Dear Members of the ISEM,

I would like to thank for the confidence you demonstrated to me with my appointment as President of the ISEM. This is for me a great honor and pleasure. The first of my main aims is that of continuing the great job done by my predecessors who really contributed for the advancement and activity of our Society.

The last ISEM Congress was held in the beautiful city of Debrecen, organized by our Past-President and friend Norbert Nemeth. It was a very successful Congress both from the scientific and organizing point of view. The Opening Ceremony started with a touching tribute to the Memory of our beloved Professor Sun Lee by Prof. Istvan Furka who, notwithstanding he was not in perfect health conditions, prepared a video which was highly appreciated. It is just looking at the history that we can build the future! Then, Our President Mihai Ionac took us in a 20-year journey of experience in the Microsurgical Training Program in Timisoara. Afterwards, a masterly lecture in oncologic research was held by Prof. Robert M. Hoffman, another pioneer in experimental microsurgery, who reported very important translational aspects and their clinical implications. The Opening Ceremony ended with a fantastic MediChoir composed by physicians, researchers and students. The Welcome Reception was characterized by a real surprise: we could hear the sound of a brand new and original type of piano, the Boganyi Piano. We had the opportunity to witness another example of how Music is a bridge between Art and Science! (to be continued, page 4)

Message from the New President

Dr. Francesco Boccardo
ISEM President

ISEM 2018 Congress report — By Norbert Nemeth, President, 14th ISEM Congress

The 14th Congress of the International Society for Experimental Microsurgery (ISEM) was held on 23-25 August, 2018 at the Kölcsey Center in Debrecen, Hungary, organized by Prof. Norbert Nemeth, past president of the ISEM, and his team (www.isem2018.org) with the Participation of more than hundred registrants from all over the world. Invited and keynote speakers, session speakers and participants came from 19 countries: Albania, Algeria, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, The Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Sweden, Switzerland, the UK and the USA. About 80 presentations have been delivered including Awardees’ lectures, invited and keynote lectures as well as regular talks by clinicians, surgeons, plastic surgeons, traumatologists, and neurosurgeons, researchers, biologists, biotechnologists and veterinary surgeons. (to be continued, page 5)
Message from the Editor in Chief

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As outgoing ISEM Secretary General and current Editor in chief of “Scope”, I present you a summary of the main activities and initiatives ongoing within ISEM since the Spring Issue. Following the Call to Membership before the congress, important suggestions to improve and renew the Bylaws have been received from several members. The ISEM Board and the General Assembly reviewed and approved several changes to the bylaws. In brief, the new bylaws introduce two new types of membership (Emeritus and Corporate), regulate the structure and appointment of the council, outline the ISEM committees and detail the rules for awarding ISEM’s highest recognition, the Sun Lee Award. We hope this update will boost the activity and the involvement of our membership as well as provide increased transparency around important aspects of our Society. Please take a moment to review the updated bylaws on the homepage (www.myisem.org). Further, discussions are ongoing about selecting an official journal for our Society. ISEM will aim to affiliate itself with an established surgical journal, covering a broader range of surgical disciplines and maintaining a high scientific quality. In preparation for this, the Scientific Committee will conduct a survey aiming to quantify and analyze the scientific output of ISEM members. A congress report from the 14th ISEM Congress President, Norbert Nemeth follows in this issue.

At the Board Meeting on August 24th a new Executive Council was elected: Francesco Boccardo (Italy) takes on as ISEM President, Mihai Oltean (Sweden) has been appointed as President-Elect, Shintaro Yagi (Japan) has been elected as new Secretary General while Jenny Zheng Zhang (USA) and Hao Wang (China) will continue as Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary, respectively. The new Council will continue to tackle the challenges common to most (if not any) professional society, namely to continue the renewal of the Society by attracting new members, retaining old members and reactivating previous members to provide scientific and financial support for the ISEM congresses and the research community worldwide.

Welcome

2018 new members

- Dr. Balazs Szabo (Hungary)
- Dr. Arvind M. Padma (Sweden)
- Dr. Souleiman Ghanem (Hungary)
- Dr. Dominik Walczak (Poland)
- Dr. Min Jong, Song (Republic of Korea)
- Dr. Ryosuke Gabata (Japan)
- Dr. Manami Sato (Japan)

Member Benefit

- Become a part of global network of microsurgeons and researchers
- Reduced registration fees for ISEM meetings
- Discounted rates at ISEM-accredited courses & educational activities
- Voting rights and the opportunity to serve on ISEM committees
- Continuing Medical Education (CME) & online videos on surgical techniques, lectures and webinars
- Regular updates on ISEM initiatives and activities
The 4th course of Experimental Microsurgery in Catania

In early October 2018, the Department of Medical, Surgical Sciences and Advanced Technologies "G.F. Ingrassia" of the School of Medicine at the University of Catania (Italy) organized a fourth course of Experimental Microsurgery. At a first read, this plain phrase may sound as any trivial course announcement, yet it had a profound significance for the organizers and the participating faculty. The main reason for this was because it was 32 years ago since the previous course, which was coordinated by Professor Sun Lee himself. The local faculty was represented by Prof. Antonio Di Cataldo (chairman of the ISEM Educational Committee), Prof. Stefano Puleo, Prof. Gaetano De la Greca and Dr. Antonio Pesce, together with staff from the newly inaugurated state of the art Center for Advanced Preclinical in vivo Research (CAPiR), coordinated by Prof. Rosalba Parenti. The training laboratory had four working stations fitted with cameras and screens together with brand new sets of high quality microsurgical instruments. Dr. Mihai Oltean and Dr. Mats Hellström from Gothenburg, Sweden contributed as invited lecturers and instructors and deepened the already established collaboration between the two countries in the North and South Europe. Lectures were delivered on a wide range of topics from rodent surgical anatomy to aseptic surgical techniques, along with focused talks on novel imaging technologies in living small animals, liver fibrosis and the benefits of microsurgical training and practice for surgeons in training. The lectures were attended by a large group of surgeons, biologists and medical students with an age span ranging from the early twenties to the mid-eighties. The course included three long days where all six participants at the practical sessions experienced the entire range of feelings, including deep frustration and absolute satisfaction - as it is customary with this kind of events. At the end of the course, most participants witnessed the miracle of their first pulsating femoral anastomosis. In our opinion, the six members of ISEM attending this event as faculty or instructors embodied the dedication, friendship and collaboration that make ISEM the thriving family it represents. ISEM is truly the place where multiple generations support each other and work towards the common goals; developing skills, improving experiments and delivering meaningful, high quality research.

—By Mats Hellström, Antonio Pesce, Mihai Oltean

Technological exchange program in USA

In Chicago’s beautiful autumn 2018, the Microsurgery Core at Northwestern University (NU) Comprehensive Transplant Center, welcomed two outstanding microsurgical experts, Yelena Akelina, DVM, MS from Columbia university (New York, left) and Heidi Phillips VMD, DACVS from University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine (Urbana, right). In addition to hands-on demonstrations, microsurgical techniques used in rat kidney or vascularized skin flap transplantation were extensively discussed at the exchange program. [Ms. Jiao-Jing Wang (middle), a senior microsurgical specialist at NU ]
Message from the New President (continued from the first page)

The Scientific Program included keynote Lectures, Papers and Posters on research about transplantation models and immunology, ischemia-reperfusion procedures, translational research, microsurgical techniques from bench to bedside, including lymphatic microsurgery and entire educational microsurgical session. The program properly reflected the goals of our Society that is to give young researchers the possibility to present their studies, discuss with senior experts and receive suggestions and ideas to develop in their own research, promoting their participations with various Young Investigators Awards. Furthermore, young researchers had the opportunity to gain some experience with high fidelity simulators and to assist to operations with the very last technology such as the 4K/3D Video Microsurgery. Finally, the creation of a new society homepage (www.myisem.org) will allow update with various administrative functions and the upload of very interesting multimedia material. I really would like to thank again all the members of the Board for their precious contribution to the ISEM scientific and educational activity and especially our Treasurer Jenny Zheng Zhang to have brought the Society to a present good financial status. We look forward to meeting one another again in the next ISEM Congress in Gothenburg, organized by our friend Mihai Oltean and his co-workers.

— By Francesco Boccardo, ISEM President
ISEM 2018 Congress report (continued from the first page)

Presenters reported on some new surgical techniques, the most up-to-date microsurgical devices and technological advancements, research models, educational methods and standardization, as well as new issues in transplantation research and clinical microsurgery.

During the congress Prof. Istvan Furka (Debrecen, Hungary) and Prof. Mihai Ionac (Timisoara, Romania) were given the Sun Lee Award 2018. Prof. Iren Miko (Debrecen, Hungary) received a Certificate of Merit of ISEM. Prof. Eiji Kobayashi (Tokyo, Japan) received the inaugural Lars-Erik Gelin Award of the Scandinavian Microsurgical Academy. Mihai Ionac and Norbert Nemeth were awarded the title of honorary member of the Scandinavian Microsurgical Academy. The young researchers of the ISEM could aspire for the Robert Zhong Award. Based on the international jury’s decision this year the Robert Zhong Award went to Dr. Balazs Szabo (Debrecen, Hungary). The certificates of Young Investigator Award of the Congress were given to Arvind M. Padma (Gothenburg, Sweden) and Dr. Souleiman Ghanem (Debrecen, Hungary).

Photos of the congress are available via the following links:

Special thanks to all the sponsor and exhibitors, to the technical organizer company, Convention Budapest Ltd., and to the staff members of the Department of Operative Techniques and Surgical Research, Faculty of Medicine, University of Debrecen.
—-By Norbert Nemeth, President of the 14th ISEM Congress
This surgical 3D video microscope is designed especially for spine, neuro, orthopedics, plastic, cardiac and digestive surgery. Surgeons can perform operations by looking at the monitors instead of eyepieces which allows them to maintain perfect ergonomics even during lengthy surgeries. It is in addition highly valued for educational purposes as observers can see the same 3D image as the surgeon.

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