



Volume XXXVIII • Issue III • Winter 2012

# International U.S. Surgeon

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED STATES SECTION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

## 2012 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT  
Larry S. Sasaki, MD  
Bossier City, LA

PRESIDENT ELECT  
Gazi Zibari, MD  
Shreveport, LA

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT  
Dinesh Ranjan, MD  
Iron Mountain, MI

SECRETARY  
Uretz J. Oliphant, MD  
Urbana, IL

TREASURER  
Ari Halldorsson, MD  
Lubbock, TX

CHAIR, BOARD OF REGENTS  
Chand Ramaiah, MD  
Lexington, KY

CHAIR, COUNCIL OF SPECIALTY GROUPS  
Michael J. Jacobs, MD  
Birmingham, MI

## HEADQUARTERS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Nick Rebel  
Extension 3127  
E-mail: [nrebel@ficsonline.org](mailto:nrebel@ficsonline.org)

MEETING AND PUBLICATIONS MANAGER  
Maggie Kearney  
Extension 3129  
E-mail: [mkearney@ficsonline.org](mailto:mkearney@ficsonline.org)

1516 North Lake Shore Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60610-1694

Telephone: (800) 766-FICS  
Facsimile: (312) 787-9289

Web site: [www.ficsonline.org](http://www.ficsonline.org)

If you have news/information  
that could be included in a  
future newsletter, please contact  
Headquarters staff today.



## From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Larry S. Sasaki, MD, FICS

Dear ICS Colleague,

My term as your ICS-US Section President is coming to an end and I must say that it has been a successful, if not challenging, year. Our Section has prospered despite the ongoing poor economic climate and the difficult decision of the Executive Committee at the end of 2011 to reduce our Headquarters staff. I feel blessed to have had the privilege to serve as your leader this past year. I wish to take a few moments of your time to recap the highlights of my term.

In early February I convened the entire Executive Council in Chicago to address several important topics and finalize the scientific program for the Annual Meeting in Atlanta. The College property, the Bylaws and Headquarters staff were all reviewed with appropriate action taken. As noted in a previous communication, steps were initiated at this meeting that would lead to a resolution later in the year by the House of Delegates to list the Headquarters building for sale. Unfortunately, due to our shared ownership with the World Body this action has been delayed as consensus must be reached with our partners before we can move forward. This has been a sensitive issue for many years and it is my hope that we will soon be able to convince everyone involved that it is the correct decision. Bylaws changes such as adding a class of membership for medical students and also providing appropriate recognition of Past Presidents at Executive Council meetings were adopted, passed to the House of Delegates for ratification and ultimately approved by the World Body. The significant staff change made at the end of 2011 was reviewed and resolutions were adopted to ensure that a functioning Headquarters staff would be in place for the foreseeable future.

The Annual Surgical Update in Atlanta was expertly planned by the remaining staff of the US Section and was deemed to be a success based on evaluations completed by attendees. We covered hot topics in robotic surgery as well as new advances in minimally invasive surgery. Keynote Speakers like Dr. Grace Rozycki, who covered "The Surgeon's Use of Ultrasound in the Acute Setting," and Dr. Xishan Wang from China who made a presentation entitled, "Current Status on MIS Colorectal Surgery in China," provided something for everyone. There were cadaver workshops presented including, "Component Separation for Complex Abdominal Wound Closure" that provided participants with first hand exposure to the latest innovations and surgical advancements. In addition, attendees had a unique opportunity to try out the latest robotic equipment in a setting that was ideal for learning and experimentation – the Da Vinci surgical system that was available all day on Saturday made the meeting very special for many in attendance.

Later on Saturday, during the Convocation Ceremony, 28 New Fellows were inducted into the College. This was the highest number of inductees in ten years, truly a testament to the fact that ICS has promise for the future. In addition, we honored one of our own, Dr. Dom Alvear from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Dr. Alvear is a Pediatric Surgeon who was recognized for his charitable outreach efforts with the 2012 Humanitarian Service Award.

Backtracking a bit, two other high profile projects of the Section in 2012 were Surgical Team missions to the Philippines in February and Kurdistan in April. Dr. Dom Alvear led a significant team to remote areas of the Philippines providing medical and surgical care to over 100 individuals. Our US Section President Elect and 2011 recipient of the Humanitarian Service Award, Dr. Gazi Zibari, once again conducted his annual trip to Kurdistan under the auspices of ICS, where he and his team trained local surgeons

(continued)

and performed complex procedures including living donor transplants. To both these ICS Fellows and all the members of their teams our sincere gratitude is extended. Their actions and dedication to humanity is a model for us all.

In October, the US Section participated in the American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress in Chicago. I was present at the Opening Ceremony along with our ICS World President, Dr. Said Daei from Maryland. We were recognized for our positions within the ICS and gained important exposure for the College. The College also secured an exhibit booth during the Congress and had the opportunity to demonstrate what we have to offer to those in attendance. In addition, a reception was held for ICS members at our historic Museum. Approximately 50 individuals attended this event on the evening of October 1st where funds were raised for our future surgical team projects.

The preceding highlights only scrape the surface of a very busy year. I would however, not have been able to successfully carry out my duties as your President without the assistance of everyone working behind the scenes. I would like to specifically recognize a few of those individuals, knowing that many more should be included. During my term I have obtained valuable assistance,

advice and guidance from: ICS World President, Said Daei; ICSUS Past Presidents Vijay Mittal and Jay Bachicha; Treasurer, Ari Halldorsson; Vice President, Frank Podbielski; and Local Organizing Chair for the Atlanta meeting, Saed Khansarinia – thank you all for helping me make this year a success. A special heartfelt thank you must also go out to my dear wife Jenny for her ongoing support and understanding, as well as for undertaking the role of President of the Alliance. Last, but certainly not least, Nick Rebel and Maggie Kearney at Headquarters deserve not only my thanks, but the gratitude of every member for their dedication and efforts these past 12 months.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.



Larry S. Sasaki, MD  
President, United States Section  
International College of Surgeons

2013 US Section Executive Council for the term commencing January 1, 2013

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

President  
Gazi B. Zibari, MD  
Shreveport, LA

President Elect  
Ari O. Halldorsson, MD  
Lubbock, TX

Immediate Past President  
Larry S. Sasaki, MD  
Bossier City, LA

Secretary  
Chand Ramaiah, MD  
Lexington, KY

Treasurer  
Uretz John Oliphant, MD  
Urbana, IL

Chair, Board of Regents  
Andrew Klein, MD  
Los Angeles, CA

Chair, Council of  
Specialty Groups  
Michael J. Jacobs, MD  
Birmingham, MI

**VICE PRESIDENTS**

Manoucher Afshari, MD; Lincoln, ME

Frank P. Bongiorno, MD; Ann Arbor, MI

W. Craig Clark, MD; Eads, TN

Maxime J.M. Coles, MD; Pittsfield, ME

Quyên Chu, MD; Shreveport, LA

Anthony N. Dardano, Jr., DO; Boca Raton, FL

Clara Raquel Epstein, MD; Boulder, CO

Sivamainthan Vithiananthan, MD; Providence, RI

Zaki-Udin Hassan, MD; Lexington, KY

Michael J. Jacobs, MD, Birmingham, MI

Andrew Klein, MD; Los Angeles, CA

Phillips K. Labor, MD; Grapevine, TX

Francis J. Podbielski, MD; Plymouth, MA

M. Hosein Shokouh-Amiri, MD; Shreveport, LA

Thavam C. Thambi-Pillai, MD; Sioux Falls, SD

**REPRESENTATIVES AT LARGE**

Cataldo Doria, MD, PhD; Philadelphia, PA

Arno A. Roscher, MD; Chatsworth, CA

**ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Chair, Qualifications Council  
Marco A. Pelosi III, MD  
Bayonne, NJ

Secretary, Qualifications Council  
Griselda Trinidad, MD  
Washington, DC

**Mark Your Calendar**

**75th Annual Surgical Update**  
United States Section

June 6-8, 2013  
Jacksonville, Florida, USA