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Tuebingen, Germany

Chan Hon Chui
Singapore

Sajid Qureshi
Mumbai, India

Simone Abib
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Stephen Shochat
(President-Elect)
Memphis, USA

Ex Officio:

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

IPSO Newsletter: January 2014

Dear Friends

Welcome to the first 2014 Newsletter. I hope that the New Year is full of hope for you all.

In this newsletter you can read about:

- A review of the 2013 Congress, held in Hong Kong in September
- Minutes of the 2013 AGM
- Changes to the IPSO Executive Committee
- Plans for the 2014 Congress in Toronto
- Introduction of the IPSO Scholarship
- The forthcoming symposium in honour of Bhaskar Rao
- Details of forthcoming conferences in Tuebingen (liver tumours) & Cologne (neuroblastoma)
- Messages from your Secretary, President-Elect & President

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The 2014 IPSO Congress will be held in Toronto from 22 to 23 October. The abstract deadline is 18 March 2014
Please read pages 4/5 of this newsletter for further details

Remember: Paid-up IPSO members get a discounted rate

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The Education Day is on Tuesday 21 October: make sure you arrive in Toronto early enough to attend.

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Exciting News- The birth of the IPSO Scholarship is announced, to help a young surgeon get to Toronto

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After the IPSO Congress why not go home via the Bhaskar Rao Celebratory Symposium: details on page 5.

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On pages 5&6 are the details of the Annual Tuebingen Solid Tumor Symposium, and ANR (Advances in Neuroblastoma Research), both to be held in March

2013 IPSO Annual Congress

Hong Kong
24-26 September 2013



A highlight of September 2013 was the IPSO Annual Congress in Hong Kong. As usual it was a terrific opportunity to renew old friendships, and Hong Kong was an excellent venue. The meeting was very nearly disrupted by the weather, but we just got away with it, and so by the end the attendance was excellent. The scientific sessions at the Congress, and the presentations at the pre-meeting education day were of the highest quality. More than 250 delegates attended some of the sessions.



Many thanks go to Paul Tam for the excellent job he did as our local organiser, seen here at the IPSO dinner with our President.

Tim Rogers writes>>>

I had a fantastic time in Hong Kong and wish to thank the Hong Kong IPSO organisers for all they did to make it so worthwhile.

I nearly did not get onto the aircraft when the news broke that Typhoon Usagi was heading in the direction of Hong Kong. I feel for those who were affected by or died as a result of the storm, but am glad it did not wreak havoc in Hong Kong, such a densely populated city.

The people of Hong Kong were very welcoming; from the stranger who came up and offered to help when I was looking lost; the anonymous man who paid my bus ride when he saw I had no change and to the surgical organising committee who put together such an excellent scientific and social programme. Professor Tam and his team, behind the scenes, did a superb job with the scientific programme and the social events.

The pre-conference education day was held at the University of Hong Kong giving us stunning views of The Bay. The sessions broadly covered liver and pancreatic surgery as well as a very good session on vascular anomalies.

The main conference had presentations covering all the major surgical oncology topics with notable sessions on nephron-sparing surgery, stage 4S neuroblastoma and long-term outcomes after conservative surgery; as well as brachytherapy for bladder/prostate rhabdomyosarcoma. Jan Godzinski delivered the key-note lecture on the role of conservative surgery, emphasising the numerous points with instructive operative images. The difficult cases session was very worthwhile and entertaining with lively participation from the audience.



The highlight for me had to be the IPSO seafood dinner, preceded by a boat trip in The Bay. I have never eaten such fresh and delicious fish. I'm sure this evening will go down in memory as one of the best meals the IPSO surgeons have shared. I enjoyed meeting and talking with surgeons from around the world and catching up with friends and colleagues.

Once again, thank you to the Hong Kong team for a fantastic few days.

Tim Rogers

IPSO prizes

As previously, IPSO awarded two prizes in Hong Kong: best oral presentation and best poster. There was plenty of quality to choose from, so the judge's task was not easy. Many congratulations go to the 2 prizewinners, Tim Rogers and Rachna Kapoor, who were announced during the IPSO dinner.

Best oral presentation: [Timothy Rogers](#): Patterns of relapse in boys with non metastatic paratesticular rhabdomyosarcoma (RMS) treated in SIOP MMT 84, 89, 95 studies utilising a non-surgical approach to lymph node staging.

Best poster presentation: [Rachna Kapoor](#): Prevalence of C-KIT mutation in neuroblastoma

IPSO AGM

IPSO held our Annual Business Meeting in Hong Kong. Unfortunately the adverse weather conditions at the start of the week meant that our President, Giovanni Cecchetto, was delayed in Italy, and so in his absence the immediate Past-president, Dan Aronson, stepped into the breach to stand in as Chairman. Giovanni was able to give a brief Presidential address at the annual IPSO dinner, after awarding the IPSO prizes.



Three new officers were elected:



← Steve Shochat was elected as President-Elect



← Piotr Czauderna was elected to succeed Steve as IPSO Representative on the SIOP Scientific Committee



← Sajid Qereshi was elected on to the Executive

Minutes of 2013 AGM

17.00-18.00, Wednesday 25 September 2013
Theatre 1, Hong Kong Convention & Business Centre, Hong Kong

Present: 31 IPSO members
Chair: Dan Aronson (Past president)

Apologies: Giovanni Cecchetto (President)
Jörg Fuchs (Treasurer)

1. Welcome from the Chair: Dan Aronson explained our President's unexpected absence due to the typhoon alert earlier in the week, and welcomed those members who had been able to attend despite adversity. He explained that Giovanni intended to attend the IPSO dinner, and so would be able to address the membership there.
2. The minutes from the 2012 IPSO Business Meeting, held in London on 6 October 2012 were accepted, and signed off.
3. Report on behalf of the President: Dan Aronson addressed two matters: transparency of the IPSO Executive Board; IPSO masterclasses. Regarding transparency, the Past-President recognised on behalf of the Board communication received from members over the nomination and election of officers, and observed that all positions for appointment in 2013 had been announced according to our statutes in the IPSO newsletter, encouraging active members to make a nomination. He emphasised that the Board would like to encourage members to make nominations in future, so that we can have enough candidates to require open and transparent elections at the AGM. He asked any members who remain concerned about the process to speak to members of the Board, who will be happy to discuss/recommend changes to ensure that IPSO is a fully democratic organisation. Dan informed members about the positive feedback that we have received from the IPSO Masterclasses, and also that in place of payment for their time the IPSO members who comprise the Faculty have agreed that 50% of any profits accruing from the provision on masterclasses should be given to IPSO, and this is a significant factor in the recommendation of the Executive Board to provide an IPSO scholarship (discussed later) to help junior surgeons attend future congresses.
4. Report on behalf of the Treasurer: the annual financial report was presented by the IPSO Secretary, who showed the balance sheet for the IPSO bank account which had been prepared by the Treasurer, and also a separate report that had been prepared subsequently, to include all IPSO's financial assets, including the membership income which is currently held in a separate account by our secretariat, Kenes International, and the income due from the Masterclasses, mentioned above. The balance in the current account is €19,664, showing a deficit of €5,201 since the 2012 annual financial statement presented in London. However there is €13,971 Euro in the Kenes holding A/c, and more than £3,000 is anticipated from the masterclasses, so that IPSO's overall financial assets are approximately €35,800. This suggests that the organisation is financially in good health, and based on the current membership we can expect a minimum net income of > €3,000 per annum, allowing discussion about the use of this income to help achieve one of the stated aims of our organisation, to improve the global surgical care of children with cancer.
5. IPSO scholarships: the Secretary announced that, as a consequence of the positive financial report, the Executive Board is recommending that a Scholarship should be instituted in 2014, to help a junior surgeon attend the annual congress. The Executive Board are asking for advice from the membership regarding the content of the scholarship, and the criteria to be used to select a candidate. Initial thoughts from the Board were outlined, and there was discussion from the floor. The details will be finalised by the Board, taking the input from members into account. It was agreed that a single scholarship should be provided in 2014.
6. Membership report: the Secretary presented a membership report drawn up by Laura Kennedy, on behalf of Kenes. The report showed that IPSO membership is showing a steady increase, having been in decline as a result of members not paying dues. IPSO has strong global representation, and we would like to improve this further. Members present were asked to consider recommending IPSO membership to suitable surgeons in their own countries in cities or regions where there is no current IPSO representation. The Secretary has been asked by the Board to investigate other ways of informing surgeons of IPSO's existence, such as writing to officers of national paediatric surgical organisations.

7. Changes to the IPSO Statutes & By-laws: the Secretary gave a brief overview of proposed changes to the statutes that have been previously circulated to the membership in the newsletter, in accordance with the current rules of the society. These changes are necessary to address the new on-line membership application process, and to address discrepancies between the statutes and current practice with regard to appointment of the Programme Director and the representative to the SIOP Scientific Committee. Members were asked to approve the changes, and there was unanimous agreement, so these changes will be signed off by the President, and will come into effect immediately.
8. Report from the Webmaster: Roly Squire asked members to look at the website, and recommend changes. He also asked if an active member would like to consider taking over as webmaster at some time in the not-too-distant future.
9. Arrangements for Toronto 2014: Ted Gerstle, who will be IPSO local organiser at the 2014 annual congress in Toronto, introduced himself, and invited members to attend.
10. Election to Executive Council 2013:
 - a. Steve Shochat was the only nomination for President-elect, and was confirmed in this position by members present
 - b. Steven Warmann was re-elected to his second term on the Executive Board & Programme Director by members present.
 - c. There were 2 nominations for IPSO Representative on the SIOP Scientific Committee: Jan Godzinski & Piotr Czauderna. This position has previously been appointed by the Executive Board, and the board recommended that both candidates would be very suitable for the position, and so the decision should be left to the membership. Piotr Czauderna was elected by secret ballot of members present.
 - d. There were 3 nominations for a single position on the Executive Board, resulting from Sandeep Agarwala completing the maximum 2 terms: Peter Ehrlich, Sajid Qureshi & Sushmita Bhatnagar. Sajid Qureshi was elected by secret ballot of the members present.
11. The Chair thanked Sandeep for his work as an officer of IPSO, and Steve Shochat for his efforts representing IPSO on the SIOP Scientific Committee. He congratulated the new IPSO Officers.
12. Introduction of new IPSO Members: during the above elections the new IPSO members for 2013 were recommended to the meeting, and their membership was approved by members present.
 - Romi DAS GUPTA (Sponsors: Morreau, Nightingale)
 - Theodorus DIOYSIS (Sponsors: Okoye, Squire)
 - Robert DOUSEK (Sponsors: Carachi, Nightingale)
 - Ted GERSTLE (Sponsors: Aronson, Carachi)
 - Moaied HASSAN (Sponsors: Squire, Aronson)
 - Eiso HIYAMI (Sponsors: Kaneko, Squire)
 - Michele ILARI (Sponsors: Cecchetto, Cozzi)
 - Zoltan JENOVARI (Sponsors: Carachi, Squire)
 - Norihiko KITAGAWA (Sponsors: Squire, Kaneko)
 - Amos LOH (Sponsors: Shochat, Davidoff)
 - Peter MATTEI (Sponsors: Dall'Igna, Cecchetto)
 - Abdulrasheed NASIR (Sponsors: Hadley, Squire)
 - Fazal MOUMAN (Sponsors: Shochat, Squire)
 - Abid QAZI (Sponsors: Powis, Squire)
 - Rodrigo RIBEIRO (Sponsors: Abib, Hayes-Jordan)
 - Emmanuel TOWU (Sponsors: Okoye, Holmes)
 - Lideke VAN DER STEEG (Sponsors: Heij, Wijnen)
 - Calogero VIRGONE (Sponsors: Cecchetto, Dall'Igna)
 - Jim WILDE (Sponsors: Heij, Aronson)
 - Nikolaos ZAVRAS (Sponsors: Squire, Cecchetto)
13. Any other business
 - a. Sushmita Bhatnagar asked if it would be possible for IPSO members to have a membership number. The Secretary pointed out that Kenes have given every member a membership number to help with the collection of annual dues, and that it would be confusing if members had any other numbers. There are no plans for the membership number to be used for any other purposes, but members could look up their details in the membership directory at any time, using the link on the IPSO website, their email address, and their personal password. There is a mechanism for retrieving a forgotten password. It is members responsibility for keeping their entry in the directory up-to-date, in particular their email address.
 - b. It was confirmed that there is an agreement with Kenes that members attending the Congress could pay their dues for the following year at the congress itself, and the Secretary agreed to ensure that this process continues.
 - c. Steven Warmann drew the attention of all present to the WOFAPS meeting being held in Berlin in October, organised by members of IPSO under the guidance of our treasurer, Jörg Fuchs.
 - d. Roly Squire asked members present to join him in expressing special thanks to Dan Aronson, who as Secretary, President-elect, President, and now Past President has been a member of the IPSO Executive Board for 13 years, and has provided invaluable leadership and commitment to our Society. Stepping in to the breach to Chair this meeting as a result of the unforeseen absence of our President was a final demonstration of Dan's exemplary leadership. Members stood to applaud Dan, thanking him for his efforts.
14. Adjournment: 5 pm.

2014 IPSO Congress



The 2014 IPSO Congress will be held in Toronto, Canada, in October. This should be a beautiful time to be back in Canada, perfectly timed for the fall foliage.

Important dates for your diary are as follows:

Abstract Deadline: 18 March 2014
 Early bird registration deadline: 21 July 2014
 On-line registration deadline: 21 September 2104

Now is the time to plan your trip to Toronto. Please try and arrive early enough to sign up for the pre-meeting Education Day, which is 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://siop.kenes.com/>

The meeting dates are as follows:

Tuesday 21 October:	Education Day
Wednesday 22 October:	IPSO Congress Day 1 AGM
Thursday 23 October:	IPSO Congress Day 2 (SIOP Day 1) Annual IPSO Dinner
Friday 24 October:	SIOP Congress Day 2

When you are making your plans please try to include a stop-over in Memphis to attend the **Bhaskar Rao Symposium**, which immediately follows the IPSO Congress, on Saturday 25 October. Bhaskar was a founder-member of IPSO, was President from 1998-2000. and now is an Honorary Life Member of our society. [More information below...](#)

IPSO Scholarship

You will see from the minutes of the AGM that the IPSO Executive is pleased to announce the introduction of a scholarship to assist a young surgeon in attending the 2014 Congress. The precise details regarding how to apply, eligibility, and the terms and conditions, are available on the IPSO website www.ipsosurgeons.org

The scholarship will include:

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

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 Toronto. 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.

We are planning that surgeons who are submitting an abstract for the meeting will have the opportunity to register to be considered for the prize at the time of abstract submission. This arrangement is not currently in place, and so an alternative process may be substituted. Please keep an eye on the website.

Problem case session

One of the highlights of the Annual Congress is the problem case session, and the challenging cases that delegates brought to the Hong Kong Congrass resulted in some excellent discussion. Please bear this session in mind throughout the year. The Program Director will be requesting notification of potential cases prior to the meeting; further information will be given in the July newsletter.

Celebration for Bhaskar Rao

Saturday 25 October 2014
Memphis, Tennessee

St Jude's Reserch Hospital is hosting a Symposium and Celebration in honor of Dr Bhaskar Rao. The Symosium will be held on the St Jude campus in Memphis Tennessee on Saturday, October 25th, just after the IPSO meeting in Toronto. The Symposium will be focussed on present and future surgical management techniques in the treatment of solid tumors in children. Please save this date and plan on joining the celebration for one of our finest. Further details regarding the Symposium will be sent out to members shortly, and will be found on the IPSO website. For more information contact: daphne.sanders@stjude.org



5th International Tübingen Symposium on Pediatric Solid Tumors



March 14-15, 2014
Tubingen, Germany

The 2014 Tübingen Symposium is on the management of liver tumours in childhood. The programme looks very exciting. More details including on-line registration is available on the website www.hepatoblastoma2014.de

Advances in Neuroblastoma Research

March 13-16, 2014
Cologne, Germany

This year the biennial international Advances in Neuroblastoma Research meeting will be held in Cologne in May. Professor Frank Berthold and the organising team want to attract as many paediatric surgeons as possible, and offer, amongst others, interesting sessions on surgery in neuroblastoma. Further information can be found at www.anr2014.com

From the Secretary

IPSO's membership continues to increase, and we now have active members from 48 countries. The IPSO Executive Committee believes that there are many more surgeons around the world who would benefit from joining the IPSO 'family', and we have been considering how we can get in touch with them. It was apparent in Hong Kong that many surgeons who specialise in children's cancer surgery have never heard of IPSO.

IPSO's stated aims are to:

- to set a global standard for surgical care of children with cancer
- to provide a forum and enhance communication between surgeons who specialise in children's cancer
- to promote and support clinical trials aimed at improving the outcome in the treatment of children's cancer
- to encourage co-operation with other organisations concerned with children's cancer

To achieve these aims we need to increase our global reach.

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

When you attend regional or international meetings please promote IPSO: tell your colleagues about IPSO, and direct them to the IPSO website www.ipsosurgeons.org and encourage them to join.

Nominations for the IPSO Executive Committee: Your Executive Committee is keen to encourage involvement of all IPSO members in the running of the organisation. In his address at the AGM, Dan Aronson emphasised how we wish to ensure that the organisation is run fairly and transparently. Now is the time to consider if you, or one of your colleagues, would like to stand for election at the next AGM, to be held in Toronto in October. In Toronto there will be at least one new position on the Executive Committee to be filled. A further call for nominations will be included in the July newsletter, but I will be happy for any active member to register their interest to stand at any time up to 3 months before the AGM. If you wish to stand the Statutes specify that you must be nominated by another member. If you make a nomination you must first ensure that your nominee wishes to stand.

Also please let the Executive know if you would like to make a nomination for Honorary Membership.

Members news

Nobody responded to the request on the last newsletter, asking members to send news items to the secretary. The next newsletter is in July. Please send me any news which you think may be of interest to other IPSO members.

IPSO website

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

At the AGM in September 2013 some changes to the Statutes were approved by the membership. The revised statutes can now be found on the website.

Prior to the Annual Congress the website is the easiest way for the Executive Committee to keep in touch with the membership. For the last 3 years I have been trying to get as many of the presentations from the congress on to the website (the password-protected members' pages) but I have not made much progress with Hong Kong. If you presented in Hong Kong, and would be happy for your presentation to be available for other members to see, please send the powerpoint file to me, roly.squire@leedsth.nhs.uk and I will make it available as a pdf file. Many presentations from Auckland 2011 & London, 2012 are currently available. I particularly recommend the presentations from the Educational Symposia. The members' pages are accessible as previously: please contact the secretary/webmaster if you need to be reminded of the username & password.



Roly Squire

Message from the President-Elect

Dear IPSO Members

I just want to let you know how much I appreciated your support as your President–Elect. While a great honor it is somewhat humbling following in the footsteps of our previous Presidents who have so effectively served our organization. I look forward to working with Giovanni and the Executive Committee over the next year to continue to promote IPSO as the leading pediatric surgical organization in the world. I believe these are exciting times for IPSO as we increase our educational and leadership role within pediatric surgery. Thank you again.



Steve Shochat

President's Corner



The year we spent was full of work, meetings, and also satisfactions for our Society. The last meeting of 2013, the Congress in Hong Kong, was a great success and a wonderful opportunity to meet with Chinese colleagues. Despite the typhoon delayed the arrival of some of us, the participation was high, the interest of the scientific sessions was great and the hospitality offered by Dr Paul Tam and his team was perfect.

But now is time to think to the near future and in particular at the IPSO-SIOP meeting in Toronto, that will be held in October. This Congress is a unique opportunity to meet every year not only with pediatric surgeons interested in oncology, but also pediatric oncologists and radiotherapists from all around the world. Everybody can have the chance to be informed about relevant advances in childhood cancer research and, maybe, pass on their experiences to the benefit of all.

Our Program Director Steven Warmann will be working hard, together with our SIOP-SC Representative Piotr Czauderna and the local Surgical Organizer Ted Gerstle. We hope that a large amount of good quality surgical abstracts will be submitted and that many young people will attend the Congress. From this point of view I am delighted to confirm that the project of a scholarship by the IPSO for the participation of a young surgeon at the Congress of our Society is being finalized.

To increase membership remains a constant major goal of IPSO. The future perspective of a Society is based on the number of the members and their vitality, especially if they are young. I would really invite all the members to inform the colleagues of their respective centers and countries about our activity and encourage young surgeons to become active members.

Other IPSO activities are well detailed in other parts of the newsletter and I want to thank the Members of the Executive Committee and all those who dedicate themselves with the various duties to our Society. What I wish emphasize is the original spirit of education and friendship that our Society continues to maintain and to develop. This is the right way to share our knowledge, to support and promote that culture useful in the future for young surgeons and ultimately to the global standard of surgical care of children.

Giovanni Cecchetto