MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Minhua Zheng

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from the Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia (ELSA).

Surgery has met with lots of technology innovation such as laparoscopy, single-port surgery, robotic surgery and NOTES since the end of last century. Millions of patients have been cured and benefit from those minimally invasive surgeries. Satisfying outcomes, quicker recovery and better cosmetic outcome make those surgical techniques spread widely in the world.

In the past years, ELSA acted as a leader and organizer in the Asia-Pacific region, and has already made a great success in the field of education, training, academic discussions, etc.

It’s really a great honor for me to be the President of ELSA. The ELSA board of governors and I propose to establish an excellent website for all the surgeons in the Asia-Pacific region, which includes rich information on the emerging development, conference, update news in this field. We’ll also give great support to the organizing committee of ELSA2010, Vietnam and ELSA2011, Singapore. We encourage all the efforts of education and training.

I really hope more and more surgeons would join us, and more and more patients would benefit from our works.

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Michael KW Li

It gives me a great honor to serve you as the Secretary General for ELSA. I am pleased to inform you that the ELSA office is once again up and running in Hong Kong after an absence of 2 years.

The prime objective for the secretariat would be to keep the membership up to date and all ELSA members by efficient communication either through contacts or through the local society as represented by members board of governors. We need to keep members informed of all upcoming ELSA international meetings and participation in the world congresses. In this age of internet, the ELSA website will serve as a source for members to access the information.

We also hope to have interchange of endoscopic and laparoscopic skills through further development of the website into an active arena where members can participate in discussion or exchange of ideas through the members chat corners.
MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Davide Lomanto

Dear Colleagues,

As Editor of the Society I would like to introduce you News@ELSA, to keep all of you updated on the activities and future plan of our Association.

ELSA continues to be the leading association for endo-laparoscopic surgeons in our Region and the success of the latest Congress in Xiamen was a further confirmation of it, the Society is growing and the Executive Committee is planning to expand the role of the Society being closer to its Members with different initiative but also supporting and regulating more educational activities in Asia-Pacific.

Among these, ELSA Website (www.elsa-soc.com) has been refurbished and will be updated regularly with latest news in endo-laparoscopic surgery, products and we hope in the future with surgical technical videos; the membership will be reviewed and we invite all the members to contact the secretariat to update the personal information.

The Accreditation process started will be implemented and the Executive Committee Member will recognized Centre of Excellence in our Region for Teaching, Training and Clinical Activities in the endo-laparoscopic field.

The Official Journal is now Asian Journal of Endoscopic Surgery (AJES) printed by renowned Wiley Interscience. The Editor-in-Chief is Prof. M. Kitajima and under his guidance the Journal already achieved big honour becoming the official Journal of the Japan Society of Endoscopic Surgery (JSES) and Asia-Endoscopic Task Force (AETF) and now of ELSA. All the ELSA Member have free access until 2011. The ELSA Members are invited to submit their papers for publication and we hope that the Journal will be indexed in the coming future.

The Newsletter will become a regular appointment to get-together. It will serve also to announce and keep the ELSA members in touch. Please feel free to give us feedback, news and update on activities in Asia-Pacific area by sending an email at info@elsa-soc.com. In this issue will be a report from the previous ELSA Congress and an invitation to join the upcoming Annual Congress in Hanoi, a report from the Editor of the Journal and an update from our Secretariat.

I would like to thank personally all of you for the strong and encouraging support and we wish to see you all in Hanoi.
Masaki Kitaoka  
Editor-in-Chief, *Asian Journal of Endoscopic Surgery*

Dear ELSA members and colleagues,

I am inviting you in my capacity as Editor-in-Chief of *Asian Journal of Endoscopic Surgery* (ASES) to invite you to contribute manuscripts to your new ELSA journal.

ASES was launched in 2008 as an official journal of the Asia Endosurgery Task Force and the Japan Society for Endoscopic Surgery. From 2010, ASES is also the official journal of ELSA, and the ELSA Governors are appointed as ASES editorial board members. We have so far published 40 articles (1 Preface, 16 Reviews, 1 Special Report, 1 Editorial, 12 Original Articles, 6 Case Reports, 1 My Approach, 1 Letter to the Editor, 1 Surgical Technique) and abstracts of 11th World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery held in Yokohama, Japan in 2008. By publishing your manuscripts in the journal, you can take an active part in developing our discipline as well as ELSA.

ASES publishes weekly advance online articles within just a few weeks of acceptance and currently 4 issues per year. We welcome Original Articles, Case Reports, Surgical Techniques, My Approach and Short Reports, which are all peer-reviewed. Letters to the Editor commenting on articles published in the journal or expressing views on topics concerning surgery are also welcomed. Special articles, including Review Articles are provided by the editorial team and invited authors. Meeting Reports include summaries of symposia or consensus achieved in the congresses of related associations.

For more information:

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We thank you in advance for your contributions, and we hope you will soon consider submitting some of your excellent research to our journal.
Role of ELSA in Training

ELSA being the professional society representing Asia in the field of endoscopic and laparoscopic surgery, has the responsibility to set standards on the practice and training of endoscopic and laparoscopic surgery that are agreeable by all the country members. This set standards will be the guide to member countries in its practice and training in minimally invasive surgery. Since how one practice is heavily dependent on the training that the surgeon has received before he / she applies his / her skills, a guideline on training of minimally invasive surgery will be the key to the standard of care provided by the surgeons.

However, the guidelines on training promulgated by ELSA should also reflect the practical situations in each country in Asia. A uniform guideline to be applied to each country will be difficult due to the widely varied economic, political, professional situations. But a set of principles of guidelines on training that is agreed by all countries will be useful to the development of minimally invasive surgery in the member countries.

Accreditation of Training as a means to attain acceptable standard

While it is important to lay down guidelines on practice and standard of care for surgeons to follow, those guidelines are already easily available from other international organizations and each country should adapt those international standards to suit their need. On the other hand, recommendation on guidelines on practice should be updated all the time to reflect new developments. We feel that it should be the responsibility of the professional or governmental organizations of individual country in the monitor of the practice of surgeons in minimally invasive surgery. However, what ELSA can do at this stage is to promulgate its guidelines on how people should be trained in minimally invasive surgery so that people would acquire knowledge and skills in minimally invasive surgery in the proper manner so that certain standards can be achieved. These guidelines are meant to be recommendations for corresponding professional organizations to follow. If the ELSA guidelines on training can be more explicit and concrete, they will represent the standard of minimally invasive surgery training in Asia that is transparent to all concerned parties and stakeholders. In so doing, the ELSA guidelines will be more credible and through proper accreditation process, facilities that meet the prerequisite criteria can be labeled as ELSA accredited training centers and this will facilities the development of minimally invasive surgery in Asian countries and at the same time safeguards the acceptable standards are being met.

Training Centers

It is important to have centers or facilities that meet certain criteria and are deemed adequate in the ability to provide training in minimally invasive surgery and be accredited as ELSA training centers. It does not mean that training provided by centers other than ELSA centers are not acceptable. This label of ELSA centers only mean that those centers have attained certain standards that the ELSA has endorsed.

ELSA training centers should be institutions where adequate training facilities are available for training and regular training courses are provided. Training courses can be in form of fellowship programs, courses in basic and advanced laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery and hands-on training opportunities on animate and / or inanimate models.

Training facilities should include
- facilities for classroom teaching
- facilities for hand-on training on animate and / or inanimate needs
- training resources such as videos, books, journals and electronic access to publications
- structured training courses or programs that are delivered regularly to trainees.
The training centers should also be centers where laparoscopic and endoscope works are regularly performed and audits on those works were regularly carried out to ensure acceptable outcomes are achieved. Centers may be classified according to the major laparoscopic or endoscopic work done in the centre and types of training programs delivered.

1. Basic laparoscopy
   - Examples --
     - laparoscopic cholecystectomy
     - laparoscopic appendicectomy
     - diagnostic laparoscopy

2. Advanced laparoscopy (in subspecialties)
   - As many centers may have more interest in some kinds of advanced laparoscopic work and not others, it may be useful to classify them according to the subspecialty the centers are most experienced in.
   - Examples -- advanced laparoscopic surgery in colorectal, hepatobiliary, vascular, urology, gynecology, hernia, cardiothoracic etc.

Trainers

Good trainers are the key to success of every training program. Trainees very often follow what their trainers or mentors do when they practice independently. Therefore given the training facilities are adequate, the quality of trainers should be safeguarded with explicit rules stating their qualifications, experience in minimally invasive surgery and ability in coaching others. Although appointing qualified trainers are so important, it is difficult for ELSA as an international body to govern those countries' professional organizations. However, the ELSA can keep a list of qualified minimally invasive surgery trainers as recommended by the individual country professional organization as a reference that can be a useful resource for trainees seeking training opportunities.

Procedures for Accreditation

Application sent to ELSA secretariat by interested centers

Application passes to Accreditation Board

Secretary General to organize Inspection Team

Inspection of Center (if deemed appropriate)

Report of inspection and recommendation to Accreditation Board for approval

Endorsement by President of ELSA
The Meeting of Endoscopic and Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia Pacific (ELSA 2010) will be held from 25th – 27th November 2010 in Hanoi – the Historical Capital of Vietnam.

Like ELSA Annual Meetings, the ELSA 2010 Vietnam is organized to foster and develop endoscopic surgery in Asia Pacific Region. ELSA 2010 Vietnam is a venue for medical professionals and experts to exchange their knowledge, experiences and to acknowledge the latest achievements in diagnosis and treatment using endoscopic & laparoscopic technology. ELSA Meeting is the most outstanding endoscopic and laparoscopic event of the Asia Pacific Region ever held in Vietnam so this is a good chance for Vietnamese professionals & experts to share and exchange their technical skills, experiences with colleagues in the region and worldwide. Through international events such as ELSA Meeting, Vietnam looks forward to international cooperation in different scientific areas, especially in Health Care.

Being selected as the host for ELSA 2010 is an honor for the Vietnam Association of Endolaparoscopic Surgeons. With support from the Vietnam Government, Ministry of Health and ELSA Steering Committee, the Organizing Committee has been focusing on making all necessary arrangements for fruitful meetings and enjoyable stay for all invitees. To date, the comprehensive preparation has been completed and everything is ready for the opening of this outstanding event.

The National Convention Center venue, where ELSA 2010 takes place is embedded in a park landscape, which integrates thematic and symbolic references to the Vietnamese culture and traditions. The symposium halls and meeting rooms are furnished with modern audiovisual equipment, widespread use of digital and broadband telecommunications, wireless transmission and networking technologies. This is to ensure that the scientific symposiums & meetings will be at international level quality and images of the demonstrative operations can be televised live from operating rooms.

To enable professionals and experts in the region to share and exchange knowledge, experience with professionals and experts worldwide, apart from professors, doctors from ELSA member countries lot of prestigious professors & doctors from different countries like US, Norway, France…. are invited to participate and give presentations in the Meeting.

A large number of abstracts have already been submitted. Topic of presentations are from all the key sections such as: Gastrointestinal Surgery, Hepato-Biliary Surgery, Laparoscopic Herniorrhaphy, Thoracic (Cardiothoracic) Surgery, Laparoscopic Pediatric Surgery, Laparoscopic Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, Hybrid Surgery, Single Incision Laparoscopic, Single Port Access, Robotic Surgery, Training for Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery of Urology, Minimally Invasive Surgery of Gynecology, Neuro-Surgery, Orthopedic – Trauma Surgery…. As content of presentations is significant to ensure the quality of the Meeting, the submitted abstracts have been delivered to members of the technical advisory committee for review.
During the Meeting, participants can visit exhibition areas where the modern and newly launched endoscopic and laparoscopic instrument and equipment as well as endoscopic and laparoscopic related products, endoscopic and laparoscopic training equipment will be demonstrated by the World Leading Manufacturers. Besides the scientific program, entertainment program has also been carefully considering to ensure a pleasant stay of all the guests and participants. The opening ceremony will be followed by Gala Diner, which will take place in Bao Son Paradise. Bao Son Paradise Park provides you plenty of opportunities to learn about Vietnamese culture. Its craft village section features replicas of the 15 most well-known craft villages of Viet Nam, including Phu Lang pottery village, Van Phuc silk village and villages specializing in making craft products such as gemstone-inlaid pictures, bamboo and rattan-made handicrafts and embroidery. It reflects not only their craft methods but also their local setting and background.

ELSA 2010 Vietnam will be organized on the occasion Hanoi celebrates its 1000th anniversary. Participants may be entertained by a number of cultural events taking place during this time. Participants may also find time to enjoy this ancient but beautiful city with its unique traditions and culture.

Please access to ELSA 2010 website www.elsa2010.com you will have more detailed information about scientific program, accommodation, transportation and about extracurricular activities during ELSA 2010 Vietnam.
9th Asia Pacific Congress of Endoscopic Surgery was successfully held in Xiamen, China on Nov. 4-6th, 2009. The congress gathered surgeons and specialist from Europe, USA, Asia Pacific Area and all over China. Totally, more than 2200 participants (including invited guests and faculties) took part in the congress, there are 50 invited faculties and 120 invited speakers and guests from China.

Following the theme -- One Surgical world: Innovation and Harmonization, the congress provided different types of scientific sessions such as special lectures, symposiums, free-paper, satellite, and poster presentations covering a wide spectrum of the field of laparoscopic and endoscopic surgery. Before the opening of the congress, up to 450 abstracts were received. These excellent sessions were arranged to fulfill different anticipations from all, and provided more than enough opportunities to share, discuss and exchange your professionalism and experiences. Within three days, 4 plenary sessions, 28 special sessions as well as 14 free speech sessions of the congress revealed a panoramic demonstration of advances in various aspects of endoscopic surgery. Great successes have been witnessed by every participant, since diverse state-of-the-art techniques and innovations have been introduced and demonstrated during the congress. With the help of Zhongshang Hospital Xiamen University and the 1st Hospital of Xiamen affiliated to Xiamen Medical University, the congress organized live surgeries with 5 sites local or remote transmissions and achieved a great success.

It also provided a big stage for all the sponsors and exhibitors to show their equipments, new invents and brand culture.

Last but not least, Xiamen was an attractive city for all the participants in the autumn of 2009.
UPCOMING EVENTS

6th International Congress of the Asia - Pacific Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery Society
21 -23 Oct 2010
Singapore
http://www.apmbss2010.com/

Laparoscopic Hernia Workshop
13 -14 Dec 2010
Hong Kong, MASTC
http://www30.ha.org.hk/mastc/tc/o/overview.aspx

10th Asia Pacific Congress of Endoscopic Surgery
11-12 August 2011
Singapore
http://www.elsa2011singapore.com
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