Watch your mail for the 2009 "Call for Abstracts" for our 71st Annual Surgical Update and 41st North American Federation Congress being held at the Hotel Omni Mont-Royal in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, May 27-30, 2009. If you plan to submit an abstract for presentation, please pay special attention to the "Instructions for Submission" as several requirements are new, and several of the previous requirements have changed. For complete submission information and the continuation of this article visit: www.FICSONLINE.org

News from Headquarters

The overall financial picture of the Section that was presented by Treasurer Joseph Bachicha to the leadership during the Annual Meeting was very positive. While 2007 finished with a slight overall deficit, the outlook for 2008 was very optimistic. Through the efforts of the scientific organizing committee and President Vijay Mittal, revenues from non-registration fee sources for the Reno meeting were at their highest level in years. Due to the ongoing membership concerns of the Section and the desire not to raise membership dues, it becomes more important every year to have the annual meeting be a profit center. This year all seems well as projections indicate that we will exceed our budgetary goals by a significant amount.

Unfortunately, as soon as revenues come in, they seem to go out the other door. Recently, a significant leak was detected in the Headquarters roof and repairs were made in mid-July. The building that houses the US Section offices is co-owned by the Section and the ICS World Body. The US Section is responsible for 50% of the cost of the repair which is estimated to be approximately $30,000. This only covers the repair to the area of the roof that was leaking (about 20%). An inspection indicates that the entire roof needs attention as it is nearing 100 years in age. While the roof is covered with clay tile that lasts almost forever, the structure and material underneath is what requires the work. Due to the building's Landmark status we are required to repair using the same materials and if possible to re-use the existing tiles, which is quite labor intensive and expensive. If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a benefactor of the College that has an interest in architecture, the office is housed in a beautiful 4 story mansion located on Chicago's Gold Coast and with sufficient funding could be restored to its original splendor. Please contact Headquarters if you can help. (continued on page 3.)

Donít Miss Out…

We are pleased to report that for the first time in several years, a video of the Convocation is available for purchase. In addition you may also wish to order copies of Dr. Denton Cooley’s luncheon presentation and the 70th Annual Surgical Update Opening Session.

Each DVD is available for $25 and was recorded by a professional videographer. Whether you would like all three, or just one, whether you were a part of the meeting, or there in spirit don’t pass on this opportunity to own a piece of our historic 70th Celebration. To order contact; Nick Rebel (312) 787-6274 ext. 3127 or nickrebel@ameritech.net.

World Congress: Vienna

The 36th Biennial World Congress of The International College of Surgeons will be held December 3-6, 2008 in Vienna, Austria. For the first time, the World Congress is being organized by the International Headquarters in Chicago, in collaboration with the Austrian Section of the ICS and the Austrian Society of Surgery. The scientific committee has produced an exciting and comprehensive meeting with a special focus on Cardiothoracic Surgery, Gastrointestinal Surgery and Trauma & Emergency Surgery. The meeting is aimed at bringing together international experts in alternatives, controversies and emerging technologies in surgery. The Congress will be held at the lovely Hilton Vienna Hotel. Please visit the official congress website for more information (www.ics2008.org).
In this issue of International US Surgeon I am pleased to report that our 70th Annual Surgical Update, held this past June, was the most successful in many years. This educational conference provided CME sessions of the highest quality due to the diligent efforts of the Organizing Committee and the participation of guest lecturers, Denton Cooley, Francis Robicsek, and Ian Jackson. These Honorary Fellows shared their medical perspectives and experiences with captivated audiences at luncheons presented (for the first time) free of charge to all registered attendees. Having charged our future leaders with continuing this program for increased viability and visibility of the section, I wish to acknowledge their commitment to continue what was started this year. It was clearly evident that the contributions of our hospitals, training institutions, non-medical staff and the corporate sector greatly enhanced our program, providing us with the ability to meet our mission and surpass our educational objectives.

The inclusion of topics presented by hospital administrative staff, collaborating with physicians on the future of healthcare, provided participants with a stimulating forecast into the future of hospitalized patient care. The exchange of recent scientific developments in and across all surgical genres presented attendees with amazing perspectives and potential direction for surgical treatment in the future. As you will see from the meeting recap article it was an intense 4 days of business and scientific programming. The meeting was also a success from a financial perspective. While we try to avoid talking about this aspect of the College, the bottom line is always important. My sincere appreciation goes out to all those who helped make this conference and our 70th anniversary celebration so extraordinary.

It is also my pleasure to announce that the future of the US Section will be officially passed to Dr. Wickii Vigneswaran, who will assume the Presidency on January 1, 2009. He has of course already begun to make plans for next year's North American Federation Congress in Montreal. His plans along with those of the newly elected President Elect, Dr. Jay Bachicha, will include enhanced and increased activity related to medical and surgical missions.

I am certain that you will agree that the humanitarian efforts of the ICS are undoubtedly our most valuable and ambitious initiatives. Our members have provided for those in need around the world for over sixty years. Over the past two years the relationship we have nurtured with the World Surgical Foundation is bringing to fruition a Surgical Mission planned for February 13-27, 2009 to Ethiopia. We have received the official invitation from Dr. Miliand Derbew, Dean, Faculty of Medicine at the Addis Ababa University (AAU) and have secured the participation of several ICS volunteers. This promises to be an exciting and rewarding experience for all those who will be involved and we look forward to learning of their efforts, achievements and experiences. Providing wellness around the world is one of our goals, and one of the reasons our members get involved with ICS realizing that making a difference in just one life, we will touch many.

I encourage each and every Fellow of the United States Section of ICS to come forward and become involved in the future of this organization. Your participation in national and international conferences is key to our global success. Your participation in our missions and surgical teams is key to providing help for all mankind. Your Fellowship is the fuel that ignites our torch, lets keep it burning bright now and for our future.
As delegates from around the nation and around the globe gathered for the celebration of the 70th Anniversary of the United States Section in Reno, Nevada, the "biggest little city in the world" was in the midst of a renaissance, an exciting time of change and creative improvement. A perfect contrast for the United States Section, as Section President, Dr. Vijay Mittal, ambitiously and aggressively challenged every Officer "to raise the bar" on their personal and collective commitment to the organization, igniting our own exciting time of change and creative improvement.

 Appropriately themed, "Surgery: Beyond Traditional Ability," the conference's opening session, "The Future Of Healthcare," was a fine example of what the College had been doing for decades in terms of education. Moreover than that however, it was a sign of changes that are becoming a necessity for all educational content, and that is the inclusion of non-medical personnel who support the healthcare profession, our teaching hospitals, and our diversities to create a mutual understanding between physicians and the healthcare system, and an understanding between physicians and patients.

Accessibility to information through lectures, videos, powerpoint presentations and lab exercises were another key to attendees continuing professional development. The presentations were not merely limited to those members who held professorships, but they included the trials and triumphs of research from our Junior Fellows and Residents and the case presentations of practicing clinicians. They included the participation and cooperation of other surgical societies, like the American Academy of Neurological and Orthopaedic Surgeons and the American Fracture Association who held their annual meetings in conjunction with this conference, understanding that as surgeons, we can only advance down the pathway by communicating through the common language of scientific investigation and share our experiences and reinforce the benefits of cooperation among specialists.

While the focus of the conference was definitely on the future, the organization would do little to benefit from recognition of its past and past contributors. (continued on page 4)
... Tonight, I wish to congratulate the International College of Surgeons—United States Section on its 70th Anniversary, and to applaud the Officers, both past and present for their commitment to the goals of this fine institution.

The history of this organization as of our profession has been one of risk-taking, confident decision making, and dramatic advances...

As we celebrate our 70th anniversary, I think everyone here would agree that we have not only lived up to our founder's great concepts, but have likely surpassed his wildest dreams.

I am not saying the going was easy. Over the past years, we have weathered the vagaries of an uncertain economy, a shifting regulatory environment and all the growing pains that come from nurturing an organization dedicated to international healing and wellness.

We've made some mistakes, we have lost Fellows who were both key players and friends, and yet we have succeeded by keeping our eyes firmly focused on our strengths, and that despite uncertainty, we've differentiated ourselves from other institutions. We've assembled and maintained a continuous team of dedicated physicians who understand what ICS stands for, and who bring the full force of their talents and abilities.

Ladies and gentlemen, to the ICS, our past, our present, and our FUTURE! Let us raise our glasses in honor of our profession, in honor of our goals— for making the whole world a better place.

Remember there is something remarkable and unique about the ICS, for one thing, you don't belong to it—WE BELONG TO YOU!"

---

**The International College of Surgeons United States Section**

**Proudly Recognizes**

**For their generous support of our**

AngioDynamics, Incorporated
Astellas Pharmaceuticals, Incorporated
Conceptus, Incorporated
Covidien
Ethicon, Incorporated
I-Flow Corporation
Karl Storz Endoscopy Inc.
Novo Nordisk Incorporated
Power Medical Interventions
United States Section Alliance

**Continuing Medical Education Program**
41st North American Federation Congress

and Joint Annual Meeting of the
Canadian, United States, and Mexican Sections

May 27-30, 2009

The NAF Congress will return to the beautiful

Hotel Omni Mont-Royal, Montreal, Canada

Room Rates: $205 CAD

For Reservations: 514-284-1110 or 1-800-400-1700