Dear friends and colleagues,

ELSA 2018 will be held in Kuala Lumpur Convention Center in Malaysia, and I am excited to learn about the comprehensive scientific program prepared by the local organizing committee led by Dr Vimal K Vasudeavan. There will also be numerous training workshops focusing on minimally invasive surgical procedures. I am sure delegates will enjoy the wonderful organization as well as friendly atmosphere in Malaysia!

You will also find interesting training experience from the report of ELSA outreach program led by President Dr Allen Buenafe and Secretary General Prof Davide Lomanto. As Asia is the faster growing region in the world, there is high demand for training of minimally invasive surgery in many countries of Asia. Thanks to our dedicated members of ELSA, the benefits of minimally invasive surgery can be spread to various countries in Asia. I am sure we shall learn more about this program during ELSA 2018.

Philip WY Chiu
Director, CUHK Jockey Club Minimally Invasive Surgical Skills Center
Director, Chow Yuk Ho Technology Center for Innovative Medicine
Professor, Department of Surgery, Institute of Digestive Disease
Assistant Dean (External Affairs), Faculty of Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Message from Editor
Message from President of ELSA

Dr. Alfred Allen E Buenafe
President of ELSA

Dear colleagues and members of ELSA,

I am proud and honored to be able to welcome you to the 2018 ELSA Conference here in the Kuala Lumpur Convention Center in Malaysia. This has been a banner year for ELSA, and I am delighted with the progress we have made thus far, yet also eager to see where we go from here. I have no doubt that this congress will light a spark and inspire us to continue our current development and innovation as we move forward into the next decade.

This congress is co-organized with the Society of Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgery of Malaysia (SELSMA). I am very grateful for the support SELSMA has given for the success of this congress, and I am sure that the relationship between SELSMA and ELSA will flourish in the future. I am certain that this year’s congress, due in no small part to SELSMA’s perseverance and determination, will be a successful and excellent one, and will be fruitful for all those in attendance.

The theme of this year’s congress is “Trailblazing MIS into the next decade.” This, I feel, is fitting for several reasons. As MIS continues to evolve, our hope for ELSA is not only to keep up with the passage of time and the advancement of technology, but also to become a leader in this change, and help pave the path of progress for MIS. This hope extends not just to us as a society, but to each one of us as individual surgeons, that we may be able to continue to develop our skills and improve ourselves both as doctors and as human beings, which allows us to provide the best care for our patients. Let us remember that while progress is good, it does not come without responsibility. As we continue to blaze the trail for MIS, let us be reminded of who we do this for, and the passion we have for our craft, and allow that to motivate our actions and decisions.

And with that, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the organizing committee for their hard work and commitment to this congress. I have no doubt that the events and lectures will allow us to continue to push the boundary of MIS, and provide new and valuable information to all those in attendance. I would also like to thank the board of directors, the faculty, the vendors, fellow members of ELSA, and all those here today. Without you, this congress would not be possible.

Malaysia’s motto is “Bersekutu Bertambah Mutu.” Unity is strength. To all those in attendance, my wish for this congress is to foster that unity within our society. As time continues to pass, and as the world continues to turn, it is this unity that allows us to stand strong despite the test of time. It is this unity that allows us to remain steadfast in our commitment to serve. And it is this unity that will allow ELSA to continue trailblazing MIS into the next decade. I wish you all a wonderful and fruitful time at the congress. Thank you all very much.
The ELSA Outreach Programme

Report from Professor Davide Lomanto,
MD, PhD, FAMS (Surg), Secretary of ELSA

6 years from the start, one memorable photobook, 73 Workshops in 13 Countries, more than 70 Experts, more than 3500 Trainees are some of the numbers of the ELSA OP (see graphs Fig. 1,2). Uzbekistan in Central Asia is the latest Country where the OP Team travelled to share MIS and perform live surgery early this year. The visit to the Samarkand Medical University (Fig 3-6) was hosted by the President and Rector of the University and a plan for a strong cooperation to develop MIS in Central Asia was lined up by the ELSA Team and the Local Colleagues lead by Dr Jamshied Shamsiev. The experience was an open eye on the potential growth that Central Asia region can achieve and to be integrated with other Asian countries.

Following the ELSA OP Board Meeting the process of setting up OP team in some of the Countries has started with Myanmar making example. A ELSA OP short-term Fellowship will be implemented soon together with new E-Learning Opportunities. 15 Travel Grant will be awarded to Trainees to attend the Annual Congress of ELSA 2018 in Kuala Lumpur where we will have a special Session “MIS Without Border” will be organized during the Congress with participants from OP Countries. We will host our 3rd OP Annual Leadership Meeting on November 17 for a broad discussion on the need and requirements for the next years.

We would like to extend our gratitude to all the Trainers, the Administrative staff from Singapore and all the other Countries, the Companies who have supported the OP during this year: Olympus, Covidien, Storz and BBraun.

Stay tuned with our Facebook ELSA Outreach Programme page with our coming activities.
ELSA Outreach Programme Workshops (2012 - 2018)

Total Workshop completed to date: 73 (by Countries)

ELSA Outreach Programme Workshops’ Participants (2012 - 2018)

Total Participants for ELSA Outreach: 3375
Stay tuned with our Facebook ELSA Outreach Programme page with our coming activities.
2018 is a great year for ELSA. The Society of Endolaparoscopic Surgeons of Malaysia will host the annual ELSA meeting from the 15th till the 17th of November 2018.
First and foremost, as the president of the organizing committee of ELSA congress KL 2018, it gives me great honor and privilege to welcome you to Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. It has been more than a decade since Malaysia last played host to ELSA congress and I was then still struggling for avenues to learn and practice minimally invasive surgery. Fast forward to now, Malaysia has seen rapid rise in laparoscopy and great strides have been made by a number of surgeons and centers in the country.

This year congress is co-organized with the Society of Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgery of Malaysia (SELSMA). SELSMA is a relatively young society borne out of interest by a group of excellent laparoscopic surgeons who were determined to share their knowledge with the next generation. As the president of SELSMA and on behalf of our committee, we are greatly honored and would like to thank ELSA for the opportunity. We are determined to ensure the congress is a successful one, leaving no stone unturned and strive towards excellence. We also hope this congress will allow SELSMA to take a giant leap to become more visible in the region.

Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC) will be the venue for our congress this year. We have arranged a program to encompass all the major disciplines in MIS and also present a world class line up of faculties consisting of experts locally, regionally and internationally. This year’s theme “Trailblazing MIS into the next decade” is aptly chosen as we are at a critical time in the development of MIS where we have to balance the emergence of new techniques as opposed to the principle of “primum non nocere”.

Besides an exciting conference we will also have a wonderful cultural and performance by star artist from Malaysia. We will always endeavour to create the best and most memorable event for all of our respected delegates and hope everyone will come and enjoy our hospitality. Besides this, this year we will also focus on you g surgeons and development of career option for these young surgeons. New dimensions and paradigm will be added including medico legal aspects and emerging technologies.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the ELSA exco, board of govenors of ELSA, ELSA members, vendors and all participants to enjoy the intense and high quality scientific content, the cultural bonanza and the warm hospitality of a truly asian society.

Selamat datang (welcome) and terima kasih (thank you).

Vimal k Vasuedevan
President and Organising Chairman
ELSA KL 2018
ELSA Outreach Program

Calendar of the upcoming 2018 Programme:
- August 30-31: Yangon, Myanmar. Workshop on Surgical Endoscopy
- October 18: Yangon, Myanmar. Advanced MIS Workshops with Live Surgery.
- November 6: Vientiane, Laos. Live Surgery Workshop on MIS.
- November 17: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. 3rd OPAL Meeting during ELSA 2018
- October 5-6: Yangon, Myanmar. Workshop on Hernia Surgery
- October 20-21: Colombo, Sri Lanka. Workshop on Digestive Surgery
- November 2-3: Nga Trahn, Vietnam. Workshop on Hepato-Biliary Surgery
- November 9-10: Campasak, Laos. Workshop on Basic Lap Surgery and Suturing
- November 23: Kathmandu, Nepal: Workshop on Basic Lap Urology Surgery
- January/February 2019: Nepal, Myanmar, Vietnam. Date to be finalized.