



Happy spring

Message from the President

Dear Members of the ISEM, dear friends

This is my first message as ISEM president, at a time of both great challenge and hope for all. One year ago, no one could have imagined the sheer size of the collective and personal loss caused by the wrecking ball of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, while the world is still stunned by the ordeal of 2020, glimmers of hope start to emerge as yet another wave seems to have passed and several vaccines are rolled out at increasing speed. We are hopeful that these developments will allow the partly resumption of some “face-to-face” activities, including elective surgery, meetings or training courses. We all owe a great deal of gratitude for the resilience and resourcefulness of healthcare staff, the diligence of the people around us and the efforts of the scientific community who rushed to find rational solutions to the chaos sweeping around the world. The past months have forced us all on finding new ways of keeping our activities going on, with many of the emergency innovations such as online meetings, webinars or telemedicine being here to stay. Our society has also adapted to this new landscape and held several online council meetings and webinars. Somehow paradoxically, the communication within ISEM has increased and activities planned long ago finally got materialized. It has been very nice to see again many of you, even if only on screen: the commitment and creativity I felt are valuable assets for our Society. At the same time, ISEM needs to continue its renewal and quest for new members and directions ahead of the next decade. We need lecturers for our webinar series as well as new members for the ISEM Council and for the various Committees. The elections scheduled for 2020 and postponed due to the pandemic will soon take place. The openings announced in this issue of Scope give excellent opportunities for networking and personal development while contributing at shaping the future of ISEM and the careers of potential colleagues or fellow researchers. I invite all the members to join me and many other reputed colleagues in continuing the work of earlier luminaries in promoting ISEM as the premier forum for experimental microsurgery.



Dr Mihai Oltean
ISEM president

News from ISEM Educational Committee

MIROSURGERY TRAINING DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: PRACTICAL RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR EXPERIMENTAL MICROSURGERY (ISEM) AND INTERNATIONAL MICROSURGERY SIMULATION SOCIETY (IMSS)

Hands-on training has been severely affected by the restrictions related to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and numerous practical courses, including many microsurgical training courses have been cancelled. Practical training is an essential component of the medical education and cannot be entirely replaced by simulators or on-line education. While physical distancing and strict hygiene rules have been adopted as means of reducing COVID-19 spread, the design of the training facilities and the bulky or fixed equipment are not always compatible with the general guidelines for physical distancing. As one of the main missions of ISEM is teaching microsurgical skills and many members are involved in microsurgical training, the pandemic has impacted greatly on the overall educational output of our Society. Recently, a group of experienced educators and course organizers have issued some brief practical recommendations based on the collective experience from microsurgical courses planned or conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic at several training centres around the world. These recommendations have been recently published in *Microsurgery (Microsurgery training during COVID-19 pandemic: practical recommendations from the international society for experimental microsurgery (ISEM) and international microsurgery simulation society (IMSS); Mihai Oltean, Alexandru Nistor, Mats Hellström, Michael Axelsson, Shintaro Yagi, Eiji Kobayashi, Alberto Ballestin, Yelena Akelina and Norbert Nemeth)*



The course settings at Jesus Usón Minimally Invasive Surgery Centre, Cáceres, Spain (Autumn 2020) and at the Microsurgery Research and Training Laboratory at Columbia University, New York (Winter 2021). Images courtesy of Dr. Alberto Ballestin and Dr. Yelena Akelina



The 15th Congress (online) International Society for Experimental Microsurgery September 10, 2021

**“Celebrating three decades of
discovery and innovation in microsurgery”**

Abstract submission: June 1-July 31, 2021

Submissions at: ISEM.2021.web@gmail.com

**Congress President:
Mihai Oltean, Sweden**

**Congress Chair:
Yelena Akelina, USA**

**Congress Secretary:
Mats Hellström, Sweden**

www.myisem.org



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN



- **PRESIDENT ELECT**
- **SECRETARY GENERAL**
- **TWO COUNCILLORS**

The Executive Council of ISEM calls upon the members to submit nominations for President Elect, Secretary General and 2 councilors.

The candidate for the position of President Elect must have been ISEM member for at least four years whereas the candidate for the position of Secretary General must have been ISEM member for at least two years. The candidate for each position should provide the names of two voting members supporting the candidature, along with a five-line summary (around 100 words) of the nominee's curriculum vitae and the nominee's acceptance to stand for election.

Nominations (including self-nominations) are accepted from all ISEM members in good standing and should be submitted to the Secretary General by June 15th, 2021



Due to the cancellation of virtually all face-to-face educational activities, courses and congresses, webinars have become an essential and popular educational tool. The growing experience and the need for continuous interaction between various focus groups has attracted everyone's interest for this new style of communication. In preparation for the virtual congress, and to provide updated, state of the art knowledge from its members, as well as to increase the involvement of the membership, ISEM has decided to establish its own webinar series, with the first two webinars already given in January and February.

The first Webinar was given by Professor Eiji KOBAYASHI (Tokyo, Japan) on 23rd January, 2021. Prof. Eiji Kobayashi gave the lecture "Novel Eye for Microsurgeons: Development of Ultra-High-Vision Surgical Scopes" on the current status of head-up microsurgery, including the development of 4K-3D and 8K microscopes. After the lecture, there were several questions regarding the learning curve of the head-up surgery, the concern that the device was too large and would be a problem in the operating room, and how large the magnification the system has. It was discussed that the future direction of microsurgery should be such head-up surgery, since the younger generation has a high adaptability and interest for technical developments. Actually, Dr. Ryosuke Gabata of Kanazawa University in Japan, who is part of the younger generation, expressed his interest in this new microscope. Professor Corradino Campisi asked whether this microscope has sufficient magnification. Dr. Shintaro Yagi, one of the developers of the 4K-3D microscope, explained with a table that the maximum magnification is determined by the monitor size and working distance. (continued in page 5)



New Member:

Hengcheng Zhang, MD, PhD

Transplantation Research Center, Renal Division, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA

(continued from page 4)

The second webinar featured Professor Corradino CAMPISI (Genoa, Italy) on 27th February, 2021. Prof. Corradino Campisi gave a lecture of “Lymphatic Surgery & Microsurgery for the Staging-Guided Comprehensive Treatment of the Peripheral Lymphedemas” such as treatment strategies and Lymphaticovenular anastomosis (LVA) methods for Lymphedema classified by location and degree. The webinar and the ensuing discussion were based on the forty years of experience of Professor Campisi in lymphatic microsurgery. The audience asked questions on the management of lower limb lymphedema after inguinal lymphadenectomy after melanoma or aortoiliac lymphadenectomy after gynecological oncologic surgery. Professor Li Wei asked the current incidence of the lymphedema and Professor Jenny Zhang asked about lymph node transplantation. Professor Campisi answered the questions in detail and the discussions became almost as long as the lecture itself. Accordingly, the meeting ended on a high note.

These first two webinars allowed many ISEM members to see and talk to each other again, even if only “on screen”. The chat before or after the webinars confirmed the role and need for continuous communication. Although it was regrettable that there were not more ISEM members in attendance, several participants not members of ISEM also attended these occasions. The simultaneous online presence of participants across fifteen time zones, stretching from Japan to Midwest US indicated the interest and commitment of ISEM members (and not only) for this emerging type of educational activity.

*The 2nd webinar featured
Prof. Corradino CAMPISI
(Genoa, Italy), 2/27/2021*

