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***Remember: Only paid-up IPSO members get the discounted rate***

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**The Education Day is on Wednesday 7 October: make sure you arrive in Cape Town early enough to attend**

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**Once more IPSO is offering a Scholarship to help a member attend the Annual Congress**

Please turn to page 7 for details

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## 2014 IPSO Annual Congress

Toronto  
23-24 October 2014  
Sheraton Centre



The 2014 IPSO Annual Congress was held in Toronto in October.



The meeting was very successful, in no small part thanks to the attention of Ted Gerstle, our local organiser. The occasion started with an Education Day at Toronto Sick Kids' new learning and research center, followed by the 2 days of the annual congress held in the Sheraton Center.

This is a picture of Ted (left) receiving his local organiser's certificate, and a vote of thanks, from our new IPSO President, Steve Shochat.

### **Thank you Ted!**

Later in this newsletter are some more comprehensive reports from:

- The congress
- The Pre-meeting Education Day
- The Annual IPSO AGM
- The IPSO Dinner
- The IPSO Scholarship

But first.....Now is the time to prepare your abstracts for the 2015 annual congress in Cape Town, and to start making your travel plans.

## 2015 IPSO Annual Congress



This is the first time that the meeting has been held in sub-Saharan Africa, and I am sure that many of you will want to attend this landmark occasion. Make plans to arrive early enough to attend the Pre-meeting Educational Symposium on Wednesday 7 October, and while you are in South Africa why not arrange a visit to a game park, or some hiking in the Drakensberg.

### **Important dates for your diary are as follows:**

10 March 2015: Deadline for abstract submission  
7 July 2015: Deadline for "early-bird" registration:

### **The meeting dates are as follows:**

Wednesday 7 October: Pre-meeting Education Day  
Thursday 8 October: IPSO Congress Day 1  
AGM  
Friday 9 October: IPSO Congress Day 2 (SIOP Day 1)  
Annual IPSO Dinner  
Saturday 10 October: SIOP Congress Day 2  
SIOP/IPSOP/PROS symposium  
Sunday 11 October: SIOP Congress Day 3



Sharon Cox  
IPSO local organiser in  
Cape Town

**Unfortunately at present there is no process for registering for the pre-meeting Education Day** on the congress website, but Sharon Cox, our local organiser, is setting up a process on a local website [www.surgicalskills.co.za](http://www.surgicalskills.co.za). We recommend that you keep this web address for future reference, so that when the process is up-and-running you will be ready. Information will always be provided on the IPSO website as soon as it is available. The main thing now is to make sure that you arrive in Cape Town in time to attend. We expect the education day will be free for delegates registered with the Congress. The Education Day is aimed primarily at young surgeons and surgical trainees, but will be of enormous benefit to all surgeons who specialise in paediatric surgical oncology. You can register for both the Education Day and the IPSO/SIOP Annual Congress on-line using the congress website <http://siop2015.kenes.com>

## **IPSO Education Day in Toronto**

*A report from Dr Amos Loh:*

The IPSO Pre-Congress Education Day this year was held on Tuesday 21 Oct 2014, at the Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning, a beautiful education and research facility in downtown Toronto.

Following a warm welcome from Dr Ted Gerstle, the local organizing committee chairperson, the day's programme got quickly underway. The first session was entitled "Fertility preservation in pediatric cancer", and featured Drs Armando Lorenzo and Abha Gupta, respectively, providing a surgeon's and an oncologist's perspective on the issue. Armando gave an insightful presentation on the indications, methods and limitations of testicular biopsies, electroejaculation, ovarian cortex harvesting, and other procedures. Abha discussed the potential impact of adjuvant therapies on male and female fertility, and provided recommendations on best approaches in pre- and post-pubertal boys and girls, according to their respective risk for infertility (Loren et al, J Clin Oncol 2013).



The day's second session addressed the topic of innovation in pediatric surgery. Featuring Dr James Drake and the team from the Centre for Image Guided Innovation and Therapeutic Intervention, the session showcased their many technological advances. The overview highlighted their use of high-intensity focused ultrasound for ablation of bony tumors, and innovations in robotics for pediatric surgery applications.

After lunch, Drs Rodrigo Romao and Armando led the debate on open versus laparoscopic nephrectomy for Wilms tumor. The heated discussion addressed preoperative risk factors and patient selection for either procedure. The consequences of inadvertent spillage from laparoscopic nephrectomy was a key point that was raised. Dr Romao reported similar rates of local recurrence in their series of laparoscopic and open nephrectomies, as compared to those of Varlet et al. and Duarte et al. Several recommendations for open nephrectomy were suggested (see box).

### Recommendations for open nephrectomy in Wilms tumor

- Proximity to SMA
- Thrombus
- Significant lymph node involvement
- Attachment to adjacent organs eg pancreas
- Vascular encasement
- Significant displacement of vessels
- Risk of rupture

The last session of the day was a difficult case tumor board, chaired by Dr Chui Chan Hon. A selection of cases from the Toronto experience were debated including multiply recurrent Wilms tumors and other challenging scenarios. The session did not fail to stir up much debate and participation from the audience.

A rainy Toronto evening concluded the day's proceedings.

*Amos Loh, IPSO member*

## **2014 Annual Congress Report**

*A report from Hany Gabra:*

The highlight of October 2014 was the IPSO Annual Congress in Toronto. It was a great opportunity for IPSO surgeons to meet in Toronto to catch up socially and scientifically. The meeting was preceded by the IPSO Educational Day on Tuesday which involved a lot of exciting topics. The attendance by the surgeons was very good and the scientific sessions at the Congress and the presentations proved to be of a high quality.

On day one there were sessions on pulmonary manifestations of paediatric solid tumours, sarcomas, and surgical techniques, followed by the problem case session. Highlights from the first morning session included: Sabine Artan from Paris, presenting on the management of metastatic lung nodules after chemotherapy; Jaime Shalkow, from Mexico, presenting on the use of clamshell thoracotomy as an alternative approach for bilateral pulmonary metastasectomy; data from SIOP studies between 1993-2001 showing the key role of surgery in the treatment of pulmonary relapses in Wilm's Tumour; showing a 5% incidence of pulmonary relapse after treatment for Wilms tumour, but overall survival rate of 64% in these patients; and finally a presentation by Paul Losty from Liverpool, regarding the survival rates with lung metastases in paediatric solid tumours and the impact of evidence-based surgical management.

The second morning session included an excellent presentation from Andrea Haayes-Jordan from Dallas, about the local control of diffuse Intra-abdominal and pelvic rhabdomyosarcoma using cyto-reductive surgery and hyperthermic intraperitoneal chemotherapy (HIPEC). During the rest of the session there were quite a few interesting papers about the role of local therapy in prostatic rabdo, using both surgery and brachytherapy.

In the afternoon the surgical technique session included the presentation by the IPSO Scholarship Winner, Gehad Taha from Egypt, about the thoracoscopic assisted resection of paediatric chest wall tumours, and also an interesting discussion following the paper from St Jude's about the safety and diagnostic accuracy of tissue biopsies in children with cancer. The day ended with some interesting discussion in the problem case session.

Day 2 included the 'Best of IPSO' Session, with interesting presentations about Wilms Tumours which do not respond to preoperative chemotherapy (Poland), a report from the SIOP data regarding Wilms Tumour with intravascular extension. The session was ended with a presentation on adrenocortical carcinoma in children using the national cancer database in the USA, and showing better survival than in adults. The late morning session included papers on surgical management for Stage 1A lymphocyte-predominant Hodgkin lymphoma; and the long term outcome for IVC thrombosis. The afternoon session involved the IPSO/PROS Symposium discussing Neurovascular Involvement by Solid Tumours. This was an overview of the role of surgery and radiotherapy to manage neurovascular involvement in different solid tumours, including neuroblastoma, Wilm's and rhabdomyosarcoma. The day was ended by a Liver Tumour Session which included various interesting presentations: about the outcome of paediatric hepatocellular carcinoma; an excellent paper from India regarding the prognostic implication of multifocality in hepatoblastoma using data from a single centre.

The IPSO Keynote Lecture was given by Robert Shamberger, an excellent overview of Evidence Based Surgical Practice resulting from the Cooperative Group Trials. This was followed by interesting directions from the audience regarding evidence-based surgical practice in oncology.

Both Thursday & Friday mornings started with a Meet the Expert Session about difficult cases, with multidisciplinary discussion from surgeon, paediatric oncologist and radiation oncologist. This was a new theme for the meet the expert sessions, and was very well received.

On the Friday, day 2 of the SIOP congress, there was an excellent symposium about the local relapse in solid tumours. This was followed by a symposium entitled Interventional Radiology and the New Non-surgical Techniques in Paediatric Oncology. There were presentations from Spain about the role of ablation procedures in liver tumours, followed by a local presentation from Sick Kids describing the use of high intensity focused ultrasound causing coagulation necrosis of tumour cells. Following this talk the surgeons present suggested close collaboration between surgeons and the interventional radiologists to develop this new technique.

Once again many thanks from the team in Toronto regarding the fantastic venue and excellent presentations for the great time we had in Toronto.



*Hany Gabra, IPSO member*

## **2014 IPSO Scholarship**



Congratulations go to Dr Gehad Taha on the award of the inaugural IPSO scholarship, for his abstract "*Thoracoscopic assisted resection of pediatric chest wall tumors*". The prize supported Dr Taha's attendance at the meeting and the IPSO dinner. Please read about the 2015 IPSO Scholarship on page 7 of this newsletter.



## 2014 IPSO Prizes

As at previous meetings prizes were awarded for the best oral presentation and best poster. Congratulations go to:

- Dr Y Shi from Houston, Texas: "*Predictors of outcome in pediatric hepatocellular carcinoma: a review of the national cancer data base*" (best oral presentation)
- Dr K Kumar from Delhi, India: "*Management and long term outcomes of giant mediastinal germ cell tumors in children*" (best poster).

Thanks are due to our prize judges: Simone Abib & Sajid Qureshi (prize for oral presentation); Chan Hon Chui & Steven Warmann (prize for best poster)

## Minutes of 2014 AGM

Wednesday 22 October 2014

17.00-18.00

Venue: Ballroom East  
Sheraton Center  
Toronto, Canada

Chair: Giovanni Cecchetto, IPSO President

In attendance: 37 IPSO members

1. The President welcomed members to the meeting.
  2. The minutes from the IPSO Business Meeting held in Hong Kong 25 September 2013 were agreed and were signed off .
  3. The President introduced members of the Executive Committee, and gave a report regarding the activities of the Committee over the past year. He highlighted the introduction of monthly on-line Executive Committee meetings, which allowed a number of topics to be discussed and issues resolved, including:
    - The award of the first IPSO scholarship
    - Clarity regarding the requirements for members to stand for election to the EC
    - Improving our relationship with SIOP
    - Plans for increased IPSO involvement in SIOP regional meetings
    - The development and circulation of a formal IPSO Mission Statement
    - Development of a policy document to cover the use of the IPSO Logo
- Giovanni emphasised the improvements which have been made in communication with the IPSO membership, and expressed his hope that the changes made during his presidency would be a motivation for IPSO to continue to develop. He thanked all those involved in IPSO development over the past year, and offered special thanks to Chan Hon Chui (*see picture*) who stood down after four years as a member of the EC.
4. The Secretary, Roly Squire, gave a report which included:
    - Congratulations to Dr Gehad Ahmed who was awarded the inaugural IPSO Scholarship.
    - A reminder to IPSO members regarding the process for "Best of IPSO" abstract submissions.
    - A report on the current status of IPSO membership.
    - A summary of recommendations from Kenes regarding how we might expand our membership.
  5. The Treasurer, Jorg Fuchs, gave the financial report which demonstrated that the society is in good financial health, with a positive balance of approximately €40,000.
  6. Roly Squire gave a brief report on the IPSO website [www.ipsosurgeons.org](http://www.ipsosurgeons.org) asking for suggestions regarding how it could be improved. A number of ideas were suggested, including making it more interactive, with training modules, and links to other sites with educational material. More use could be made of the members-protected pages, including links to members' publications.
  7. Sharon Cox issued an invitation to Cape Town for the 2015 annual congress. In particular she wanted to encourage delegates to arrive in Cape Town early enough for the Educational Day on Wednesday 7 October.
  8. Steve Shochat presented the results of the poll of IPSO members which he had arranged on-line using Survey Monkey, which gave a clear mandate for the Executive Committee to develop on-line voting for membership of the EC, as well as on-line approval of the proposed policy for use of the IPSO logo. The members present at the AGM gave unanimous approval for this process to be used, including to vote on changes to the EC for 2014.
  9. The following nominations for one vacancy on the Executive Committee were announced, and will be subject to an on-line election\* immediately after the congress:
    - Sabine Sarnacki
    - Jaime Shalkow



(\*Sabine Sarnacki was subsequently elected following the on-line vote of the full membership)

Jörg Fuchs was re-elected for a 3rd term as Treasurer  
 Simone Abib was re-elected for a 2nd term on the Executive Committee  
 Confirmation of new IPSO Members

10.

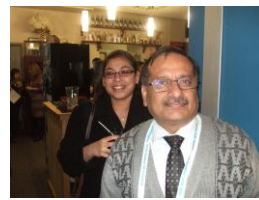
|                                  |                  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| Yuko ARAKI                       | (Tokyo)          | (Sponsors: Shochat, Davidoff)      |
| Sharon COX                       | (Cape Town)      | (Sponsors: Hadley, Squire)         |
| Ahmed ELGENDY                    | (Cairo)          | (Sponsors: Fuchs, Warmann)         |
| Ross FISHER                      | (Sheffield)      | (Sponsors: Squire, Walker)         |
| Benjamin DEL RIO HERNANDEZ       | (Panama)         | (Sponsors: Rao, Squire)            |
| Lucas KRAUEL                     | (Barcelona/MSK)  | (Sponsors: LaQuaglia, Squire)      |
| Pablo LEZAMA-DEL VALLE           | (Mexico City)    | (Sponsors: Shochat, Rao)           |
| Mauricio MACEDO                  | (Sao Paulo)      | (Sponsors: Abib, Squire)           |
| Lucas MATTHYSSENS                | (Nijmegen)       | (Sponsors: Wijnen, Rogers)         |
| Anup MOHTA                       | (Delhi)          | (Sponsors: Agarwala, Qureshi)      |
| Nelson PICHE                     | (Montreal)       | (Sponsors: LaQuaglia, Karpelowsky) |
| Carlos SANCHEZ MONTENEGRO        | (Madrid)         | (Sponsors: Abad-Calvo, Squire)     |
| David RODEBERG                   | (Greenville, NC) | (Sponsors: Shochat, Davidoff)      |
| Joanna STANWELL                  | (London)         | (Sponsors: Squire, Kiely)          |
| Sheila TERWISSCHA van SCHELTINGA | (Rotterdam)      | (Sponsors: Wijnen, van Baren)      |
| Galo VEINTEMILLA                 | (Bogota)         | (Sponsors: Rao, Squire)            |

11. Following completion of business the Presidential Chains of Office were handed over by Giovanni Cecchetto to Steve Shochat (*see picture below*). Giovanni expressed his thanks for the support of IPSO members, and stated that it had been a privilege to be IPSO's President. Steve thanked Giovanni for the success of his term of office, and expressed a desire to continue the good work.
12. The meeting was adjourned.



### The 2014 IPSO Dinner

The 2014 IPSO dinner was held at an excellent Italian Restaurant near to The Hospital for Sick Kids. Ted Gerstle had arranged for us to take over the restaurant which allowed for a very relaxed and enjoyable evening. The pictures below reflect this, and highlight the true pleasure of being an IPSO member, and of having such good friends from the global paediatric surgical community. Thank you, everyone, for making Toronto such a good meeting, and the IPSO dinner such a pleasure.



## **2015 IPSO Scholarship**

### **Eligibility & benefits**

In 2014 the IPSO Executive Committee launched the first IPSO scholarship, and the scholarship will be awarded again in 2015. It is intended that the scholarship assists a young surgeon in attending the 2015 Congress. The precise details regarding how to apply, eligibility, and the terms and conditions, are available on the IPSO website [www.ipsosurgeons.org](http://www.ipsosurgeons.org)

The scholarship will include:

- Free registration for the Annual Congress in Cape Town
- Up to €1500 towards travel and accommodation
- A ticket for the annual IPSO Dinner in Cape Town

**To be eligible a surgeon must be aged 40 years or younger, must come from a low or low-middle income country, and must have an abstract accepted for oral presentation at the Annual Congress in Cape Town.**

The scholarship will be awarded to the eligible applicant who has the highest abstract score. Abstract scoring is entirely blind with regard to the author, so we believe that this will ensure fairness & transparency.

### **How to apply**

We expect that surgeons who are submitting an abstract for the meeting will have the opportunity to register to be considered for the scholarship at the time of abstract submission, and it will be important at the same time to send proof of eligibility to the IPSO secretary at the same time to ensure that your application is valid.

## **From the Secretary**

It has been a real honour to serve IPSO as her secretary since 2009, and at the AGM in Cape Town it is time for me to hand over the reins to someone else. This is a good opportunity for IPSO members to consider whether they would like to serve on the Executive Committee.

I can accept nominations for positions on the Executive Committee at any time although the main call for expressions of interest will be in the July newsletter. A nominee must be sponsored by another IPSO member, and must be able to meet the commitments of the position, which include being available to take part in the monthly webex meetings.

At present it appears that I will be asking for nominations for the positions of Secretary and President-elect; but there may also be a vacancy for a member without portfolio, and so anyone wanting to join the EC should submit their nomination in advance of the Cape Town meeting in case a position becomes available.

The IPSO Executive (*pictured below in Toronto thanking Giovanni Cecchetto for his leadership over the last 2 years*) has been working hard over the last year, holding monthly on-line meetings, and making progress on a number of fronts. These have been highlighted in Giovanni's presidential address at the AGM in Toronto. One of these developments is the use of on-line voting, and so one of the current activities of the Executive Committee is to update the IPSO statutes in order to recognise these changes.



IPSO has an expanding membership, but the Executive Committee is always very keen to encourage more members from more countries. We are shortly to launch a small brochure to improve our profile and advertise our activities. Please look out for this.

### **You, as an IPSO member, have a role to play.**

We know that many surgeons who would benefit enormously from joining our organisation do not know of its existence. So when you attend regional or international meetings please promote IPSO: distribute the new IPSO brochure; tell your colleagues about IPSO; direct them to the IPSO website [www.ipsosurgeons.org](http://www.ipsosurgeons.org) and encourage them to join; and please feel free to contact me at any time [secretary@ipsosurgeons.org](mailto:secretary@ipsosurgeons.org)

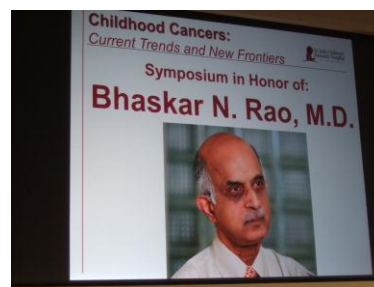


## **Members news**

Quite a few IPSO members attended the Symposium in Honor of Dr Bhaskar Rao, which was held at St Jude's Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, just after the Toronto congress. Dinners were held both before and after the symposium, and I am sure that nobody regretted taking the detour to Memphis on the way home from Toronto. The main topic of the symposium was looking towards the future, and new developments in paediatric surgical oncology; appropriate in view of the role Dr Rao has played in getting us to where we are now.

Thank you Bhaskar for your support for IPSO over so many years.

In his speech at the dinner Dr Rao emphasised that he is not retiring, so we look forward to seeing him at many future congresses.



## **Paediatric Surgical Oncology Masterclasses**

Members from the Indian sub-continent should already be aware of the masterclass which is being held in New Delhi in late February. Further details can be found on the website, or by contacting the organiser, Sandeep Agarwala at [masterclasspedoncol2015@gmail.com](mailto:masterclasspedoncol2015@gmail.com)

It is likely that there will be the usual masterclass at the annual EUPSA congress, which this year is being held in Ljubljana, Slovenia from 17-20 June 2015. More information will be put on the website when available.

## **IPSO website**

**When you read this newsletter why not take the opportunity to have a look at the IPSO website [www.ipsosurgeons.org](http://www.ipsosurgeons.org) and let me know what you think. I try to keep the information up-to-date, and relevant to IPSO members.**

The Executive Committee is currently reviewing our on-line profile, and we are considering how to upgrade the website. This is an important opportunity for you, our members, to let us know what you want. We are also collaborating with SIOP over their website development, and we hope that this collaboration will enhance the value of membership to both organisations.

Please continue to use the website to find out the latest news about IPSO events, and in particular about the arrangements for the Annual Congress in Cape Town in October. Prior to the congress the website is the easiest way for the Executive Committee to keep in touch with you.

For the last few years I have been trying to get as many of the presentations from the congress on to the website (the password-protected members' pages) and I will endeavour upload as many of the Toronto presentations as I can. If you want to have a look to see how I am doing:

The generic username is: **IPSO**

The generic password is: **member**

Please note- these are different from your *membership* username & password, which are used when you renew your membership.



*Roly Squire*

## **President's Corner**

*It is an honor and privilege to be serving as your president. The last year was a very busy, productive and exciting time for IPSO under the leadership of Dr. Giovanni Cecchetto. An online meeting of the IPSO Executive Committee was established and has been meeting on a monthly basis. A list of our accomplishments were reported by Dr. Cecchetto at our annual business meeting in Toronto and included the establishment of an IPSO scholarship, an updating of the IPSO mission statement, a document concerning the use of the IPSO logo, the establishment of on - line voting for candidates for IPSO offices and policy changes, and IPSO guidelines for SIOP regional meetings. In addition, the IPSO Executive Committee met with the SIOP Board in Toronto to discuss areas of mutual interests which included joint marketing, IPSO participation in the SIOP regional meetings and assistance in the updating of the SIOP website.*





*I plan to continue the momentum that has been established over the last year and we will continue with monthly meetings of the IPSO Executive Committee. There are a number of new initiatives that will be considered over the coming year. A new members committee has been created to gain a new perspective concerning the IPSO organization including the annual program. Recommendations will be presented to the IPSO Executive Committee in the coming months. In addition, we will be updating the IPSO statutes and bylaws. A program committee has been formed to critically looking at the IPSO program at our annual meeting. The IPSO website will also be evaluated concerning possible improvements. We are actively working on increasing our visibility in the scientific community by participating in an active marketing program which will be unveiled over the next year. One of my goals is to significantly increase the IPSO membership globally.*

*Since the strength of any organization is its membership I would like to encourage surgeons and oncologists to recommend new members to our Secretary. Membership application can be found on the IPSO website. ([www.ipsosurgeons.org](http://www.ipsosurgeons.org)) The IPSO Executive Committee is committed to reaching out to the membership for increased input. I look forward to an exciting year ahead and would welcome any advice and comments on how we can improve our organization. I have established a special e-mail just for IPSO issues and look forward to hearing from you. ([ipso.shochat@aol.com](mailto:ipso.shochat@aol.com))*

*In addition to our IPSO newsletter, I will periodically be in touch with the IPSO membership to briefly bring you up to date concerning areas of interest about our organization and the progress on a number of the initiatives as described above.*

*Steve Shochat, IPSO President*

