



ENDOSCOPIC AND LAPAROSCOPIC SURGEONS OF ASIA

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Singapore January 18, 2012

Dear Friends Governors

First of all, my best personal greetings to all of you for a prosperous and successful 2012. The new year just started but the festive mood still going on since the New Chinese Year of the Dragon is starting soon. As you know the Dragon is the 5th sign of the Chinese Zodiac and the Dragon, a creature between myth and legend, is an auspicious symbol signifying success and happiness.

May the Dragon bring great luck to everybody and to ELSA.

I will also take the chance to update and bring to your attention some issues and upcoming activities.

1. ELSA 2012 in Riyadh, KSA
2. Establishment of ELSA Committee
3. WCES Mexico 2012.
4. AMESCON 2012
5. AP Workshop on Metabolic Surgery for DM2

1. ELSA 2012 in KSA

As planned, the 2012 ELSA Congress will be held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia from December 12-14. As per Dr Aldohayan request the date has been moved ahead due to the proximity with Christmas festivity, please book your calendar.

The Congress is only less than a year ahead and we hope to get soon a leaflet and a preliminary programme. I will ask Dr Aldohayan and the ELSA Scientific Committee to work closely and speed up the scientific programme.

Soon Dr Aldohayan will contact all of you to finalize your participation, Visa issue and to promote the Congress in your respective Countries. We all wish to have another successful ELSA Congress in Riyadh,.



2. ELSA Committee

As earlier announced we finalized the ELSA Committee for the different areas. I really appreciate the strong support and collaboration of all BOGs and their commitment to actively work to bring ELSA forward. For sure, not only who are directly involved within the Committee but everybody will provide advice, feedback and ideas to improve our Society. You will notice that there are younger colleagues within each Committee, this was a suggestion from some of you and I think is a great idea and opportunity to bring new generation within the Committee and help us with enthusiasm.

I hope that all newly formed Committee in their roadmap will identify ideas within 3 months and finalize some of the project in the 6 months ahead. I suggest that all Committee should choose a leader to coordinate the activities and we all wish a good work ahead to them.

- **Advisory Committee:** Michael Li (HK), P. Chowbey (India), Zheng Min-Hua (China), PMY Goh (Singapore)

- **Revision of By-Law Committee:** Rolf Hartung (UAE), Seigo Kitano (Japan), William Chen (Taiwan)

- **Education Committee** (organize Courses and Workshops, Endorsement of educational activities; Centre of Excellence ;promote MIS in developing Countries, etc): B Sutedja (Indonesia); WJ Lee (Taiwan); K Chowdhury (Bangladesh); HL Tan (Malaysia – Paediatric); AA Buenafe' (Philippines).

- **Scientific Committee** (Cooperate with Annual Congress LOC for the scientific programme, establish ELSA Research Grant, Registry, Organize "Voice for ASIA": scientific session for developing countries, etc): R Melchor Santos (Philippines); Suchart C. (Thailand) Hong Jin Kim (S. Korea), C. Tsang (Singapore), Anil Sharma (India)

- **Membership & Corporate Committee** (increase membership 10-15 % yearly; establish Honorary Membership, Perks for members; involve Corporate in ELSA Project, etc): C. Arcilla (Philippines); Venkatesh (India); Mumtaz Maher (Pakistan), Cheah WK (Singapore), Chin KF (Malaysia)

- **Technological Committee** (implent the use of IT and other Technologies within ELSA community,web-based video library, APAN Network, Social Media, etc): S Hilvano (Philippines); Zameer Pasha (India); Y Kitagawa (Japan); S Shimizu (Japan)

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3. WCES Mexico 2012.

This year ELSA will be involved in the World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery that will be held in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico from April 23-27 . You can visit the website to get more information; (<http://worldcongresspvallarta.mx/>)

ELSA will co-organize 2 Symposia on “New Technology in MIS” and “Challenge the MIS Experts” . We have also made special agreement to get reduced registration rate for Asian developing countries. I suggest that the Governor of each interested Country may contact the LOC or directly Dr Alberto Chousleb (dr_achousleb@hotmail.com) to finalize with him. Same, if any issue related to VISA you may contact the LOC to get supporting letter to facilitate the issue

4. AMESCON 2012

Lastly but not least, our Friend Rolf Hartung is organizing a great event in Dubai from March 14-17. The 2012 Asia Middle East Surgery Conference, an outstanding Faculty will support the event and ELSA will endorse the Congress. We will have a booth to promote ELSA and co-opt new Membership. For more info: www.amescon.org

5. Asia-Pacific Workshop on Metabolic Surgery for Type 2 Diabetes in Singapore on 6th and 7th February, 2012. A world Leader Faculty will gather in Singapore to discuss about diabetes, public health and minimally invasive metabolic and bariatric surgery. ELSA will endorse the Congress and all the ELSA Members will get a discounted registration fee (- 100 USD)

Once again I wish to all of you and the newly formed Committee and wonderful 2012 and a lucky year of the Dragon

Looking forward to hear from you soon

Sincerely

President's Office:

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