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IPSO Newsletter January 2003

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Gdansk, Poland

Jan Godzinski, MD
Wroclaw, Poland

Gerald M. Haase, MD
Denver, Colorado, USA

Ray Fitzgerald, FRCS, FRCSI
Past President
Dublin, Ireland

IPSO/SIOP Meeting 2002 in Porto, Portugal

The IPSO meeting in Porto had its old format, starting the day prior to the SIOP meeting. It was well attended with around 200 participants on the first day, and only less than half being Surgeons! The following day, competition with the other sessions did only slightly decrease the number of participants due to an attractive meeting program as composed by Larry Hadley, our Program Director. Highlights were the two awards, kindly sponsored by Wright Medical Technology Inc., the invited lectures of Kathryn Pritchard-Jones, Peter Ambros, Dan D'Angio, and Amelia Ferraz, and the visit to the Medical History Museum in the Medical School Sao Joao. The 'Best Paper' Award was won by the group of Denis Cozzi with their paper 'Follow-up of renal function after nephron sparing surgery for renal tumour in children'. The 'Best Video' Award was won by the group of Bruce Broecker, who showed us 'Laparoscopic adrenalectomy for pheochromocytoma in a child'. Again the video session was very successful as it let us glimpse in the various Operating Theatres. Therefore, the membership is urged to think of this challenging medium when sending in abstracts for this year's meeting in Cairo. Both the Video session as well as the Problem Case session were held outside the Meeting Venue, in the Medical School Sao Joao. At the end of the Video session and the invited lecture of Amalia Ferraz on Medical History, she guided us through the Medical History Museum located on the attic of the Hospital. The last IPSO meeting day was closed by a splendid IPSO dinner with lots of opportunities for IPSO members to socialize. José Luis Carvalho, the local organizing IPSO surgeon, is to be congratulated with the great social program that was established including the touch and taste of Portugal and its Porto wine tradition. It made, together with the active participation of many of the visitors to the sessions, and the many lecturers, the Porto Meeting to a great success.

Minutes of the IPSO business meeting, Sept 18, 2002

30 IPSO members were present; Apology: Piotr Czauderna

Agenda

1. **Opening** at 4:40 PM
2. **Minutes IPSO meeting 2001 (Brisbane)** were accepted and signed off.
3. **Report from the Treasurer** The Statement of Finances was explained by the

Treasurer and accepted by the membership. Taneko was thanked by the President for all the work he has done for IPSO. Walker was appointed as the new Treasurer. Walker explained the current system of payment of dues. Rosalinde Kennis has set up the system, and payments can now be done with all major credit cards. She apologized for this years late mailing of bills for dues. The second mailing will be sent out after this meeting. The membership was urged to pay the dues promptly. Next year, a list on non-paying members will be put up at the meeting. The annual dues will change from US\$ 50 to €50 since the IPSO account has been moved from Japan to Amsterdam. The MPO subscription (€60 extra) will remain voluntarily and must be marked on the payment sheet.

4. **Election of the nominees for the Executive Council** Cecchetto, Czauderna, and Haase were elected as members of the EC and were congratulated by the President. Gauthier and Holmes were thanked for all the work they did for IPSO.
5. **Replacement of Jack Plaschkes** Dietrich von Schweinitz will be the new SIOP Scientific Committee representative
6. **Honorary Member of IPSO 2002** Jack Plaschkes was appointed as Honorary Member, and was congratulated by the President
7. **Election of new Members** Norberto A Estevinho Jr., Portugal, Erik S Borgstein, Malawi, and Sabine Sarnacki, France were accepted as new members and were congratulated by the President
8. **Recruitment of new members** The President underlined the importance of an expanding membership and urged the members to bring in new members.
9. **Medical and Pediatric Oncology** The EC met with Dan D'Angio. The IPSO/SIOP-meeting issue of MPO has become too large. Space has to be limited with 50%. The program of the IPSO meeting will not be printed in the Journal anymore, and there will only be room for 24 abstracts. The Program Director will select the best 24 abstracts to be fully printed. Of abstracts regarding posters and case reports only titles and authors will appear in MPO, whereas the full abstract will appear on the internet (MPO site). The EC only agreed to this new policy, if these electronic abstract will be regarded as publication, and if also SIOP agrees to diminish its room with 50% under the same conditions.
10. **Future Oncology Meetings** IPSO will try to combine a meeting with EUPSA in Tours, France 2003. Gauthier will negotiate. The next IPSO/APSAs meeting will be in 2004 in USA (east coast).
11. **Report from the President** The President announced that this year a prize of US\$ 500 would be given to the best paper presented. The coming years, the IPSO prize for the best paper will be continued. After a short overview of the past two years, he thanked the membership for their trust and handed over the presidency to Bruce Broecker. Broecker thanked Fitzgerald and gave him a presidential memorial plaque, that was also given as a token to all Past Presidents (Plaschkes, Hayes, Vos, and Rao).
12. **Any other business** There was no other business
13. **Adjournment** at 7:15 PM

From the Treasurer

Much effort has been made to organize the system to pay the annual dues in such a way that it can be done with a minimal of discomfort to the members. The Executive Board has contracted Rosalinde Kennis as secretary, who automated the payment system and takes care of the registration of the payments. Payments can be done with all major credit cards. From now on there can be no excuse for non-payments any more! The membership has to realize that the payment of dues is a necessity for IPSO to remain a vital organization with financial strength. Shortly after this newsletter you will receive your statement of payments, including the 2003 dues. Members are urged to pay within a short time period after its receipt. In case of financial problems you may contact the Treasurer or the Secretary.

Fund raising for the IPSO/SIOP meeting

The executive Board would like to ask all members to try and contribute to Fund raising for our annual meeting. You can contribute by contacting any (medical) Firm you regard as a potential donor that would be receptive to sponsorship. In case of a fruitful contact, please pass this information to either our Program Director (hadley@nu.ac.za), President (bbroecker@pol.net), or to the Secretary (d.c.aronson@amc.uva.nl).

From the Secretary

At the 2003 IPSO business meeting in Cairo, the election of the new President of IPSO will be scheduled. The Executive Board nominates dr. Helene Martelli from Paris, France as a candidate. Any active member can be proposed to the Executive Board. Proposals must be submitted to the Secretary in writing at least three months before the annual AGM. The proposed nominee must have agreed to stand.

In 2004, the second IPSO/APSA meeting will take place at the Marriot in Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, USA. The IPSO session will take place on May 26, the APSA meeting is scheduled to go from May 27-30. A program with invited lectures is being organized around the theme '(Surgical) treatment of the Unresectable Tumor'.

Please check your name, (e-mail) address, phone/fax numbers, and/or position in the 2003 Membership Directory that will be sent to you with the bill of dues. Please forward any changes to the Secretariat!

News from the Program Committee

In essence the programme will be similar to last year, largely because nobody expressed serious dissatisfaction with previous arrangements, at least not to me. This will mean that, given a similar number of submissions, we will still be limiting the time allotted to speakers. The local arrangements have, as you know, been under the watchful eye of Professor Yasser in Alexandria. Since Cairo and Baghdad are closer together than New York and Chicago!! we may have far fewer delegates than usual. On the other hand there are many Paediatric Surgeons in Egypt and if they all choose to respond to Prof Yasser's rallying call we may have rather more delegates than usual.

Prof Yasser is keen to get a feel for how many people would be interested in a full day tour to the Great Library of Medicine in Alexandria. It would have to be a full day because of the distances involved, and presumably the day after IPSO finishes but whilst SIOP is still continuing.

The membership is urged to submit papers for the video session and papers for a new 'cases with unexpected outcome'-session. You should be informed that all submissions will be reviewed and that this year, only the best selection of abstracts will be published in MPO. Papers may also be accepted as posters. Also at this year's meeting a 'Best Paper' award is again made available by Wright Medical Technology Inc. We will again strive for an attractive programme, and hope to see as many of you possible in Cairo!

Larry Hadley
Program Director

Presidents Corner

As I write to you for the first time as the president of IPSO I am greatly honored to be doing so. Our organization has become the most effective and most representative voice of pediatric surgical oncology in the world today. This position is the result of the vision, efforts and dedication of prior presidents, officers, executive committees and ordinary members. I believe that we will continue to grow and thrive in the future and while I seek and encourage the recruitment of new members I would particularly like to ask and encourage each of the present members of our organization to renew their own commitment to fully participate in the organization. I ask you to participate in the organization by attending the annual meetings, presenting clinical and laboratory research, and actively engaging in discussion and debate. And I ask you to participate in the organization by keeping current in your individual financial obligations to IPSO. We want and need new members but we want new members who will participate and contribute and we will attract them by making our meeting a meeting that anyone who practices pediatric surgical oncology would be reluctant to miss and our organization one that can strongly, effectively and fairly represents pediatric surgical oncology among our colleagues.

This year, I am well aware, participation may seem a less appealing prospect. The current tensions in the world at large but in the Middle-East in particular are more than a little unsettling. But at a time when those who seek conflict and those who thrive on fear seem to be in the ascendancy there can be no more important, indeed essential, time for those who, despite different cultures, backgrounds and religious beliefs, share a desire to live in a peaceful, rational and civilized world to continue to engage in dialogue and integration. Isolation stifles communication between rational and moderate people, promotes misunderstanding and gives in to those who would uproot and destroy what all of us value.

In closing I will try to represent our organization vigorously among our colleagues and fairly among our constituent membership. I encourage members to contact me with concerns, suggestions or offers of help. I wish each of you a safe, prosperous, and healthy 2003 and look forward to seeing each of you at the annual meeting in the Fall.

Bruce Broecker
President of IPSO