11th WORLD CONGRESS Nov. 1-4, 2001

OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SURGEONS & GASTROENTEROLOGISTS
(Former International Gastro-Surgical Club - IGSC)

Heraklion, Crete - Greece

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N.J. Lygidakis (Greece)

VICE PRESIDENTS:
G. Gasbarrini (Italy)
A. Montori (Italy)
MESSAGE FROM THE IASG PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

As the President of the International Association of Surgeons and Gastroenterologists, IASG (formerly the IGSG), it is my great pleasure to invite you to participate in the 11th IASG World Congress. This congress, the first to be held under our new name will take place November 1-4, 2001 in Heraklion, Crete, Greece.

The IASG presently has over 3000 members in 87 countries. Since its inception in 1988, the IASG has developed into a vibrant and influential scientific organization. In addition to promoting a multi-disciplinary cooperation for dealing with the diagnosis and management of GI diseases, the IASG is at the forefront of promoting continuing medical education and clinical research. Furthermore, one of our proudest accomplishments of late is our IASG website, located at www.iags.org. We offer exclusively to our members the full text of past and present issues of Hepato-Gastroenterology and "Hot Spots" which include the latest, breaking news regarding pharmaceutical, products, clinical trials and articles recently published in journals throughout the world on the state of the art for our field. Our video library will host videos exclusively available to our members. Prior to circulation, our members will have access to the latest issue of Hepato-Gastroenterology before it even goes to the presses. As our plans progress, please check our website of updated information related to the Crete congress.

Our Crete congress promises to be a great event! The theme of this meeting is Controversies and Dilemmas in the Diagnosis and Management of GI Diseases. We promise all participants a high level and diversified scientific program to rival all other scientific meetings! The quality of the presentations will provide you with a comprehensive overview of the latest cutting edge advances in surgical techniques, diagnostic and therapeutic modalities related to the rapidly changing field of GI medicine.

Our major aim is for a maximum participation rate in Crete. To this extent, we will offer participants significantly low registration fees and travel/accommodation packages which we believe will provide an excellent incentive, particularly for young colleagues, nurses/assistants and students to participate in Crete. We believe our younger doctors can contribute immensely to the congress. After all, our younger colleagues are our future! Furthermore, they are the generation who will continue our work, share our philosophy and carry on our goals for medicine without frontiers and health for all. We consider it vital to have their active participation in Crete.

In addition to any extraordinary scientific program, we are certain that the superb Mediterranean climate, unique landscape and significantly important historical sites, combined with the renowned Cretan hospitality and famous cuisine, will contribute considerably to the success of this exciting event. Please lend your support in 2001 and join us in Crete for what promises to be a memorable scientific event!

Very sincerely,

Prof. H. Bismuth, MD, FACS
President, IASG

MESSAGE FROM THE CONGRESS PRESIDENT AND THE IASG SECRETARY GENERAL

Dear Colleagues,

As the President of the 11th IASG World Congress, which will be held November 1-4, 2001 in Heraklion, Crete, I extend my cordial invitation for your active participation. I am extremely optimistic that this unique meeting will be a milestone event for our association. Furthermore, I am convinced that the Crete congress will leave its imprint as a standard for future international scientific events.

As we all know, the field of GI medicine is rapidly evolving. This means that our everyday practice is constantly being challenged by new trends, new tools and modern techniques for dealing with GI illnesses and malignancies. Thus, we have chosen Controversies and Dilemmas in the Diagnosis and Management of GI Diseases as the focus of our meeting. In Crete, we intend to introduce a new style of medical communication for which we need your personal input and active participation. We plan to organize the main scientific sessions to begin with an introductory lecture focused on the session topic. This will be followed by the presentation of several relevant clinical cases reflecting the experience from a number of distinguished international universities and hospital centers. Discussion will then ensue via a group of prominent panelists made up of surgeons, gastroenterologists and oncologists. All renowned opinion leaders in their respective fields of expertise. Challenging questions will be raised concerning diagnostic steps and therapeutic modalities relevant with treatment. We will also encourage a lively and spirited interaction between the panelists and the audience. Finally, we intend to include a number of selective videos for presentation in each session. We will also host a special video festival which will run for all three days of the meeting. Furthermore, we will schedule 3 Meet the Experts luncheons per day.

We believe that this type of program will be extremely appealing to all participants. Furthermore, we are convinced that by promoting interaction and stimulating dialogue between the presenters and the audience, that vital questions will be raised, thus challenging all medical professionals to weigh the pros and cons of various and perhaps even controversial diagnostic and treatment modalities being used on a global level. This in turn will help us all to better serve our patients and to provide them with the best healthcare available. This is the main goal of our Crete Congress and is also in following with our IASG guiding philosophy of medicine without frontiers and health for all.

We are extremely excited about the prospects of organizing an international meeting in Crete. I can assure all participants that in addition to an unrivalled scientific program, you will be impressed with the outstanding state of the art congress facilities. I would like to encourage all IASG members to participate actively in this meeting. Moreover, please promote this meeting among your colleagues, co-workers, and young doctors and nurses.

Dear friends and colleagues, as President of this congress I am obligated and determined to organize an international meeting which will be unparalleled. To succeed in this endeavor, I need your active participation, suggestions and contributions. I also wish to express my warmest thanks and appreciation to everyone, who by offering me their support and confidence, have entrusted me to embark on this endeavor.

Please mark your agendas for what promises to be the most exciting scientific event in 2001! I can guarantee that the distinctive beauty of Crete and its incomparably warm hospitality will contribute towards making your stay in Greece not only fruitful, but also most memorable.

Very sincerely,

Prof. N.J. Lygidakis, MD, FACS
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