A New Beginning

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The International Association of Surgeons, Gastroenterologists & Oncologists (IASGO) has been at the forefront of globalization of medical knowledge for almost three decades. In this time interval, IASGO has grown into a strong international organization, with sections in more than 70 countries and more than 1,700 members. IASGO has an established program aimed at globalization of medical knowledge and expertise through a well-structured and precisely organized system of continued medical education. The main characteristics of this program have always been the multi-disciplinary structure and multi-national reach. IASGO courses are always organized in close cooperation with well-established academic or governmental partners, aiming to update the participants in the newest developments in the fields of Surgery, Gastroenterology, Oncology, Endoscopy, and Interventional Radiology.

This effort remains a timely, now more than ever. Millions of people worldwide die from treatable conditions for lack of routine surgeries. Moreover, the major breakthroughs – that have transformed medicine over the last decades – do not reach the patients at a global scale, in part because of lack of knowledge. IASGO's vision is that up-to-date medical knowledge and expertise could and should benefit all communities globally, and that it has to be available beyond any kind of discrimination, based on individual institutional or national level, to every patient that strives for survival because of challenging and life-threatening diseases.

The mission of IASGO is to provide excellence in patient care by administering the highest level of quality in a safe and compassionate environment. We strive to excite, educate, encourage, train and mentor physicians in a spirit of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary medicine, and help them become excellent caregivers, to develop methods to improve outcomes for patients with a wide variety of malignancies, to use their expertise to benefit their community worldwide, and to become future leaders in academic medicine and/or healthcare delivery. We want to ensure that the revolution of life science discoveries will have global impact in reducing human suffering. IASGO is a professional medical society committed to improving the quality of

healthcare worldwide through closer interactions between together surgeons, gastroenterologists and oncologists and dissemination of the best knowledge globally and not only in selected centers. To fulfill this mission, since its inception, IASGO has pursued two strategic objectives: education and clinical.

An important part of this effort is the recently established partnership between IASGO and the *Journal of Translational Medicine and Research* (JTMR). The goal of this common effort is, 1) to promote and facilitate at a global scale the interactions (communication and collaborations) between medical professionals specialized in different disciplines and basic scientists, 2) to exchange experience and to learn from each other about results intranslational research in oncology, gastroenterology and surgery, and 3) to translate new

approaches into the clinic through education and conducting biology – and mechanism-based clinical trials worldwide. Translational medicine has become a central part of oncological sciences, because of the increased understanding of cancer based on breakthroughs in genomics, proteomics, molecular targeting, immunology, and systems biology.

Given this synergy and common goals, we strongly encourage submission of the best quality manuscripts reporting work in the areas of surgery, gastroenterology, oncology and interventional radiology by IASGO members and other specialists. At IASGO, we are enthusiastic having JTMR as a forum for the membership of our organization, and working on translating the latest discoveries in improved therapies for cancer and other diseases.