



"Another fall, another turned page..."

—Wallace Stegner

Message from the President

Dear Members of the ISEM,

Firstly, I would like to thank the present ISEM Board for continuing to work hard for the scientific, educational and administrative aspects of our Society with really outstanding results.

I once more wish to underline like a big community based on the members' role, with a common target: to learn microsurgical techniques, to in order to develop their personal attitudes and expertise as well as offering an important scientific and cultural background on which they can furtherly develop in their own experimental and/



Dr. Francesco Boccardo
ISEM President

When I was appointed President the great job that my predecessors have the ISEM. The main goals on which we our achievements are represented by the three types of members, Full/Active, with the proposal of Trainee (under 35

years) members; new rules for the elections of Councilors, and for the Scientific, Educational and Membership Committees. Furthermore, the active ISEM Newsletter and a new society homepage (www.myisem.org) allow to spread the activities of our Society, stimulate interest in the ISEM, upload of multimedia material, and also update with various administrative functions. The finances improved due to the big efforts, mainly by our valuable treasurer, to recover outstanding member fees and recruit new members. *(to be continued, page 4)*

the way of working of our Society that is mutual respect, the recognition of each give young investigators the opportunity learn how to use them in animal models

of our Society I said to want to continue done for the advancement and activity of are currently working on and some of changes concerning membership with Emeritus, Corporate members, together

years) members; new rules for the elections of Councilors, and for the Scientific, Educational and Membership Committees. Furthermore, the active ISEM Newsletter and a new society homepage (www.myisem.org) allow to spread the activities of our Society, stimulate interest in the ISEM, upload of multimedia material, and also update with various administrative functions. The finances improved due to the big efforts, mainly by our valuable treasurer, to recover outstanding member fees and recruit new members. *(to be continued, page 4)*



The Scandinavian Microsurgery Academy is accepting nominations for the Lars-Erik Gelin Award



ISEM 2020
GOTHENBURG

www.isem2020.se

Please Mark these dates:

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION OPENS

January 6th, 2020

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION CLOSES

March 30th, 2020

2020. The Award recognizes the outstanding and simultaneous contribution in education, mentoring and clinical activity of a profile active in the field of organ transplantation. Please submit your nomination and a 200 word motivation letter to Dr. Mihai Oltean (mihai.oltean@surgery.gu.se) no later than December 1st, 2019. The winner will be announced at the 15th ISEM Congress in Gothenburg.

Editor's corner

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

With the newsletter in its third year of existence, I am happy to note than more and more members have adopted it as the natural channel to share news and updates with the ISEM membership. The newsletter is easily found in the inbox or on the home page and puts together stories, names and links. This issue shows that ISEM-related activities go on nicely in the years between congresses with cooperation and exchanges taking place throughout the world and giving meaning to the INTERNATIONAL word in our Society's name. In this issue you may read a report from Dr. Manami Sato (Japan) who attended the training lab of Dr. Yelena Akelina in New York as well as a report by Dr. Antonio Pesce (Italy) on behalf of the Educational Committee. More exchanges are scheduled later this year with participants from South Korea and Italy planning to attend the 14th edition of the Experimental Microsurgery course in Gothenburg.

The preparations for the next year's Congress are well underway. As Chair of the next ISEM Congress I am pleased to report that the Local Organizing Committee has decided and booked the location for Gala Dinner and the Congress hotels and the Second announcement will be released soon. Next year will be also the first time two key positions in the ISEM executive board (Secretary and President Elect) will directly elected by the ISEM membership. Members in good standing will be invited to vote and set the course of ISEM for the next few years, so make sure you are eligible to vote by paying your membership for 2019.



Dr. Mihai Oltean
Editor in chief



2019 new members

Hua Yang, MD, PhD

Department of Organ Transplantation, Jiangxi Provincial People's Hospital Affiliated to Nanchang University, Nanchang, Jiangxi, P. R. China.

Pablo Stringa, PhD

Instituto de Estudios Inmunológicos y Fisiopatológicos (IIFP-CONICET) Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina

Francisco Hernandez Oliveros, MD, PhD

Pediatric Surgery, La Paz hospital, Madrid, Spain



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
- ◆ Consulting services and expert networking



Dr. Antonio Pesce, Italy

Dear friends and ISEM members,

I have been tasked to prepare a report on the educational activities from the various ISEM centers. This activity is part of the renewal plan for ISEM. Due to time constraints, this report has not been presented at the 14th ISEM Congress in Debrecen. Here, you'll find a summary of the ISEM Educational activity 2016-18.

I have conducted a survey among our society members by asking the following information :

- a. name of the training center;
- b. total numbers of courses since 2016;
- c. number of participants since 2016;
- d. ISEM-affiliated participants and tutors;
- e. participation in Educational activities outside of ISEM;
- f. education-related publications;
- g. future educational activities.

Seven training centers responded to the survey, in detail the followings:

- Microsurgery Training and Research Center, Dept. of Orthopedic Surgery, Columbia University – Dr Y. Akelina ;
- Scandinavian Microsurgery Academy, University of Gothenburg – Prof. M. Oltean, Prof. M. Axelsson, Prof. M. Hellstrom ;
- Department of Operative Techniques and Surgical Research, University of Debrecen – Prof. N. Nemeth ;
- Department of Medical, Surgical Sciences and Advanced Technologies “G.F. Ingrassia” – University of Catania – Prof. S. Puleo, Dr A. Pesce, Prof. A. Di Cataldo ;
- Unit of Lymphatic Surgery, University of Genoa – Prof. F. Boccardo, Prof. C. Campisi ;
- Department of Surgery and Transplantation, University of Zurich – Prof. Y.Tian ;
- ISEM West Japan chapter – Prof. J. Kobayashi and Prof. S. Uemoto

In summary, a total of **158** courses have been organized since 2016: in detail, **120** courses have

been organized at the Microsurgery Training and Research Center of the Columbia University, **eight 5-days courses** (4 doctoral and four specialist) and **one 1-day** workshop were held at the Scandinavian Microsurgery Academy, University of Gothenburg, **three graduate and two post-graduate courses** have been organized at the Microsurgical Education and Training Center, University of Debrecen ; in the other centers we encountered some post-graduate course in general surgery, urology and plastic surgery, basic and advanced courses for experimental microsurgery, doctoral course, microsurgical hands-on seminars for young surgeons and students.

The total number of **participants was 721, of which 9 ISEM-affiliated participants and 22 ISEM-affiliated tutors**. The largest number of participants has been registered at the Columbia University with **290 participants**, at the University of Debrecen with 160 students during the graduate courses and **98 participants (22 doctors and 76 residents)** during the post-graduate courses, at the University of Gothenburg with **36 PhD students and 38 specialists**.

Concerning the participation in Educational activities outside of ISEM, we recorded the involvement in many different educational programs, such as basic course on animal experimentation and surgical education, microsurgery courses at the Karolinska Institute (Stockholm), new experimental microsurgery course in Catania (in October 2018), lectures and teaching in China, affiliation to European and International Societies of Lymphology, International Microsurgery Simulation Society (IMSS), World Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (WSRM), American Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (ASRM) visiting Northwestern University in Chicago to exchange the expertise with Dr Zheng. Besides that, about twenty education-related scientific papers have been published in peer-review journals by ISEM members.

(to be continued, page 5)

ISEM Cooperation for Training between Japanese and US Chapters

Manami Sato, DVM

The Mitaka Jyuika Group Veterinary Hospital, Tokyo, Japan

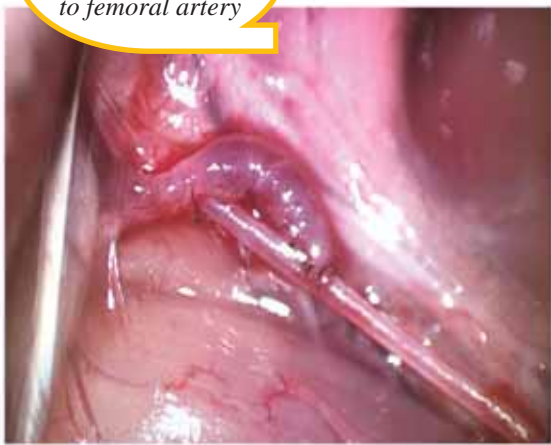
I am a veterinary student and a member of the ISEM Japan Chapter for Students (Head: Kaoru Endo DMV). In order to become familiar with the US training systems, I joined the Basic Microsurgery Training Course held at the Columbia Orthopedics Microsurgery Research & Training Laboratory. Professor Yelena Akelina instructed 3 participants during the 5-day course running from March 11th to March 15th, 2019. Detailed information on the course is shown in the institution's website (<https://invivox.com/training/detail/1356>).

Staff of Professor Akelina's Lab and me (right) Herein, I would like to report the activity. We practiced mainly on live rat models and the schedule is shown in the table below. As my career goal is to become a surgeon for cats, I have tried the anastomosis of the rat ureter on Day 4 as a reference for the ureterostomy of cats, instead of epineuria repair. As it may be familiar to some of you, the course has a very quick progression: **on the first**



day we started with basic techniques using a plastic model but then moved on to living rats for an end-to-end arterial anastomosis using interrupted suturing. During **the second day** we continued to practice on the end to end anastomosis in both artery (one-way-up suturing) and vein (anastomosis using interrupted suturing) so that in **the third day** we trained the interpositional vein graft. **The fourth day** was dedicated to arteriovenous suturing (end-to-side anastomosis using femoral artery to the side of femoral vein and **end-to-side anastomosis of the femoral vein to femoral artery**). Instead of epineurial repair I chose to practice on the anastomosis of ureter. During the fifth and last day of the course we performed a free tissue transfer with groin cutaneous flap.

End to side anastomosis femoral vein to femoral artery



Professor Akelina's one-on-one, individualized training enabled us to improve the surgical techniques on our own pace. Besides surgical skills such as anastomosis, I acquired brain-hand-eye-foot coordination by practicing techniques repeatedly. Furthermore, I acquired skills such as patience, self-control, and an ability to pay attention to details. The course was enjoyable and satisfying.

I have a unique career. I graduated from a medical university (Tsukuba) and then entered a veterinary school. I have obtained a veterinary license recently and will start working in a field of small animal medicine shortly. I was highly motivated by this training course which taught me to keep doing my best and I believe I have successfully embarked on my professional career.

I would like to express my gratitude to **Professor Akelina** for the instruction and encouragement given to me. I also would

like to thank **Professor Eiji Kobayashi** (Keio University) to have introduced me the translational microsurgery that leads from experimental to clinical skills.

Message from the New President (continued from the first page)

Finally, I would like to underline the effort of the Society in maintaining the program of our congresses properly reflecting 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.

I would like to thank again all the members of the Board for their valuable contribution to the ISEM scientific and educational activity, apart from the indispensable administrative issues. We all look forward to meeting once again in the next ISEM Congress in Gothenburg, organized by our friend Mihai Oltean and his co-workers.

— By Francesco Boccardo, ISEM President

Report from the Educational Committee (continued from the third page)

As regards to future educational activities, there will be held doctoral (October 2019) and specialist courses (November 2019) in Gothenburg, the organization of ISEM Congress 2020 in Gothenburg, International Microsurgery Simulation Society (IMSS) session at the Congress of the World Society for Reconstructive Microsurgery (WSRM) (Bologna 2019), teaching and collaboration between different ISEM centers and ISEM members.

The paramount goal of our society remains to increase the interest of young researchers in ISEM and experimental microsurgery through awards, grants, and courses with the ultimate goal of improving skills, infrastructure and the scientific production.

— By Dr. Antonio Pesce, Italy



Autumn in Japan (from Nippon.com)