



Happy Holiday Seasons!



Dr Mihai Oltean
ISEM president

Message from the President

As we approach the end of 2022, it may be a good time to reflect on the changes and challenges we have seen over this year and look ahead to the future. The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the entire world, but instead of giving up and giving in, we have all come together to find solutions to the challenge. I am both impressed and grateful of how our Society has adapted to meet the challenges of the past two years through collaboration and ingenuity.

My aim has been to expand participation of all ISEM members in the various ISEM activities regardless of the duration of their membership, as well as ensuring transparency and communication within society. As part of this commitment, we initiated a call to membership and included members outside the council in the structure of various committees. New members have joined ISEM over the past two years and the renewed committees now blend older and newer ISEM members, ensuring a broad professional and geographic representation.

As we ready ourselves for the new year, I would like to draw your attention to January 31st, the deadline for abstract submission to the ISEM Congress. The very ambitious Scientific Programme presents multiple opportunities to contribute to this meeting, the central event in the life of our Society. Make plans to attend the ISEM congress, where friendships are rekindled and collaboration plans are made.

I am very much looking forward to this event and meeting you all, after five long and difficult years. I hope you will all have an enjoyable Holidays season with your friends and family and get the opportunity to embrace togetherness in a way we could not last year.

Thank you all for your efforts of keeping ISEM active and thriving!



The 16th ISEM Congress Update from the President of the Congress

Dear ISEM members, colleagues, and friends,

The organizing committee is pleased to announce that the website for the 16th ISEM Congress has been up and running. To find the latest information regarding abstract submission, registration, scientific program and more, please browse through the website:

www.isem-genoa2023.com

I would like to invite you all to Genoa on the occasion of the 16th ISEM Congress, I dare to say that it will be very exciting from the scientific point of view and of course a fantastic time to be all together again. **Wish you and your families all the best for the next holiday season and for the new year 2023!**

Francesco Boccardo

President of the Congress



New Members Are Joining

We Need You

Xin Zheng, MD, PhD

Comprehensive Transplant Center, Department of Surgery, Northwestern University
Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, IL, USA

Jun Wang, MD, PhD

Assistant Professor of Surgery
Division of Plastic Surgery
Duke University
Durham, NC, USA

Robert Zhong Award 2021 winner: *one year later*



Alberto Ballestín, PhD.

The Tumor Microenvironment Laboratory, National Cancer
Institute, Paris, France

It is a pleasure for me to write these lines after a year of the pleasant recognition that the ISEM scientific committee decided to grant me. I feel very honored, since excellent works from other colleagues from Belgium, Japan, Sweden, UK, USA, etc. had been presented. I must share the recognition with all the people who helped me along this path, since research is a collective effort, not an individual one. The award-winning work was a compendium of the main discoveries we made at the preclinical level in the field of microsurgical free tissue transfers, ischemia-reperfusion injury and how adjuvant therapies can improve the results.

I am devoted to preclinical microsurgery research and postgraduate surgical education and I have been lucky enough to work and/or study in Spain, Hungary, France and USA, during my DVM, MSc and PhD degrees. After 9 years working at the CCMIJU in Cáceres (Spain), and after spending several months at Columbia NewYork-Presbyterian University Hospital, the desire and curiosity to learn more about cell and molecular biology made me move to Orsay- Paris (France) in January 2021 to work at the Tumor Microenvironment Laboratory of the Institut Curie led by Dr. Giorgio Seano. Here we study the underlying molecular mechanisms of chemo and radioresistance, as well as tumor spread and recurrence after microsurgical resection of glioblastoma.

During the last year, meanwhile still adapting to the field of neuro-oncology, I have written three chapters for two Springer books (about microvascular techniques and robotic microsurgery education), as well as one chapter for an EFSM book (on blood perfusion assessment methods). I have also published an article in Annals of Surgical

Oncology on the use of a new robot for microsurgery. I have given several microsurgery courses in Spain, Sweden and



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Siberia. And I have given conferences in multiple locations in Spain, as well as in France, Mexico and online.

But my main effort has been to become an active member in our lab at the Institut Curie. Here I have led the in vivo approaches to study glioblastoma, one of the deadliest types of human cancer. Recurrence of glioblastoma after chemoradiation is mostly caused by regrowth of highly invasive and resistant cells. Our lab, has used a combination of transcriptomic analysis, longitudinal imaging, organotypic cultures, functional assays, animal studies and clinical data analyses, to demonstrate that chemoradiation and brain vasculature induce a transition in some cells to an invasive functional cell state that is more resistant to therapy.

Despite the distance from family and friends, the Lab support, as well as the recent Robert Zhong (ISEM) and Scellentia (Fundación Caja Extremadura) Awards; gave me the necessary encouragement to continue the academic effort and apply for the prestigious Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship (European Commission Horizon Europe Framework Program). Joyfully I got this highly competitive fellowship and currently, I have started this new scientific adventure. As a MSCA fellow, I continue working at the Institut Curie in France but also I will work at the The Netherlands Cancer Institute (NKI) in Amsterdam during next two years. I am really grateful to my mentor Dr. Giorgio Seano, who detailed reviewed the proposal and to all my lab colleagues for their help.

This has been the summary that you invited me to write about the last year after the Robert Zhong Award. I look forward to participate in coming ISEM activities and to collaborate with other members in microsurgery research and education.

Good luck to everyone in the search for progress towards new scientific horizons.

——-Alberto Ballestín

*Season's greetings to all
ISEM members from
Prof. Norbert Nemeth
and his team in
Debrecen, Hungary*

