



UNITED STATES CHAPTER OF
THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF SURGERY

NEWSLETTER
November 2014

President: Dr. Hilary Sanfey, Springfield, Illinois.
President – Elect: Dr. Kathleen Casey, Newport, Rhode Island.
Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Peter Angelos, Chicago, Illinois.

The annual meeting of the US Chapter of the ISS took place in San Francisco on October 29 2014. The Chapter President, Dr. Hilary Sanfey welcomed all in attendance, particularly those of the 33 new members who were able to attend. The President - Elect, Dr. Kathleen Casey provided an update on The Alliance for Surgery and Anesthesia Presence (ASAP) which is the most recent ISS integrated Society member. <http://asaptoday.org/>.

The US- Chapter will shortly solicit nominations for the Lloyd Nyhus Traveling Fellowship which allows a young US surgeon to attend the World Congress of Surgery. More information is available on the Chapter website. The age limit has been removed and the Fellowship is available to surgeons within ten years of completing training. <http://www.us-iss.org/events-education/lloyd-nyhus-traveling-fellowship/>

The U.S. Chapter of the International Society of Surgery established a Distinguished Lectureship in 1990, to take place during the Annual Clinical Congress of the American College of Surgeons. This year's Lecturer was Dr. Meena Nathan Cherian who leads the World Health Organization (WHO) Secretariat for the Global Initiative for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care, at their Headquarters in Geneva. Dr. Cherian spoke eloquently about the need to provide programs that bring coordinated and cohesive surgical services to individuals living in developing countries. Leading up to her 13-year career with WHO, she provided surgical, obstetric, and anesthesia services in a rural hospital in India before specializing in anesthesia. Later she trained, worked, and taught anesthesia in the U.S., Africa, Southeast Asia, and was a professor of anesthesia in India. Dr. Cherian shared some of the history, current state, and next steps for the WHO's work in developing countries in her lecture *"Surgical Care in the Global Health Agenda"*. She pointed to examples where skilled surgical health providers are needed to prevent deformity due to a burn, early repair of clubfoot, treatment of fractures, sepsis after an unsafe abortion, and to perform C-sections in obstructed labor. *"The challenge for us in developing countries is that surgeries are performed by non-specialist surgical health providers in remote and rural health*

facilities which often do not have specialists," Dr. Cherian said. While these countries may have programs for mental health, child health, immunizations, tropical diseases, HIV, and tuberculosis, many are lacking in safe surgical services and often rely on surgical specialists from developing countries who provide services through short missions instead of in a coordinated and cohesive manner. *"If we could build sustainable local surgical capacities to meet local country needs through adequate education and training, then they will be able to do things for themselves."* Dr. Cherian described a global forum, the WHO Global Initiative for Emergency and Essential Surgical Care (GIEESC), which convenes multidisciplinary stakeholders representing health professionals, public health experts, health authorities, academia, leaders of education and training programs, non-governmental organizations, civil and professional societies, and local and international organizations. Dr. Cherian noted that the end of 2015 target date for achieving the Millennium Development Goals is approaching, although not all of the 194 WHO member states have reached their targets. Those eight target goals are to:

- eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;
- achieve universal primary education;
- promote gender equality and empower women;
- reduce child mortality;
- improve maternal health;
- combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases;
- ensure environmental sustainability;
- develop a global partnership for development.

Dr. Cherian emphasized that this work has to be a joint effort to strengthen surgical services to these countries, and must include not only surgeons but also epidemiologists, emergency physicians, pediatricians, obstetricians, and medical students. *"It has to be included in national policies and plans with input from stakeholders who seek to reduce death and disability as a result of lack of access to services."*

World Congress of Surgery

Please join us for the World Congress of Surgery meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, August 23rd - 27th 2015 to be held in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand. <https://www.wcs2015.org/home>

The Organizing Committee led by Professor Supakorn Rojananin, the Royal College of Surgeons of Thailand and the ISS/SIC Executive Committee have developed a stellar scientific program with State-of-the-Art lectures, live surgeries, plenary sessions, round table discussions, and free paper and poster presentations. The Bangkok Convention Centre at Central World is located in the city centre of Bangkok. Several sightseeing tours in and around Bangkok have been arranged for accompanying persons and guests. Pre and post-congress tours in different parts of Thailand, for

example, Ayuthya, Sukothai, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Phuket, Samui, Krabi, and Pattaya will be arranged for those who would like to spend few more days before or after the Congress to explore the beauties and natural attractions of Thailand. A special trip to Sampran Riverside, formerly known as Rose Garden, on Wednesday late afternoon is one of the highlights of the congress social activities where all guests will enjoy a wonderful Thai night.

Furthermore the Association of Women Surgeons (AWS) www.womensurgeons.org in collaboration with the Japanese Association of Women Surgeons will host a networking breakfast for women surgeons attending the WTC on Tuesday morning. AWS will also sponsor a number of panel sessions on topics aimed at meeting the needs of women surgeons and women patients in the global community.