Dear Friends Governors and ELSA Members

Since my last letter in November 2012, ELSA has had some great activities and more Initiatives are on the way to bring our Society further to lead MIS in ASIA.

Our Society continues to have a steady membership growth in Asia and during the last BOGs Meeting in Riyadh, was suggested to try to work and collaborate more with the National Endo-Laparoscopic Societies. We wish that all the Governors could lead this initiative that may ultimately be able to contribute to a stronger integration of ELSA in ASIA.

1. ELSA 2012 in Riyadh, KSA
2. Report from Administrative Meetings
3. ELSA Outreach Programme
4. Taiwan 2013 - “20 years of ELSA”
5. Link with other International Societies
6. ELSA Social Network: MD Pie

1. ELSA 2012: December 11-13 Riyadh - KSA

It was a great and successful Congress under the leadership of Prof. A Aldohayan and his LOC. More then 600 surgeons from Asia-Pacific attended the Congress. Both Scientific and Social Programme were outstanding with a worldwide-recognized faculty. The Pre-Congress Workshops and the Main Scientific Conference experienced a high attendance rate. You can watch Videos and Pictures at the ELSA Website or on our Social Network MD Pie. The theme of the Congress was “Dreams of Tomorrow are Today’s Reality” and was well chosen with a focused Programme. All the Scientific Sessions from Obesity to New Technology as Robotic and Single port were well attended, from Specualistic Session to the Sessions “Voice for Asia” where developing countries, present their challenges, joy and frustration of performing and training MIS in difficult setting and situations, attained a great level of speakers and good participations.
2. ELSA Administrative Meetings
During the Annual Congress in Riyadh we had both BOGs Meeting and AGM. Few issues arise:

1. **Stronger collaboration between ELSA and Endo-laparoscopic National Societies.**
   Many suggestions arise but the most accepted was to offer the option of a common Registration Fee with double Membership to all the members of the National Society. I suggest that the Governors will take lead for this initiative and start discussion locally and report in Taiwan during the next BOGs.

2. **Criteria to host future ELSA Congress**
The BOG approve few rules for bidding and host the Annual Congress. Here listed some:
   a. Adequate Meeting facilities
   b. primary budget items,
   c. Agreement about the attainable profit for ELSA that fees should assure a profit of 20% in favor of ELSA after reimbursement of all congress related items and not less than 20,000 USD
   d. Easy Access from Overseas. And no visa restriction.
   e. The safety in the host city and adequate transport and hotel facilities for all budget.
   f. The activities of the ELSA Chapter
   g. Support from the local medical association

3. **ELSA Constitution**
after a revision by the “By-Law Committee”, some amendments have been made and approved. I summarized some of the changes:
   a) **Place of Business (Singapore) and Executive Secretariat (Hong Kong) stated**
   b) **Membership regrouped as:**
      a. Active member (for country like HK that have an annual membership)
      b. Life member (for all Asia-Pacific members – increases Fee)
      c. International member (for all no Asia-Pacific members)
      d. Honorary member (starting from Taiwan we will reinstate actively this)
      e. Corporate member (to reinforce a full collaboration with Companies)
   C) **Term of Office**
      a. The President and Vice-President shall serve for a two year term without possibility of re-election. The General Secretary and Treasurer serve also for a two year term with the possibility of re-election. The other members of the Board of Governors shall be elected for a 2 years term with the possibility to be re-elected once for another full term with respect to a minimum of 8 new members of the Board of Governors each year. Governors who didn’t attend the Board of Governor meetings for two consecutive years shall not be eligible for re-election. Governors elected to the Executive Committee will be eligible to serve as Executive Committee Officer for the additional respective term
   d) **Election of the Office Bearers**
      a. Members of the Executive Committee will be elected every two years. ….Candidates
b. for election to the Executive Committee shall be announced with the invitation to the Annual General Meeting. The election is anonymous and in written. Candidates for any position in the Executive Committee but especially for the President and Vice-President positions can be chosen from the list of countries organizing future ELSA Conferences and the Board of Governors. Other candidates can also be proposed by any voting member, and any nomination provided which was sent in time and by a voting member shall be considered for election as well. The candidates must be active members for a minimum of 5 years or life members of the Society and shall present themselves and their plans to the members of the General Meeting.

e) SubCommittees:
   i. Advisory Committee
   ii. Revision of Bylaws Committee
   iii. Education Committee
   iv. Scientific Committee
   V. Membership and Corporate Committee
   VI. Technological Committee

The newly approved Constitution will be uploaded on the website soon

3. ELSA Outreach Programme

The “Outreach ELSA Programme” is going on successful and with great enthusiasm. Myanmar, after 5 successful Workshops in 2012 training more then 400 attendees, has started and planned their 2013 educational activities (February, May, August). Nepal will host the 1st Basic Laparoscopic Course in Dhahran in May, while we are finalizing the date of the Courses in Cambodia. We will upload all the activities in a special section of the ELSA Website. We are in discussion with Companies in order to get support and funding for the programme. We really hope to get your support and assistance for the several activities. For any countries that you would like to get ELSA support for any Educational MIS Programme please do not hesitate to contact us.

President’s Office:
Emma Suleiman (Ms)
Minimally Invasive Surgical Centre (MISC), National University Hospital, Department of Surgery, Level 2 Kent Ridge Wing 2, 5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074. Tel: +656772 2897 * Fax: +65 6774 6077 * E-mail: sarimah_binte_suleiman@nuhs.edu.sg
On behalf of the President of the 2013 ELSA Congress and the LOC, we invite all of you in Taipei for our 11th Asia-Pacific Congress. It is 20 year since ELSA was founded and, certainly this will be an exhilarating event with a great scientific programme and exciting social activities. Book your calendar and submit abstracts from your Group, Hospital, and Country.
5. **Link with Other International Sister Societies**
Ongoing contact and discussion with SAGES (Global Affair Committee: H Asbun) and EAES (N. Di Lorenzo) are on the way. SAGES is keen to start some form of cooperation in education and training abroad and discussion is ongoing. During the EAES Congress in Vienna, 19-21 June 2013 there will be a combined Session with all the major International Societies involved including ELSA. We hope to organize it too in Taiwan to strengthen the link and cooperation of effort among all the International Societies.

6. **ELSA Social Network.**
Finally, our social network “MD Pie” has been launched in Riyadh and now we should start to use and implement among all Members. This will allow a fast sharing communication between us, but also gives us the opportunity to interact, to share interesting share clinical cases, blog, open forum and more. You can visit the ELSA website and get the link for Login

If anybody is interested to lead this initiative will be welcome!

*Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.*
*Henry Ford*

Looking forward to hear from you, I remain

Sincerely

President’s Office:
Emma Suleiman (Ms)
Minimally Invasive Surgical Centre (MISC), National University Hospital, Department of Surgery, Level 2 Kent Ridge Wing 2, 5 Lower Kent Ridge Road, Singapore 119074. Tel: +656772 2897 * Fax: +65 6774 6077 * E-mail: sarimah_binte_suleiman@nuhs.edu.s