



International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery, and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine

6300 N. River Road, Suite 727 Rosemont, IL 60018-4226 USA

Summer 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Gary Poehling, M.D., 1997-99 ISAKOS President



From May 11-16, 1997, Buenos Aires hosted the initial meeting of the International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery, and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine. Peter Fowler, our First President, launched a sweeping change for our new organization. He opened widely the doors for participation from all corners of the world. Program Chair Terry Whipple offered an innovative program featuring concurrent sessions and maximum participation. This was extremely well-received and all participants profited from the exposure of approximately 200 papers. Rodolfo Carpignano, the local host, conveyed the best of Buenos Aires to the 1,000 physician participants. He made everyone feel at home in the beautiful capital of Argentina. As a bonus, the Latin American organizations formed a society called Societe Latino Americano Rodillo Departate (SLARD).

STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION GENERATES NEW GOALS

An electrifying strategic planning meeting looked at seven major issues: membership, continental organization, international meetings, education and fellowships, communication, journal, and the biennial program. These discussions generated many innovative ideas and strategic suggestions.

The membership group suggested that members first be admitted into continental or national organizations before satisfying the requirements to join our organization. They also proposed that the application process be streamlined.

The continental organization group maintained that ISAKOS is a good location for multinational and national group leaders to meet and discuss topics of mutual interest. This potential can enable our society to become a worldwide umbrella for arthroscopy, knee surgery and orthopaedic sports medicine.

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A CHAIR NEEDS FOUR LEGS

Terry Whipple, M.D., 1997 Program Chair

In the wake of the inaugural meeting of our new International Society of Arthroscopy, Knee Surgery and Orthopaedic Sports Medicine I can reflect on my experience as Chair of the Program Committee with tremendous pride in this organization. I remember the initial excitement when I was invited to serve as the leader of this committee, and the awesome sense of responsibility that came over me as soon as I hung up the phone. Countless factors influence the complexion and the potential of a professional society, but few are as significant as its birth. The inaugural meeting of ISAKOS in Buenos Aires would be the christening of this new society, and could empower it to serve the professional interests of its members uniquely for years to come. Chairing the Program Committee was to be a singular honor, of course, but one accompanied by an unavoidable sense of responsibility to an emerging organization.

Although a new organization, ISAKOS had a history, a heritage from its two international parent organizations. It had tremendous potential for dissemination of knowledge gained from clinical experience as well as the laboratories of orthopaedic researchers around the world, potential for elevating the standard of orthopaedic care on every continent, potential for forging bonds of friendship and cultural exchange among colleagues from every country on earth. Where could this organization go, and how should it be launched?

Formulating a program for the inaugural meeting would mean blending international cultures through effective communication as well as amalgamating the interests of knee reconstruction surgeons and arthroscopic surgeons whose province extends beyond the knee. How could an international organization embrace such diversity?

The answer was found in the edition of "Orthopaedic Sports Medicine" to our charter. Many patient candidates for knee replacement have had former athletic careers and injuries. Current worldwide emphasis on fitness and exercise into the "mature years" also has unprecedented

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FROM THE HOME OFFICE

Kathryn Grady, ISAKOS Coordinator

Hello, Membership! Congratulations on a wonderful, successful meeting. I can not tell you what a pleasure it was to meet many of you and match faces with the names I know so well.

As many of you may already have heard, Sherri Ojenu resigned from her position as Society Coordinator two months ago. It was a surprise to us that she left, but the demands of working while battling several health issues proved to be too difficult. I have been hired to replace her and although I am honored, I know that many of you will miss her.

I have been working for ISAKOS since last fall. I first had the opportunity to meet the Board of Directors and many committee members at the AAOS meeting in San Francisco. What a delight! It was at that time, with the Congress in Buenos Aires quickly approaching, that I saw what an amazing society ISAKOS is. I have been able to see and assist in many of the developments that you will read about throughout this newsletter. Needless to say, a lot has happened these last six months. In my role as ISAKOS Coordinator I will be doing much more than simply planning your meetings. New initiatives were generated at the Strategic Planning, Board, and committee meetings in Buenos Aires that could really make ISAKOS an international player in world health and education. My role will be to link the members, ideas, and paperwork that make it possible.

I am in daily contact with President Gary Poehling. In the time since Buenos Aires we have tried to communicate the vibrancy of ISAKOS in several ways. The membership has been mailed Final Programs, Membership Certificates, and Membership Directories. We want you to feel like you are a part of a reliable network and that you belong to a special organization. I have reviewed the complete mailing list of all international journal subscribers to ensure that every one of you who has paid for the journal is getting it. I have researched homepages, printers, hotels, and budgets to ensure that every dollar ISAKOS has is well-spent.

We still have a lot of work to do. A meeting like the one in Buenos Aires takes months to clean up. I have an entire suitcase of paperwork to go through. The financial bottom line takes months to finalize. All of these items will evolve over the coming months.

In the meantime, congratulations on being part of a brilliant, truly international organization that will certainly make a difference internationally. As the membership expands over the coming months, and meetings grow larger over the years, you will have the privilege of saying you were there when it all began. I look forward to helping make it happen.

MEETING BREAKDOWN

Meeting attendance illustrated the true international flavor of ISAKOS. Thirty-nine countries were represented by 1,029 registrants including physicians, accompanying persons, exhibitors, and staff.

WHERE WE CAME FROM

Argentina	295	Martinique	1
Australia	31	Mexico	2
Austria	9	The Netherlands	12
Belgium	12	New Zealand	3
Brazil	139	Oman	3
Canada	11	Paraguay	1
Chile	47	Peru	2
Czech Republic	3	Poland	4
England	18	Portugal	12
Finland	3	Scotland	1
France	21	Singapore	1
Germany	32	South Africa	4
Greece	1	Spain	36
Hong Kong	2	Sweden	7
Ireland	2	Switzerland	15
Israel	6	Taiwan	2
Italy	94	Turkey	10
Japan	43	USA	123
Korea	17	Venezuela	2
Latvia	2		

WHO WAS THERE

The majority of attendees were not members of ISAKOS, indicating a strong interest in the work of the society and great room for membership growth.

WHAT WAS ATTENDED

In addition to the 200 papers and 100 posters that were presented, 1,910 people attended 27 Instructional Course Lectures. The six labs were often sold out to standing-room crowds. ■

Let us know what you want

Only 250 ISAKOS members attended the 1997 Biennial Congress. We know it is expensive to attend, but is there anything we could put on the program that would entice you to come?

SOME THOUGHTS FROM THE FIRST PAST PRESIDENT

Peter J. Fowler, M.D., ISAKOS Past President

Much of our dialogue over the past two or three years has been about "the merger". The time has arrived for ISAKOS to be viewed as its own entity. It is an entity with a mandate that acknowledges and values its origins (IAA and ISK) and possesses a commitment to preserving and indeed fostering the individual interest of its subgroups. Global interaction need and should not homogenize.

A very promising foundation was laid out at our first meeting in Argentina with a total attendance of 1029.

In 1995, at the time of his departing address as IAA President, Harold Eikelaar wished me "a lot of luck and courage to keep this organization straight." While it is true that every endeavor needs a good dose of both of these, I have the utmost confidence that the objectives of ISAKOS "to foster the communication and dissemination of knowledge of arthroscopy, knee surgery, and orthopaedic sports medicine; to further the development and research relative to those fields; to provide a forum for presentation and discussion of related issues" will guide its path.

To those of you who helped make the first two years, culminating in the Buenos Aires meeting, such a success and a



Pictured left to right: Peter J. Fowler, MD, ISAKOS Past President; Karen Jared, Director of AAOS Specialty Societies Department; Rodolfo Carpignano, MD, Local Host

great experience for me, thank you. Our future is made more secure with Gary Poehling, Roland Jakob, and Barry Tietjens providing the leadership to help us meet our objective in our early years. ■

ALBERT TRILLAT YOUNG INVESTIGATOR'S AWARD

The winning paper of the 1997 Albert Trillat Young Investigator's Award is titled *The Strain Behavior of the Anterior Cruciate Ligament During Bicycling: An In Vivo Study*. It was authored by Braden C. Fleming, Bruce D. Beynon, Per A. Renstrom, Glenn D. Peura, Claude E. Nichols, and Robert J. Johnson, all of the McClure Musculoskeletal Research Center at the University of Vermont in the United States.

The Albert Trillat Young Investigator's Award was established in the memory of Professor Albert Trillat, past president and founder of the International Society of the Knee. The award provides recognition for a young researcher who has done outstanding clinical laboratory research contributing to the understanding, care, or prevention of injuries to the knee. The award consists of a \$3,000.00 honorarium and presentation of the paper at the Biennial Congress.

The deadline for application for the 1999 award is October 1, 1998. ■

JOHN JOYCE AWARD WINNERS NAMED

First, second, and third place winners of the 1997 John J. Joyce Award have been declared. First place went to the paper *Histological Study of the Bone-Ligament Junction after ACL Reconstruction with Out-in and In-out Technique*. The paper was authored by Alfredo Schiavone Panni, Giuseppe Milano, Luciano Lucina, and Carlo Fabbriani.

Second place went to the paper *Effect of bFGF on Tendon Healing: An In Vivo Model*. The paper was authored by K.M. Chan, Barbara P. Chan, and Bruma S.C. Fu.

Third place went to the paper *Biomechanical Effects of an Alternative Tibial Attachment Site in Bone-Patellar Tendon-Bone Graft Reconstruction of PCL*. The paper was authored by John A. Bergfeld, Richard Edelson, Stuart Katchis, and Richard Parker.

The John J. Joyce Award was established in 1981 to award the best arthroscopy paper read during the Scientific Program of the 4th Congress of the International Arthroscopy Association in Rio de Janeiro. The Joyce Award has been granted by a special committee at every IAA Congress since that time. ■

ACHILLES RESEARCH AWARD WINNER NAMED

The Achilles Research Award was awarded to the paper *The Effects of an Isolated Ankle Effusion on H-Reflex Amplitude, Viscoelasticity and Postural Control of the Ankle*. The winning authors are A. Amendola, J. Petrik, R. Rampersand, S. Mabey, and K.C. Hayes, all of the University of Western Ontario in London.

The Achilles Research Award was established by ISAKOS to recognize researchers who have done outstanding clinical or laboratory research in the field of sports medicine. The award consists of a \$3,000.00 honorarium and presentation of the paper at the Biennial Congress.

The deadline for application for the 1999 award is October 1, 1998. ■

NEW COMMITTEES CREATED, MEMBERS NAMED

A new Board of Directors was appointed at the Congress in Buenos Aires and several new committees were created to better facilitate the new ISAKOS initiatives as formulated in the Strategic Planning Meeting.

First and Second Vice-Presidents were named to create continuity in the ISAKOS Executive Committee. First Vice-President Roland Jakob will assume the ISAKOS Presidency in the spring of 1999. Second Vice-President Barry Tietjens will become President in the spring of 2001.

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**SEND US YOUR
E-MAIL ADDRESS!**
isakos@aaos.org

UPCOMING ISAKOS-AUTHORIZED COURSES

Current Concepts of PCL and PLC Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

Held at The Royalty Society of Medicine, October 6, 1997

Current Concepts of Treating Chondral Defects: Osteochondral Autograft Transfer

Held at The Royalty Society of Medicine, October 7, 1997

For information contact Rosalyn Barber at:

Arthrex, Ltd.; Graphic House;
Omega Court; 370 Cemetery Rd.;
Sheffield, S11 8FT; ENGLAND

Cartilage Repair: 2nd Fribourg International Symposium

Held at the Hotel Golden Tulip, Fribourg, Switzerland, Oct. 29-31, 1997

for information contact P. Mainil-Varlet & Ch. Saager; phone: 41-26-426-7224; fax: 41-26-426-7225

Arthroscopy Update 1997:

Hands-On Cadaver Lab

Arthroscopy of Shoulder & Elbow

December 8-11, 1997

Arthroscopy of the Knee

December 8-10, 1997

Arthroscopy of the Ankle

December 11-12, 1997

Held at Utrecht University, The Netherlands

For more information contact the Congress Office at: PAOG-VU; Faculty of Medicine;

Van der Boechorststraat 7; 1081 BT Masterdam ph: 31-20-444-844; fax: 31-20-444-8445



Ramon Cugat, Education Committee, and Terry Whipple, Strategic Planning Committee Chair.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE LOOKS TO FUTURE

Dieter Kohn, M.D., Education Committee Chair

Education in arthroscopy is one of the principal objectives of the society. The Education Committee was established in Hong Kong in 1995 and has regularly met at the AAOS Annual Meeting.

The Education Committee has formed a new process to authorize arthroscopy courses. Any course that has been authorized to use the ISAKOS logo will guarantee high standards in arthroscopic education. The Education Committee encourages the chairperson of any arthroscopy course to apply to ISAKOS for official course authorization. Authorization will be given to courses that meet high, predefined quality standards. Three authorized ISAKOS courses are already under way. (London, U.K. October 6-7, 1997; Fribourg, Switzerland October 29-31, 1997; Utrecht; Netherlands December 8-21, 1997).

To allow for easy access to ISAKOS information, a homepage on the internet is under construction and will soon be available. Homepage accessibility should make it possible to register for courses, obtain abstracts for application to the ISAKOS scientific programs, and receive information about fellowship programs.

The Education Committee has and will approach arthroscopic companies to ask for funding of traveling fellowships under the auspices of the society. Linvatec and Arthrex have already supported ISAKOS fellows and will continue to do

so in the future. Additional fellowships are planned.

The Education Committee, together with the Sports Medicine and the Arthroscopy Committees, will recruit centers all over the world that can act as teaching hospitals for fellows. These teaching hospitals will provide educational opportunities in a specialty of the already wide field of orthopaedic sports medicine and arthroscopy.

Members of the Education Committee who were active during the past two years, Dr. V. Bobic (U.K.), Dr. R. Cugat (Spain), Dr. G. Mann (Israel), and I will continue to put our efforts behind ISAKOS. We look forward to combining our efforts with the new committee members and accomplishing these exciting goals. ■



Right: Dieter Kohn, Guy Bellier, and Andre Frank enjoy themselves at the Congress in Buenos Aires.

EDUCATION IS GOAL OF ARTHROSCOPY COMMITTEE

Alfredo Panni, MD, Arthroscopy Committee Chair

These past two years the Arthroscopy Committee worked to improve communication with arthroscopic societies in hopes of sharing techniques and educational information. Among other efforts the Arthroscopy Committee, in cooperation with the Education Committee, recently contacted the Arthrex Company to obtain a traveling fellowship for 1997.

The Arthroscopy Committee also contributed to the Buenos Aires Congress, selecting papers and inviting lecturers for the final program. The meeting in Buenos Aires was viewed as a true success due to the high scientific level of the papers and the number of participants. Some members of the committee also chose the best papers for the John Joyce Award. The choice was very difficult because there were many good papers.

In the coming months we are planning to assist in bringing arthroscopy to developing countries. We also plan on organizing teaching courses in different countries around the world. A final plan is to send skilled surgeons to developing countries to teach arthroscopy. ■

PROGRAM COMMITTEE PLANS AHEAD

John Bergfeld, MD, 1999 Program Chair

The following is a summary of what I would like to report from the Program Committee. The Academic Program Committee is looking forward to an exciting, innovative, educational meeting in Washington, D.C. in 1999.

The Strategic Planning Committee analyzed our past meetings and has charged the Program Committee with making improvements without radically changing the format of the meeting. We are considering:

1. Putting more emphasis on the poster sessions. Some posters may be selected to be posted for the entire meeting.
2. Integrating basic science papers with the clinical papers.
3. Increasing the number of guest speakers.
4. Adding a significant audiovisual (multi-media) education area.
5. Increasing the number of symposia and mini-debates.
6. Instituting "Meeting with the Experts" (possible breakfast roundtables).
7. Giving awards for the best papers from each of the geographic regions.

None of these changes are fixed, and we do not plan to make any radical changes from our usual format of free papers, symposium, instructional courses, etc. The committee is anxious to present the meeting that you want. This is your opportunity to contact your regional representative with your input as to how you feel the meeting can be improved, things that can be added, what should be emphasized, and what should be de-emphasized. Now is the time, as plans are beginning to shape up, even at this early date. ■

NEWSLETTER & WEBSITE UNDER WAY

Don Johnson, M.D., Communication Committee Chair

The Communications Committee has been working on several projects to help get this young organization connected and wired to new technology. Our goals are to have a biannual newsletter, a web site on the internet, and electronic copy of the next meeting.

NEWSLETTER

The newsletter will be on a biannual basis. The content will include information on future meetings, committee updates, an abstract form for the next meeting, information about and from the web site, membership updates, and member input. We welcome your suggestions and writing contributions.

WEB SITE

The web site is in the planning stages while we get the best bid from professional companies to produce and manage the site and collect the information to post. We will pattern the site after the AANA and AAOSM sites (<http://www.aana.org> and <http://www.sportsmed.org>). The ISAKOS site will have a listing of future meetings, information on membership, an abstract form to download for the next meeting, a directory of members and any e-mail addresses, a mission statement of the organization, a bulletin board for members to share information on orthopaedics problems, and abstracts from previous meetings. It is also possible to link a members listing to their own personal web site. For an additional fee the web site company could also provide a web site service for members who want their own site but are unable to create one on their own. These web sites would be part of the main ISAKOS site and managed by the company.

ELECTRONIC COPY OF THE NEXT MEETING ON CD-ROM

There are several companies that specialize in the digital capture of slides and audio from a meeting and then assemble them into a CD-ROM. An ISAKOS CD would be made available to members who attended the meeting and, for a nominal cost, to those who did not attend the meeting.

With this approach we hope to better provide the membership with information that is relevant to their practice of arthroscopy, knee surgery, and orthopaedic sports medicine. ■



Pictured Above: The American staff relied heavily on the help of Argentine temporary employees, who assisted with translation, room monitoring, and registration.

ISAKOS WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Fifty-one membership applicants were approved for Active and Associate Membership at the Biennial Congress in Buenos Aires. Approval followed a thorough review by the Membership Committee and a vote by the general membership at the Second Business Meeting. The fifty-one new ISAKOS members are:

Shaw Akizuki MD PhD JAPAN	Mark Ferguson MD SOUTH AFRICA	Gonzalo Espinoza Lavin MD CHILE	Walter R Shelton MD USA
Meghwar Al Dilli MD FRANCE	Eric Howard Franks MD FCHS USA	Abbas Madani MD IRAN	Timothy Spalding ENGLAND
Karl Peter Benedetto MD AUSTRIA	Enrique Galindo MD SPAIN	Nicola Maffulli SCOTLAND	Steven M Stoller USA
Peter M Bonutti MD USA	Vaga Gaprindashvili MD GEORGIA	Data Mekchrishvili MD GEORGIA	Pierre Swart SOUTH AFRICA
Niek C.N. van Dijk THE NETHERLANDS	Kwon-Ick Ha MD KOREA	Graham Edward Mercer AUSTRALIA	P Thiagarajan MD SINGAPORE
Eric Ping Chien MD HONG KONG	Christopher D Harner MD USA	Bernard Moyon MD FRANCE	Peter J Turner MD ENGLAND
Shamal Das De SINGAPORE	Akiho Hoshino MD JAPAN	Lavan Nachkebia MD GEORGIA	Bruno J Vandekerckhove MD BELGIUM
Jorn Deneke MD GERMANY	John A Hurley MD USA	Mitsuo Ochi MD JAPAN	Ton VanLoon THE NETHERLANDS
Mandeep Singh Dhillon MD INDIA	Seung-Ho Kim MD KOREA	Pedro Melo Pessoa MD PORTUGAL	Glen Vardi MD ENGLAND
Ulf Eklund MD SWEDEN	Tiburtius V.S. Klos THE NETHERLANDS	Marcelo Rabinovich MD ARGENTINA	Rafael Vega SPAIN
Robert Alan Elliott MD AUSTRALIA	Sunil Govind Kulkarni MD INDIA	Ashok Rajgopal MD INDIA	Ichiro Yoshii MD JAPAN
Diego Perez Espinosa MD ARGENTINA	Brick A Lantz MD USA	Christoph Rose MD GERMANY	Michael Zimlitski MD GEORGIA
		Felix H Savoie III MD USA	

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Barry Tietjens, FRACS, 1995-97 Membership Chair

The Membership Committee has met three times since the meeting in Hong Kong. Most time has been spent reviewing membership applications and formulating policy relating to membership entry criteria. The Board of Directors and the Membership Committee have agreed that all new members should be actively involved in a national or regional society relevant to arthroscopy, knee surgery, or orthopaedic sports medicine. The society aims to be inclusive rather than exclusive, at the same time preserving the standards set by the two organizations from which ISAKOS has emerged.

Fifty-one new members have been approved and confirmed at the meeting in Buenos Aires. There were 49 new Active Members and 2 new Associate Members. The Membership Committee has worked hard to define the appropriate criteria for Active Membership. These include:

1. A candidate for Active Membership must have been in specialist practice for at least five years.
2. Candidates for Active Membership must be a member of a national regional society relevant to arthroscopy, knee surgery, or orthopaedic sports medicine.
3. All applicants must have at least one sponsor form which has been completed by an ISAKOS member who resides in the same region as the applicant.

Other criteria that will be assessed include:

1. Publications
 - a. Peer Review Journals
 - b. Other Journals

2. Presentations
 - a. International Meetings
 - b. National/Local Meetings
3. Attendance at Meetings
 - a. ISAKOS Congress
 - b. International Meetings
 - c. Relevant National Meetings
4. Service/Practice Profile (Determined by the applicant's clinical work in the areas of arthroscopy, knee surgery, and orthopaedic sports medicine.)

The Bylaws relating to Associate Membership have been amended. The relevant sentence in the Bylaws now reads "An Associate Member may apply to become an Active Member once he or she attends a Biennial Meeting and meets the criteria for Active Membership." Any individual who is a member of a relevant national or regional society will be eligible for Associate Membership.

Dr. Moises Cohen from Brazil will now be taking over as Chairman of the Membership Committee. I am delighted that Moises can continue the work of the Membership Committee. It has been a pleasure for me to work with him as well as Dr. Arthur Boland, Dr. Wilhelm Klein, Dr. Kazuhikai Inoue, and Dr. Satku. ■

SCENES FROM BUENOS AIRES



Registration was busy and hallways were crowded throughout the length of the Congress. Temporary employees were hired in Buenos Aires to assist the American staff with various duties.



Lab attendees enjoyed the hands-on experience.



Rodolfo Carpignano, MD, Local Host, worked very hard to keep things running smoothly.



MY EXPERIENCE AS LOCAL HOST

Rodolfo Carpignano, MD, 1997 Local Host

When I was appointed as the local host for the 1997 ISAKOS Biennial Congress, I felt very happy and honored. I was also aware of the great responsibility which now rested on my shoulders. Of course it was not going to be an easy task to organize such an important event, but at the same time it was a welcome challenge.

The first objective was determining the various steps that needed to be taken from abroad to coordinate the timing of activities and the availability of local venues.

I then needed to invite as many Latin-American physicians as possible so that they could benefit from this important scientific assembly. This wouldn't be an easy task, considering the registration fee that was high for this region. With the support of important local sponsors we managed to lower expenses and the turnout was a success.

The English-Spanish simultaneous translation also favored the attendance of non-English-speaking doctors. For

future congresses it is my suggestion to have simultaneous translation to the language of the host country.

The hands-on lab workshops were another innovation. It proved invaluable having local associations and world-wide physicians teach the latest surgical techniques. I thank all those who made the hands-on labs possible.

It is also significant to mention that apart from the very high scientific standards of the meeting, the friendly, social atmosphere was also very important. We tried to organize varying activities so the attendees could have a glimpse of local culture and traditions. Perhaps the Farwell Banquet was the best example of Latin-American celebration.

Everything was done with the effort of many people who were really committed to the project. I want to thank all of them and I hope that our experience helps Dr. Gary Poehling and Dr. John Bergfeld in the organization of Washington in 1999. ■



Many labs were sold out to standing room crowds.



Terry Whipple, MD, Program Chair, gave the program direction.

Tango Dancers provided Argentine flavor at the Farewell Banquet.



Over 100 posters were presented.



Staff Member Mary Parker listened as President Gary Poehling outlined his agenda.



Staff Member Kathryn Grady and Lab Consultant Michele Johnson relaxed at the Final Banquet.



Strategic Planning took shape as group leaders presented their long-term goals.



A worldwide umbrella could also assist in coordinating meetings, the goal of the international meetings group. The group advocated biennial meetings to avoid repetition while ensuring that all members stay abreast of current information.

The outcome of the discussions on education and fellowships, the main missions of our organization, are exciting and multifold. Our organization has succeeded in providing wonderful opportunities for those who are able to attend meetings, purchase journal memberships and interact with other members. In order to ensure that we reach the far corners of the world, however, we must consider those who are unable to fly around the world or purchase journals. To reach those orthopedists ill-equipped to meet with us, the support of local education programs and fellowships was proposed. These programs and fellowships would enhance the advancement of our specialty worldwide.

The communication group encouraged the use of new digital technology for membership interaction and transmission of educational material. Communication, the lifeblood of our organization, generates visions of a smaller world and rapid information exchanges.

The journal is the mainstay of our ongoing peer-reviewed educational effort. Worldwide support with reviewers and submissions will speed the pace of information exchange to benefit all our patients.

The biennial program group suggested a delicate balance between a broad spectrum of presentations and sufficient time for discussion.

Discussion was lively on all topics, giving the Board of Directors much material to digest over the coming months and years. The attendees of the strategic session agreed that this type of interaction is beneficial and provides the seeds for new and innovative approaches to our emerging organization. Clearly, we are off to a great start.

NEW COMMITTEES CREATED

One of the outcomes of the Board of Directors discussion was the creation of a greatly expanded committee structure. Four new committees have been added to the original Arthroscopy, Orthopaedic Sports Medicine, Knee, Program and Education Committees: Strategic Planning Committee, Scientific Committee, Documentation and Outcome Committee, and the Communications Committee.

The Strategic Planning Committee will recommend goals, strategies, and action steps to the Board of Directors. These recommendations will maximize the strengths of ISAKOS.

The Scientific Committee will develop mechanisms to close the gap between basic science and clinical practice.

The Documentation and Outcome Committee will investigate instruments presently available for use in outcome studies and look at measuring tools of physical functioning, health-related quality of life, and pain scales. They will recommend ways for all of us to compare results of our investigations in the most scientific manner.

The Communications Committee will publish the newsletter and develop mechanisms for communication of our membership. Send them your Email address (isakos@aaos.org) and look for the upcoming web page.

NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRS ANNOUNCED

We have a very ambitious group of Committee Chairs. They include the following:

Arthroscopy Committee:	Alfredo Panni
Knee Committee:	Paolo Aglietti
Sports Medicine Committee:	Gideon Mann
Education Committee:	Dieter Kohn
Membership Committee:	Moises Cohen
Program Committee:	John Bergfeld
Local Host:	Mike Malek
Scientific Committee:	Hans-Ueli Staubli
Documentation and Outcome Committee:	Chris Harner
Finance Committee:	K.M. Chan
Communication Committee:	Don Johnson
Strategic Planning Committee:	Terry Whipple

Vice Presidents Roland Jacob and Barry Tietjens and I are inviting you to help harness the tremendous energy and innovation of our organization to make this world a better place. Individually we are weak, but collectively our ingenuity is the only limit.

Plan now for the biennial meeting on May 30 through June 3, 1999 in Washington, D.C. where the work of these committees will begin to pay their dividends. In addition you will be able to enjoy the museums, monuments, theaters and many other attractions available in the area. I look forward to working with all of you during the next two years. ■

Gary Poehling Email gpoehling@bgsms.edu

A CHAIR NEEDS FOUR LEGS *continued from page 1*

numbers of seniors pursuing golf, cycling, tennis, dancing and other sports after joint reconstruction. Therein lay the common denominator for our membership: the unsolved problem of premature gonarthrosis of the knee.

Empowered with a committee of capable, cooperative and accomplished surgeons, it was decided to create a dual track program for the Inaugural Meeting focusing simultaneously on older knees and younger athletes. The tracks would intersect in midweek with a combined session on premature arthritis of the knee, punctuated with stimulating new developments (and new questions) from basic science, joint mechanics, cartilage repair, cell culture and rehabilitation.

There was an enormous amount of work to be done. Creating balance between the dual tracks, exposing the frontiers of development in both fields less the program become mundane with worn out presentations, reaching out to all corners of the world and still meeting a complex time table for printing programs and abstracts, making reservations for hotels and special events, working within a budget, recruiting adequate numbers, soliciting support from product manufacturers, satisfying international regulations,

customs, taxes, etc., etc., etc.; I soon realized that a chair really does need four legs.

Our Program Committee embodied remarkable talent and resources. They would be cushions for this chair. We addressed the challenge of launching this new organization with a sense of ownership for its members and decided that the key to ownership was through participation. Designing a full agenda would mean more speakers; speakers who would develop an affinity for ISAKOS, a sense that it is their organization for exposure to large and interested audiences from around the world. The Inaugural Meeting would have a lot of participants.

We became apprehensive initially as the abstract deadline approached with only 50 abstracts submitted. What if you gave a party and nobody came? What if you organized an international meeting and no one showed? Our President, Peter Fowler, was unruffled. With uncharacteristic quiet confidence he encouraged us to make the meeting plan something of a field of dreams. Within two or three days of the abstract deadline, the society headquarters in Rosemont was inundated with abstracts—good abstracts for both podium presentations and scientific posters. The Program Committee would have no problem harvesting excellent contributions of new material for the agenda.

So much for the general sessions. What about special features for the program that would compel physicians from around the world to come to Buenos Aires whether they were presenting or not? We decided to expand the instructional course lecture program as morning and afternoon options, based on the popularity of these small seminars at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons. We also realized that it was imperative this young organization avoid North American dominance. It must be truly international in participation, in leadership, and in developments. So we recruited leaders for instructional course lectures by invitation from all over the world. No restriction was placed on their compiling diversified faculties for their topics with the best expertise they could muster, faculties with respect, faculties that generated controversy, faculties that could communicate. The instructional course lectures would define the international complexion of the organized part of the meeting.

In December, 1996, I made a site visit to Buenos Aires. I was met by Dr. Rodolfo Carpignano, the most gracious and capable Chairman of the Local Host Committee. We found Buenos Aires to be everything Dr. Fowler had described, a magnificent city with a vibrant and exciting pulse. Musical rhythms, temperate climate, charming parks, sumptuous cuisine and alluring dancers—what could be missing?

We decided that a full complement of recreational opportunity would heighten both the sense of competition and the opportunity for bonding and team work among the members. We spent an entire day arranging recreational venues for tennis, golf, mountain biking, and even a football league for has-beens. Here, the chairman's imagination may have run too wild. We were surprised that the recreational programs were rather under-subscribed, but later realized the city itself was so attractive to international visitors, and the attendance at the program sessions was so consistent, that

the empty playing fields, courses and courts were no disappointment.

Notwithstanding all the efforts, planning, anticipation and energies of the Program Committee, the program was nearly torpedoed when the U.S. and Argentine Presidents Clinton and Menon fixed cross hairs on the same week for an economic development conference. Not only the same week, but in our same hotel. ISAKOS was to be displaced and disbursed to numerous other venues around the city while the Presidents and their entourage occupied the Sheraton.

It was fate of some sort that President Clinton sustained an orthopaedic injury to his knee that curtailed his travel plans, and the summit was postponed.

The final shot at forwarding our best laid plans came just three days before the meeting was to open. Onsite staff learned that a recently passed Argentine law required a bond to be paid on all the equipment loaned by companies to support the hands-on laboratories. Literally hundreds of thousands of dollars would have to be mobilized to release the shipments from customs. The weekend was upon us and banking services were closed. The Argentine Customs Office would also close in a matter of hours. The ISAKOS office staff diligently negotiated means for leasing the equipment literally box by box. When registration began, the final boxes were still in transit. Most of this was transparent to the registrants, but only thanks to the persistence and professionalism of a very skilled office staff.

So all of this was for what? Over a thousand registrants attended our inaugural meeting. Over 400 physicians participated in the scheduled program. There were over 220 original papers, and a hall full of excellent posters. One had only to walk the corridors outside the general sessions to sense the excitement in this new organization and hear the enthusiasm of those in attendance.

ISAKOS was christened. Its future is imaginative and far reaching. Its members will explore clinical frontiers in basic science if the inaugural meeting is any prognostication. It will be an organization of international leadership, personal fellowship, intellectual stimulation and worldwide charity. I cannot adequately thank our past President, Peter Fowler, current President, Gary Poehling and all of the members of our 1997 Program Committee, not to mention the incomparable efforts of our tireless office staff and consultants, Bill Masheter and Michele Johnson and, of course, our generous and talented Local Host Chairman, Rodolfo Carpignano who celebrated his birthday at the Farewell Banquet in Buenos Aires, for their magnificent support and energy in putting our first biennial meeting together. To the past Program Chairman, Dr. Roland Jakob, my thanks for his guidance, my successor, Dr. John Bergfeld, Program Chairman for the 1999 meeting in Washington, D.C., my best wishes, encouragement and support. A Program Chair for this vibrant, young organization really does need four legs. ■

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