



February 2009 Volume 5 Issue Nº1

ICS 2008 Annual General Meeting Outcomes

a message from the General Secretary

Dear Members,

As many of you are aware, the Constitutional Review Committee has been working over the last two years to review the ICS and Conticom-ICS governing documents and the overall structure of the group.



We are very pleased to confirm that the Special Resolution presented to the membership at the AGM in Cairo was passed with an overwhelming majority: 96.11% (321 in

Jacques Corcos

favour, 13 against). In addition, the ordinary resolution to pass the bylaws was also approved by the membership: 95% (315 in favour, 17 against). All the new Articles and Bylaws can be found in the documents section of the ICS website.

So what does this mean for the membership?

Changes to Structure

The Advisory Board has been dissolved and a larger Board of Trustees, all elected by the membership at the Cairo AGM, now holds all decision-making powers. This Board of Trustees will be a true representation of the membership and will inform the membership continuously about all plans and decisions. Among the Trustees, there is a small Executive Committee that will deal with the day-today management of the ICS in conjunction with the ICS office, and will have to report to the Board of Trustees continuously.

Terms of Office

The terms of office are now in line with your feedback. The General Secretary will be appointed for three years only. The Treasurer will

ICS 2008 Cairo Meeting or full review see pages 4-5

Gala evening at the pyramids of Giza

also have a three year term, but can be re-elected for a further three years. All Trustees will have three year terms, but it is up to the membership to re-appoint – via election every three years – those whom they think serve best. This is to allow for member influence, but also for continuation of management of the ICS and also to allow good, active Trustees to remain in post, particularly when we may have other professionals – such as lawyers – as future Trustees. Differently from the past, every person who has not served as General Secretary can also be elected after having served in any other office, i.e. also our previous Trustees.

Changes in Company and Charity Law

The Articles now look very different due to the major changes that have occurred in the UK with regard to the new Company Act 2006 and the new Charity Act 2006. These new Acts are very significant and have updated and modernised how Charities and Companies can run themselves. As the ICS is both a Charity and Company, we have to take into consideration both Acts. There are several changes that do not affect the Articles directly, but will have an impact on how the ICS must report to the governing institutions.

Looking ahead

We are sure that there will be some slight changes needed to the Articles and Bylaws over the coming years, once we have worked with them in practice. We will ensure that the membership is kept informed of any changes that are needed and will always ask for feedback on drafts. But for now we can concentrate on the ICS and on science.

Jacques Corcos
On behalf of the Board of Trustees

HIGHLIGHTS

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ICS membership is now over 2000 a new record for the ICS!

THE INTERNATIONAL CONTINENCE SOCIETY

The International Continence Society, originally known as the Continent Club, was founded in 1971 by Eric Glen. The Society was set up with the primary aims of studying and diagnosing the storage and voiding function of the lower urinary tract, the management of lower urinary tract dysfunction, and to encourage research into pathophysiology, diagnostic techniques and treatment.

The International Continence Society is a company limited by guarantee. **Registered Office:**

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The ICS does not necessarily endorse any products that may be mentioned in ICS News.



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Meet the new ICS Board of Trustees



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Jean-Jacques Wyndaele (Belgium)

ICS and the International Consultation on Incontinence Research Society (ICI-RS)

Jacques Corcos

ICI-RS is a new ICUD (International Consultation on Urological Diseases) initiative aiming to bring together a selected group of international researchers for a brainstorming exercise on the topic of future research avenues in incontinence and prolapse. This is a summary of the explanations given by Paul Abrams invited to speak to the ICS Board of Trustees in Bristol on January 24th 2009 to respond to their questions about the creation of this new group, which shares the objectives of the ICS as declared in its Memorandum of Association.

While the ICS will continue with all its planned new research initiatives it offered its close scientific and financial collaboration with the new group. An offer to pursue this initiative within the ICS has been made but Paul Abrams explained that it was not the way that ICI-RS decided to go for the moment.

History of the ICS: Request for material

• Ted Arnold

AFTER CONSIDERABLE DELAYS,

Normal Zinner and I, together with Eric Glen and others, are back at the task of documenting the history of the ICS. If you have memories, photos or any information about ICS or prominent ICS members, we would like to hear from you. Material including photos can be sent in digital format, but if that is not readily possible, please send in the material which can be digitised and the originals returned to you. In addition to compiling the history, we plan to establish an "Archives" section at the ICS office to accumulate material of interest.

Please send any material to Avicia Burchill at the ICS Office in Bristol.





Jane Meijlink (Netherlands)



(Poland)



Adrian Wagg (United Kingdom)





ICS 2008 Cairo 20-24 October 2008: a review

• Jane Meijlink, Daniela Marschall-Kehrel, Hashim Hashim, Jerzy Gajewski, Katherine Moore

A grand total of 2385 urologists, gynaecologists, epidemiologists, geriatricians, paediatricians, physicists, nurses, physiotherapists, exhibitors and media from 75 countries descended on Cairo, Egypt in October 2008 for the 38th Annual Meeting of the ICS.



Sherif Mourad, 2008 Annual Meeting Chair

Many thanks are due to the 2008 meeting Chair Sherif Mourad and his team for their hard work in organising this event, held for the first time in Africa. Every endeavour was made to involve health professionals from the region, including many local nurses (see Nursing Committee report by Mandy Wells, p. 8).

The ICS 2008 meeting received an unprecedented amount of local and regional publicity, varying from newspapers and magazines to extensive radio and television coverage and this will hopefully have a long-term impact on the region and North Africa. A record number of media representatives attended the interactive ICS press conference which due to language problems frequently lapsed into Arabic, with Sherif Mourad kept busy as translator!

Abstracts

A total of 954 abstracts were submitted for the 2008 meeting with 642 accepted, 271 rejected and 41 withdrawn. There were 536 posters (112 poster presentations, 424 nondiscussion posters) on a wide range of topics.

Workshops and educational courses

In true ICS tradition, two days of workshops and educational courses preceded the scientific meeting. The 27 workshops and 12 educational courses were very well attended by no fewer than 1,213 delegates. Workshop 14: Update on the Management of Overactive Bladder Syndrome, chaired by Hashim Hashim, was the best attended workshop this year with 87 delegates, while the free Educational Course 9: Challenges to Continence Promotion in the Middle East, chaired by Diaa Rizk, was the best attended course with 64 delegates.

Scientific programme: State-ofthe-Art lectures

In the first state-of-the-art lecture on **Traditional Chinese Medicine and the urinary bladder**, Carl Hempen explained that while the West tends to associate traditional Chinese medicine largely with acupuncture, it is in fact herbal medicine that plays the primary role. A key message was that Chinese medicine is complex, demands a completely different cultural approach and requires expert practitioners.

In his lecture on Prolapse Surgery - How to Manage Innovations, Donald Ostergard spoke on the limitations of today's established surgery using tapes that are registered as medical products but do not require randomised controlled trials as is the case with drugs. Many people in the audience appeared to be unaware of this fact. Without evidence-based medicine, mesh procedures for prolapse should be considered experimental. He recommended keeping a critical distance from new procedures, reminding us that smart marketing should not be the reason to select a treatment. "Do not confuse medical marketing with science", was his advice.

In **Stem Cells & Urinary Incontinence**, James Yoo described regenerative medicine

as a revolutionary form of technology in the field of biomedicine which develops biological substitutes to restore normal bodily functions. In its simplest terms, regenerative medicine comprises just three basic elements: cells and scaffolds which are implanted into patients.

In a lecture on **Congenital genitourinary** anomalies - from childhood to adult, Mario de Gennaro told delegates that a dramatic worldwide increase in the survival rate of infants and children with major genitourinary anomalies has produced a new generation of people with significant problems in adulthood. In particular, those with lower urinary and intestinal tracts and perineal structures, such as exstrophy, posterior urethral valve or anorectal defects, face major challenges as they mature into young adults. These children should be treated in experienced centres to achieve the best possible results and to successfully deal with complications that may appear later.

Review of scientific programme in Neurourology & Urodynamics

Please note that a detailed review of the scientific programme in Cairo can be found in *Neurourology & Urodynamics,* volume 28, issue 1, pages 2-7.

Webcasts

The webcasts include an educational course and a selection of workshop presentations, podium, poster, round table and state-ofthe-art presentations as well as satellite symposia. Webcasts can be accessed via the ICS home page.

AGM

At the ICS annual general meeting, following voting online and voting at the AGM, important changes were passed, a new General Secretary was appointed and a much larger board of Trustees replaced the former advisory board. This places the ICS on a firmer and positive footing for the future and, according to ICS Trustee Ajay Singla, "it is now moving in the right direction to achieve our common goals". The society is not only multi-disciplinary, but also has a truly international character.

Social programme

The social programme was greatly enjoyed and gave delegates a flavour of Egypt's ancient culture including traditional Egyptian dances. The gala evening, dining under the stars at the foot of the ancient pyramids of Giza, was an unforgettable experience.

Many delegates took advantage of the occasion to visit the famous antiquities from Ancient Egypt. In Cairo itself, the Egyptian Museum - with its spectacular display from Tutankhamun's burial chamber and the deeply impressive royal mummy room attracted much attention.

Public Forum

The meeting ended with the 2nd Public Forum organised by the ICS Continence Promotion Committee in conjunction with the Pan Arab Continence Society, a review of which is given elsewhere in this newsletter.

Thanks to ICS office staff

The exceptionally busy ICS booth in Cairo run by the ICS office staff was a focus of attention and many thanks are due to the ICS office staff for all their hard work.

















Photos clockwise from top left – Registration for ICS 2008; Welcome Reception at the Cairo International Convention & Exhibition Centre; Dr Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of the Supreme Council of Antiquities; Annual meeting delegates view the poster sessions; the 2nd Continence Promotion Committee Public Forum; the exhibition area in the Convention Centre; press conference for local journalists



Awards at ICS 2008 in Cairo

Jerzy Gajewski

DURING THE ICS Meeting in Cairo, several awards were given for presentations.



Ranee Thakar

THE CLINICAL AWARD for Best Abstract was presented to Ranee Thakar from

Mayday University Hospital, Croydon, UK for Abstract #135: Removing the cervix at hysterectomy – an unnecessary intervention? Co-authors were R. Srivastava, S. Ayers and I. Manyonda. The aim of this study was to evaluate prospectively the long-term effects of total abdominal hysterectomy (TAH) and subtotal abdominal hysterectomy (STAH) on bladder, bowel and sexual function, pelvic organ prolapse, psychological status and quality of life (QoL). 279 women who participated in a previously published randomised, double-blind, multicentre trial comparing TAH and STAH were invited to complete questionnaires used in the previous study to assess urinary, bowel and sexual function, psychological function (General Health Questionnaire-28) and QoL (Short Form-36 questionnaire). Pelvic organ prolapse was assessed using the validated International Continence Society Pelvic Organ Prolapse Quantification system. There were no significant differences in quality of life and psychological function between the two groups.



Masanori Nomiya

The Non-Clinical Award for Best Abstract went to Masanori Nomiya from Fukushima Medical University for Abstract #113: Bilateral iliac artery endothelial injury and hypercholesterolemia lead to bladder overactivity in the rat. Co-authors were M. Nomiya, K. Shishido, K. Aikawa, M. Kataoka, M. Iwasaki and O. Yamaguchi. This basic study investigated whether balloon endothelial injury of the iliac arteries combined with 2% cholesterol diet induces arterial occlusive disease in the downstream bladder microvessels, and whether this procedure eventually causes detrusor overactivity (DO) in the rat. This basic study investigated and found that balloon endothelial injury of the iliac arteries combined with 2% cholesterol diet induced arterial occlusive disease in the downstream bladder microvessels and that this procedure may indeed result in detrusor overactivity in the rat model.

The Award for Best Clinical Presentation

was given to Ellen Borstad from Ulleval University Hospital for abstract #120: Surgery for Concomitant Pelvic Organ Prolapse and Urinary Stress Incontinence. A Multicenter Prospective Randomized Trial to Compare the Results of an Incontinence Procedure Performed at the Time of Prolapse Repair or 3 Months after. This was a multicentre study and co-authors were: M. Abdelnoor, K. Mogimi, M. Sandved, M. Majida, K. Western, E. Rokkones, A. Paulsen, A. Staff and S. Kulseng-Hanssen. The aim of the study was to compare the result of an incontinence procedure (TVT) performed at the time of prolapse repair and the same procedure performed 3 months after the surgery for prolapse. TVT surgery gives the same good result regardless of being performed simultaneously with the prolapse surgery or 3 months later. These results should be useful to counsel women with both pelvic organ prolapse and stress urinary incontinence prior to surgery on the possibility of different treatment strategies.



Peggy Norton

The Award for **Non-Clinical Best Presentation** went to **Peggy Norton** from the University of Utah School of Medicine for Abstract #40: *Significant Linkage Evidence for a Predisposition Gene for Pelvic Floor Disorders (PFDs) on Chromosome 9*. Co-authors were K. Allen-Brady and L. Cannon-Albright. Using linkage analysis, the study showed significant evidence for a predisposition gene for PFDs on chromosome 9. This resource can be used to further localize the gene of interest. Increased understanding of the genetic predisposition for PFDs may provide insight into the pathogenesis, prevention and intervention of these conditions.

Ferring Pharmaceuticals sponsored two awards.



Haruo Nakagawa

The first Award for Innovative Research sponsored by Ferring Pharmaceuticals went to Haruo Nakagawa from Tohoku University Graduate School of Medicine for abstract #89: Does Nocturia Increase Fall-related Fractures and Mortality in a Community-dwelling Elderly Population Aaed 70 Years and Over? : Results of a 3-vear prospective cohort study in Japan. Coauthors were Nakagawa Y, Ikeda Y, Niu Y, Kaiho Y, Ohmori-Matsuda Y, Nakaya Y, Imanishi Y, Nagatomi Y, Tsuji I and Arai Y. The study concluded that there is a significant increase in the risk of fractures and mortality associated with the presence of two or more episodes of nocturia. Nevertheless, with the multivariate Cox proportional hazard model, nocturia is an independent risk factor for fall-related fractures, but is not an independent risk factor for high mortality.

The second Award for New Investigators was presented to Nikki Cotterill from Bristol Urological Institute for abstract #75: Development And Psychometric Evaluation Of The ICIQ Anal Incontinence Module: The ICIQ-B. Co-authors were C. Norton, K. Avery, P. Abrams and J. Donovan. The study described the psychometric evaluation of the final version of the ICIO-B and concluded that the ICIO-B provides a comprehensive, robust, universallyapplicable, condition-specific, selfcompletion questionnaire to assess the symptoms and impact of anal incontinence. The ICIQ-B will be of use in clinical practice and research providing a comprehensive summary of anal incontinence and its impact on quality of life for baseline assessment and outcome evaluation.

ICS The second s

Continence Promotion Committee

First World Continence Week in 2009

THE ICS RECENTLY announced the designation of 22-28 June, 2009 as the First World Continence Week. This annual event will help promote global awareness of incontinence by providing contact points for those seeking treatment and information, by creating a network of events and organisations and by promoting a multi-disciplinary approach to treatment.



National Association For Continence Publishes 14th Edition of its Resource Guide®

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION For Continence (NAFC) in the United States recently published the 14th Edition of its Resource Guide[®], the most comprehensive directory of products and services available for treating and managing bladder and bowel control problems, voiding dysfunction such as retention, nocturia and bedwetting, and related pelvic floor disorders such as prolapse. Its breadth reflects the broad scope of NAFC's mission today. Now in its 25th year, NAFC continues to be the USA's leading source of reliable information regarding solutions to widely prevalent and greatly troublesome conditions. The guide is introduced by educational text, including guidance on finding an expert provider, questions to ask before undergoing surgery, and basic definitions of terms. It includes information regarding indigent drug programmes underwritten by the pharmaceutical industry and a descriptive listing of other organisations with whom NAFC collaborates for advocacy purposes and who serve as additional resources to both consumers and healthcare providers. Further information: www.nafc.org

Launch of Bladder & Bowel Foundation in UK



Lesley Woolnough

THE BLADDER AND Bowel Foundation is a newly created charity In the United Kingdom combining the work of two previous organisations, Incontact and the Continence Foundation. With over 18 years' experience, this new charity is the largest single UK organisation providing support for people with bladder and bowel disorders.

In the UK there are an estimated 14 million people affected by bladder control problems and 6.5 million affected by bowel control problems. Bladder and bowel control problems can affect anyone, young or old, male or female, but not everyone seeks help. According to Professor Linda Cardozo: "Although not all sufferers of urinary or faecal disorders find their symptoms bothersome, current research suggests that a large proportion do, but even those with the most severe problems sometimes fail to seek help". Failure to seek help is often caused by embarrassment or lack of knowledge about what can be done. The Bladder & Bowel Foundation has produced an excellent new series of informative brochures. Further information from: www.bladderandbowelfoundation.org.

First World Continence Day, Public Forum in Cairo a resounding success.

Co-hosted by the ICS, CPC and PACS

• Frankie Bates

THE FIRST WORLD Conti-

nence Day was announced in Cairo on 24 October, 2008 during the Continence Promotion Committee's 2nd Public Forum. At the conclusion of the ICS Meeting in Cairo Egypt, the Continence Promotion Committee (CPC), in conjunction with the Pan Arab Continence Society (PACS), co-hosted this evening



Diane Newman (CPC Chair) and Sherif Mourad (2008 Annual Meeting Chair)

event to raise public awareness of bladder and bowel problems. The Forum received wide attention from the press and radio and mailings were carried out by patient organisations. It was extremely well attended, despite a washout from a major storm which rendered many of the roads impassible earlier that day. The approximately 370 attendees mainly included the general public – both men and women – but also some healthcare providers. Since the audience was mainly Egyptian, there was simultaneous translation for all the speakers. Registration was free and participants were treated to a three-course dinner after the event.

The forum was very interactive, giving participants an opportunity to raise their concerns, ask questions and speak privately to the presenters concerning their own personal urinary incontinence (UI) problems. There was also an opportunity during registration and breaks to view exhibit displays of products and information on incontinence.

Sherif Mourad, chair of the ICS annual meeting in Cairo, announced the World Incontinence Day by welcoming participants to the event. The first World Continence Week will be held 22-28 June, 2009. Diaa Rizk, a Cairo gynaecologist, then discussed current care of urinary incontinence in the Middle East. CPC chairperson, Diane Newman, a nurse from the United States, focused on the global problem of urinary incontinence and how to increase awareness of this common condition which affects 50-100 million individuals (1 in 6) worldwide. Lynne van Poelgeest, vice-president of the World Federation of Incontinent Patients (WFIP) gave an overview of patient challenges to accessing continence care. Nadia Yani, an Egyptian nurse, discussed the nurse's role in managing incontinence conservatively and behaviorally. She was followed by Rani Vadiveloo, director of the Society for Continence Singapore, who presented an overview of the Singapore experience and the importance of collaboration to increase continence awareness. Jane Meijlink, chairman of the International Painful Bladder Foundation (IPBF) gave an overview of Interstitial Cystitis and Painful Bladder Syndrome. The evening concluded with Vasan Srini, urologist from India, who explained the meaning of World Continence Week. There was much interest from the audience regarding nocturnal enuresis in children as well as the consequences of childbirth on urinary control and consequent UI with sexual relations.



ICS Nurses' International Meeting in Cairo for Pan-Arab and local nurses working with people with bladder and bowel problems

• Mandy Wells, Chair Nursing Committee



PRIOR TO THE ICS 2008 meeting in Cairo, an invitation was sent to leading nurses in Egypt working in the field of bladder and bowel care. This invitation was taken up by 20 Egyptian nurses, led by Nadia Seif from

Cairo, all of whom were working in academia and a number of whom had carried out continence research.

The meeting on Sunday, 19 October was a very lively exchange of ideas surrounding continence care in a number of different countries. This clearly showed that while nurses around the world teach and deliver the same care, this may be done in different ways and around different frameworks of education and care delivery.

It was particularly interesting to see just how much research was being carried out in Egypt by the group who attended the meeting. It was also of interest to note how difficult they found it to get their work published. It was, moreover, amazing to learn from them that this was the first all nurse-led meeting that this senior group of academics had attended in their part of the world, since meetings there are usually medically run.

Finding such an enthusiastic group of nurses in Egypt and taking into account a previous experience in Brazil where there are a number of nurses working in the field who were never really identified until two years ago, it is clear that there is a need for the ICS and its nursing membership to identify other such unknown groups. This is an area on which the ICS Nursing Committee will be focusing attention in the next few years.

In addition to attending the Nurses' Meeting, our Egyptian colleagues attended a number of courses and workshops, supported by an education grant from the ICS Trustees. This was greatly appreciated by both the nurses and the Nursing Committee and I would personally like to thank the previous Board of Trustees in supporting this group of relatively poorly paid nurses, thereby enabling them to attend and benefit from this meeting.

ICS Physiotherapists active in Cairo

Marijke Slieker-ten Hove

ON THE SUNDAY prior to the start of the official ICS programme, a morning session was organised by physiotherapists for clinicians with an interest in the work of physiotherapists. After an explanation of what the physiotherapist actually does by Marjan Rakers, audience questions were addressed in case reports by Fetske Hogen Esch. Marijke Slieker then discussed different ways of organising pelvic floor education for local physiotherapy; the session ended with interactive discussion in which urologist Ragi Doggweiler also participated.

The 7th Physiotherapy Round Table was held on the Sunday afternoon. After reports from the different committees, pelvic organ prolapse (POP) was the focus topic. Marijke Slieker presented results of her PhD study on POP, while Suzanne Hagen, Helena Frawley and Kari Bø presented the multicentre trial that has just started in Scotland, Australia and Norway on the effect of pelvic floor physiotherapy in POP. Discussion followed, in particular on muscle physiology and training programmes for pelvic floor musculature.

A delegation of pelvic floor physiotherapists visited several rehabilitation centres in Cairo and also the School of Physiotherapy at Cairo University. They were greatly impressed by the hospitality and the motivating discussions at the different centres.

On the Monday evening, the new ICS Physiotherapy Committee held its inaugural meeting and all physiotherapists who have been participating in different ICS committees joined together with the new Chair Marijke van Kampen.



Physiotherapy study session for non-physiotherapists

ICS Collaboration with Touch Briefings

THE ICS is delighted to collaborate with **Touch Briefings** to provide ICS members free access to their *Urology* and *Obstetrics & Gynaecology* journals. These are the latest editions of the bi-annual review journals for physicians and healthcare professionals. Comprising contributions from leading authorities, these journals endeavour to assist in the continuous development of knowledge and effectiveness among peers within the therapy areas covered.

Follow the link below to receive your complimentary subscription to the journals.

http://www.touchclinical-digital.com

ICS Education Course held in Berlin 4-5 July 2008

• Avicia Burchill

THE ICS WAS back in Europe for a 1¹/₂ days Education Course, this time in the cosmopolitan city of Berlin, Germany.

Once again, the ICS had a range of local and international speakers, but we were especially pleased to welcome John DeLancey who covered the session on Anatomy and Pathomorphology of the Posterior Compartment. We were also pleased to receive two other highly regarded American speakers, Kathryn Burgio and Patricia Goode, who contributed to the Conservative Management of Urinary Incontinence session.

There were also presentations on Dynamic Rehabilitative Ultrasound by Bärbel Junginger and sessions dedicated to Neuromodulation and the Neurogenic Bladder, chaired by John Heesakkers and Annett Gauruder-Burmester. Ralf Tunn and others concluded the course with a session on Mixed Incontinence, Diagnosis and Treatment.

Photo: left to right: Ralf Tunn, Elke Hessdoerfer, Avicia Burchill, Werner Schaefer

ICS Course in Chongqing, 26-28 September 2008

Daniel Snowdon

IN COLLABORATION WITH the Chinese Continence Society, the ICS contributed to an educational course held in Chongqing, China from 26-28 September 2008. This was the second visit by the ICS to China following the 2006 education course held in Beijing. The Chongqing course was organised by the Chinese Continence Society, with the ICS sending four speakers who presented a series of lectures to a young and mainly Chinese audience. The course was held over two days with the ICS speakers leading an English-language first day before handing over to the Chinese experts for a Chinese-language second day.

Presentations by the ICS speakers included: new developments in urethral measurement by Gunnar Lose, LUTS in men by Philip Van Kerrebroeck, neuromodulation by Jerzy Gajewski and good urodynamic practice by Werner Schaefer. Everyone agreed that the overall quality of the presentations was very high. We were a little disappointed with the number of delegates, but this may have been due to the time of the year and the start of the holiday season.

As always, you can view the final programme with the speakers' presentation summaries on the ICS website under the 'courses' category in the 'documents' section.

The ICS would like to thank Elke Hessdoerfer and Ralf Tunn for their support and assistance in coordinating this course. Both had agreed to join forces and replace their annual "LUTS meets Art" and "Berlin-Brandenburgische Urogynäkologie-Tage" with this Education Course. We very much appreciate their efforts and the ICS would like to express its gratitude to them both.



The course ran successfully and was another excellent opportunity for the ICS to get to know its Chinese counterparts better. The ICS hopes to continue to develop its good relations with China and looks forward to providing and contributing to future events there.

Photo: speakers at the ICS Course in Chongqing

Istanbul welcomed the first ICS educational course in Turkey with over 150 delegates

Education Courses

• Tufan Tarcan, Vice-President of the Turkish Continence Society, Istanbul

IN CONJUNCTION WITH the Turkish Continence Society (TCS), the ICS organised the first ICS educational course in Turkey, 29-30 August 2008, attended by over 150 physicians. In the opening speeches, Bülent Cetinel, president of the TCS, and Werner Schaefer, chair of the ICS Education Committee, emphasised the importance of this event as the first collaboration between two societies. The excellent scientific programme with 21 expert speakers covered almost all aspects of lower urinary tract dysfunction, including female stress urinary incontinence (SUI) and pelvic organ prolapse (POP), overactive bladder (OAB), post-prostatectomy incontinence (PPI), neurogenic bladder dysfunction in adults and children and finally LUTS suggestive of BPO.

Turkey is looking forward to hosting another ICS event!



Forthcoming ICS Educational Courses

International Continence Society Educational Course in cooperation with the Thai Urological Association, 3–4 April 2009 Venue: Zign Hotel, Pattaya, Thailand

The ICS is pleased to announce an Educational Course to be held in Thailand in collaboration with the Thai Urological Association (TUA). The ICS course will take place on the first 1½ days of the TUA's annual meeting. The TUA meeting will then continue from the end of the ICS course until 5 April. As well as using local Thai experts, the ICS will bring internationally renowned speakers to speak on topics that include: Neurourology, Good Urodynamic Practice, Overactive Bladder, LUTS Dysfunction and Prolapse Surgery.

All ICS members and non-members are welcome. For further information, visit www.icsoffice.org.

The ICS will also host or contribute to other education courses in 2009. Keep reading **ICS e-news** and check the ICS website for more information.



Neurourology & Urodynamics update

Dear Colleagues,

I have great pleasure in bringing you greetings from the Editorial Team at *Neurourology & Urodynamics*.

I would like to take this opportunity of acknowledging the hard work of all of the reviewers, and in particular the "Top Ten Reviewers" over the last year (see below). The ranking is based on a combination of the number of reviews carried out, the proportion of reviews carried out related to the number requested by the editorial team, the speed of delivery and their content.

Thanks to the strong support of the reviewers and associate editors, the review process has been improved with reduced waiting times and a faster publication rate.

Furthermore, I would particularly like to encourage ICS members to get involved in reviewing for the journal. We really need expert help to ensure that the peer review of this journal is as accurate and incisive as possible. If anyone would like to be a reviewer and is not already on our list, please contact the NAU office (neurourol@btconnect.com) with a list of topics you would be willing to review. You may be interested to know that it has been suggested that we should have courses on peer review and on how to write and submit a paper. The plan is for these to be developed for the following ICS meeting.

We are happy to announce that the Italian Urodynamics Society has adopted *Neurourology & Urodynamics* as its official journal and will be joining the ICS en masse.

Further good news is that we are progressing the **Continuing Medical Education (CME)** programme, part of the **European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS)** system, under the excellent leadership of Helmut Madersbacher.

Thanks to the support of all ICS members, the journal is going from strength to strength. Please keep your comments and suggestions coming in to us at the NAU office.

With best wishes and kind regards,

Christopher Chapple,

Editor-in-Chief

Top 10 Reviewers 2007-2008



Janet Keast Victor Nitti Susie Orme Michael Ruggieri Maryrose Sullivan

Continence Promotion in Belgium

Ronny Pieters, Chairman Urobel.

Belgium is a small European country with around 10 million residents. Despite its small size, its nurses and associations are exceptionally active in promoting continence.

Public toilet initiative

Urobel, the Belgian association of urological nurses, has taken a number of initiatives. Locally, the city council of Ghent was contacted in an effort to improve the local public toilets. This led to the formation of a well-funded, city council working group on public toilets aimed at restoring, building and maintaining public sanitation. Each public



Manneken Pis, Brussels, Belgium

building plan has to be submitted to this working group for review. More than 10 other Belgian towns and cities have followed this example.

PIRUS for patients

Several patients took the initiative to set up a national association for incontinence patients known as PIRUS (Patients with Incontinence and Retention of Urine and/or Faeces). The group evolved from the need for a patient-to-patient incontinence support group so as to give individuals peer support rather than suffering alone. PIRUS also provided them with a platform from which to lobby government and address issues related to continence care.

School sanitation project

Since continence is particularly an issue in nursery schools, Urobel initiated a school sanitation project in conjunction with a local health council. They have now developed a programme "Wild on water" which targets healthy food and drinking and includes drinking and toileting in school. The programme consists of a learning book for children, an educational package for teachers and parents and even has a "toilet song". This programme has been implemented in all Ghent schools and will hopefully spread throughout Belgium.

Theatre play on incontinence

In order to help adults too, Urobel and PIRUS together wrote and produced a theatre play on urinary incontinence, called "The Loss of Viviane". This play, with a professional director and actress, was funded by healthcare companies. It is offered free to Belgian social organisations such as women's groups or associations for the elderly if they provide a venue seating more than 300 people. This means collaboration with other organisations and extensive advertising, thereby raising public awareness of incontinence.

Government grant for frail elderly

The frail elderly were not forgotten either. Urobel succeeded in obtaining a grant from the Belgian Health Minister to develop a guideline for urinary continence nursing in long-term care. Based on the ICI guidelines, this Belgian guideline provides nurses with tools for assessment and management with an emphasis on lifestyle changes and scheduled voiding. The guideline was presented to the Belgian parliament and courses are being given. Preparation for the first programmes for continence nursing in long-term care facilities is underway.

... and a government grant for a guideline

Finally, Urobel secured a grant from the Belgian Health Minister to develop a guideline for continence care in long-term care. Based on the International Consultation on Incontinence guideline, it provides nurses with tools for assessment and management with an emphasis on lifestyle changes and scheduled voiding. The guideline was presented in Parliament and preparation for continence nursing in long-term care facilities is now underway. Future work will involve a Belgian care pathway for the urinary incontinent with a multidisciplinary focus.



Fistula Update

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONSORTIUM ON FISTULA (ISCF) SET UP

Dirk de Ridder

Two meetings devoted to obstetric fistula in the developing world were organised during the meeting of the International Consultation on Incontinence (ICI) in Paris, July 2008, at the initiative of Saad Khoury and Dirk de Ridder. Fourteen international urological and gynaecological societies were represented as well as representatives of the World Health Organization (WHO). The lack of good clinical research and of scientific data on prevention and treatment of fistula and on social reintegration after fistula repair was acknowledged by all attendees. Furthermore, everyone agreed on the need and the eventual advantage of international collaboration in this field, not only to increase the level of evidence of the data and the level of care that is being provided, but also to avoid duplication of effort and waste of time and money in setting up separate initiatives. It was agreed that that a consortium between the different societies would have the best chance to be effective and to be accepted by the boards of the individual societies. The working name of this consortium will be: International Scientific Consortium on Fistula (ISCF).

NIH Launches Unique Effort to Advance Study of Urologic Chronic Pelvic Pain Disorders

Jane Meijlink

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES AND

DIGESTIVE AND KIDNEY DISEASES (NIDDK), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the USA, recently launched its Multidisciplinary Approach to the Study of Chronic Pelvic Pain (MAPP) project. The total research investment for the five-year project is estimated to be up to \$37.5 million. This project represents a major shift from earlier organ-specific research on the two most prominent urologic chronic pelvic pain disorders: interstitial cystitis/ painful bladder syndrome, and chronic prostatitis/chronic pelvic pain syndrome. This shift is supported by recent epidemiological studies showing that interstitial cystitis/ painful bladder syndrome and chronic prostatitis/chronic pelvic pain syndrome are frequently associated with other chronic pain disorders such as fibromyalgia (chronic pain of unknown origin), chronic fatigue syndrome, and irritable bowel syndrome. These latest findings suggest the possibility of common underlying disease processes in these chronic disorders. For more information on the MAPP project and research network, visit http://www2.niddk. nih.gov/Research/ScientificAreas/Urology/MAPP.

Incontinence: The Engineering Challenge VII

Organised by the Medical Engineering Division of the Institution of the Mechanical Engineers

2-3 December 2009, IMechE HQ, London

THE MEDICAL ENGINEERING Division is pleased to announce that it is organising **Incontinence: The Engineering Challenge VII** in December 2009.

This increasingly popular seminar will bring together engineers, clinicians, researchers, commercial designers and producers, nurses, carers and users, giving a unique opportunity to examine existing solutions and solve current problems. People with incontinence will share their experiences and challenge engineers' perceptions of the research and development required to increase their quality of life. As well as invited state-of-the art lectures, experts from outside the incontinence world will present technologies with the potential to revolutionise current thinking.

Topics will include:

- Recent work on technology to diagnose, treat and manage incontinence
- · Limitations of existing technology and work to overcome them
- · Initiatives to devise brand new solutions

If you work in this field and think others may be interested in your way of working or the technology being developed, why not share your knowledge and expertise by presenting a paper or poster at this event? The first step is to produce a 100-word abstract to be submitted to Diane Lorenzelli at The Institution by Friday 27 March 2009. The abstract must use 12-14 point font and contain the title, author's name, affiliations and preference of paper or poster.

Abstracts must be written and presented in English. Although all submitted abstracts will be considered by the Organising Committee, final acceptance will be at the Committee's discretion. Selected authors will be informed by Friday 8 May 2009 and invited to submit extended abstracts of up to 4 pages in length by Monday 7 September 2009 for publication in the seminar proceedings.

The presenting author of each paper will be entitled to a substantial reduction in the registration fee. However, the Institution will not be able to reimburse any travel or accommodation expenses. All accepted abstracts will be published in a soft-bound volume available to all seminar delegates. Authors are expected to attend the conference to present their work. Authors of selected abstracts will be invited to submit full manuscripts to be published in the Proceedings of the Institution.

Authors are encouraged to submit their abstracts with full contact details electronically to Diane Lorenzelli by email: **d_lorenzelli@imeche.org**

For further information or to register your interest in this event, please contact Diane Lorenzelli on:

tel: + 44 (0)20 7304 6966; email: d_lorenzelli@imeche.org



An overview of the consolidated accounts for ICS Ltd and Conticom–ICS Ltd

• Ajay Singla, ICS Treasurer

In recent years, the legal requirements regarding the preparation of annual accounts for Charities have changed. Due to the size of the ICS, a full audit of the accounts is required along with the preparation of an annual report. In the past years, the ICS has prepared the Annual Report and sent a copy to all the membership. However, the cost of preparing, printing and posting such a report has proven very expensive. Therefore, the Trustees took the decision not to send every member the Annual Report but instead ensure that it is available on the website for all to view, and also prepare a short overview of the finances once a year in ICS News. In addition, we have taken on board the comments from the AGM in Cairo and have provided some more detailed breakdown for the membership.

ICS and Conticom Incoming Resources

It can be seen from the incoming resources that there was a reduction in sponsorship and grants in 2007. This was due to the fact that the Partnership agreements held with Medtronic and Pfizer expired. It is also noted that there was a reduction in the membership fees in 2007 due to the lower number of ICS memberships (1,753 in 2007, 1,976 in 2006). The reliance on industry is still strong due to the way the annual meeting is conducted. The surplus received from the annual meeting is gifted from our trading subsidiary Conticom-ICS Ltd to ICS in order to avoid corporation tax. In 2007, the surplus received from ICS 2007 in Rotterdam was £299,826.47 and £190,319.00 was gifted. There was additional income received in 2007 from the annual meeting in New Zealand which was kindly donated by Ted Arnold (£23,506.53). The remaining amount was from the royalty payment from the webcasts from Rotterdam.

ICS and Conticom Incoming Resources	2007	2006	
	£	£	
Donations and Gifts	38,365	19,374	
Sponsorships and Exhibitions	44,914	107,621	
Scientific Organisation Income	323,333	321,590	
Investment Income	57,017	50,217	
Educational Activities	36,244	18,701	
Membership Fees	85,390	96,575	
Exchange gains recognised	710	410	
Total	585,969	614,488	

The £44,914 shown under sponsorship and grants is the total amount of income received from exhibitors and agreements in relation to the education courses in Abu Dhabi and Thessaloniki (£11,544.55 from Abu Dhabi and £33,369.54 from Thessaloniki). The £36,244 shown under educational activities is the total income received from registration fees for the two courses (\pounds 9,433.34 from Abu Dhabi and \pounds 26,810.95 from Thessaloniki). The amount received under Donations and Gifts is the funding received from royalties (\pounds 18,500) and various companies for the Continence Promotion Committee activities (\pounds 19,865).

ICS and Conticom Resources Expended

From the figures it can be seen that membership costs are higher than the income we receive from membership subscriptions. It has been the case for several years now that the ICS subsidises the membership fee. The ICS office looked into ways of reducing the membership costs and one way was to produce the Membership Book in CD format to help reduce the postage costs. The ICS educational activities have seen an increase last year as more Educational Courses were run during the year. It should also be noted that there was a large increase in governance costs due to the additional funds spent on legal advice for the changes to the Articles and Bylaws.

ICS and Conticom Resources Expended	2007 £	2006 £
Scientific Organisation	179,795	125,812
Educational Activities	186,849	143,124
Membership Costs	116,839	118,520
Governance Costs	74,116	55,673
Total	557,599	443,129

Direct costs (not including staff wages and other general office costs which are applied to the education activities through the accounting process) for Abu Dhabi were £45,661.29. This includes flights for the speakers/venue hire/printing and postage etc. Therefore the overall cost to the ICS for the Abu Dhabi course was £24,683.40 – within the budget of £25,000 which is allocated to each course.

The Thessaloniki course direct costs totalled \pounds 70,000.26 and therefore the overall cost to the ICS was \pounds 9819.77 – well within budget.

The Mumbai course total cost was $\pounds 29,493.85$ – slightly over the budget.

ICS and Conticom Consolidated 5 Year Summary

From the five year summary you can see that the ICS and Conticom are maintaining their reserves. The ICS continues to invest its reserves in the Charities Official Investment Fund (COIF) Charities Deposit Funds which has a AAA (triple A) credit rating. The ICS full reserve policy can be viewed in the annual report.



ICS and Conticom Consolidated 5 Year Summary	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003 (18m)
Total Incoming Resources	585,969	614,488	801,955	551,545	413,389
Total Resources Expended	557,599	443,129	374,492	223,511	164,597
Net Incoming Resources	28,370	171,359	427,463	328,034	248,792
Fund Balances Brought Forward	1,373,984	1,202,625	775,162	447,128	198,336
Fund Balances Carried Forward	1,402,354	1,373,984	1,202,625	775,162	447,128

The main objectives for 2007 were to continue increasing the membership numbers of the Society and to encourage different disciplines to join the Society, for example physiotherapists as well as continence nurses and engineers, as well as the traditionally recognised urologists and gynaecologists. In addition, the Charity aimed to encourage more delegates to submit abstracts for presentation at the Annual Meeting. This was in addition to the regular aims of continuing with the educational courses and hosting the annual meeting. The annual report goes into full details as to how the Charity performed against these objectives. It also outlines what the plans were for 2008. The Trustees encourage all members to review the Annual Report so that you are aware of all the ICS activities that take place.

Overview of last two years annual meetings income

We noted the requests from the AGM meeting in Cairo and we are pleased to confirm the following figures for 2005, 2006 and 2007. With effect from 2008, you will now see these figures in detail in the annual report.

Conticom ICS Ltd and ICS Review of annual meeting figures						
	CAD \$	€	€	€	% change on	
	2005	2005	2006	2007	2006	
Sponsorship & exhibition	3,969,711	2,888,096	926,154	1,427,951	54.18%	increase
Registrations	1,637,710	1,191,488	792,799	1,042,561	31.50%	increase
Other income – inc social functions	158,187	115,086	73,050	117,574	60.95%	increase
Total income	5,765,608	4,194,670	1,792,003	2,588,086	44.42%	increase
Total expenditure	4,453,658	3,240,183	1,310,262	2,200,385	67.93%	increase
Surplus	1,311,950	954,487	481,741	387,701	-19.52%	
Conticom's 75% share (after tax)	972,713	707,680				
Translated into sterling @ 31.12.05		485,524				
Conticom's share 75%			361,306			
Translated into sterling @ 31.12.06 0.6736162			243,381			
Conticom's share (after deducting tax)				311,619		
Translated into sterling @ 31.12.07				229,136		

Looking ahead

Even though this newsletter is produced at the end of 2008, we certainly have had an excellent year. We have achieved a new record for the ICS of over 2000 members. We have held three education courses and have seen a Neurourology Fellowship scheme. We also saw the highest number of abstracts submitted plus over 2300 people attending ICS 2008 in Cairo. We will provide you with a full report again during next year and we are looking forward to a fruitful and busy 2009.



Web & Media

ICS 2009 Videos

We have completely rewritten the rules for ICS 2009 to encourage more Video Abstract submissions in future and made them much simpler and clearer (thanks to Prof Karl Kreder's efforts this year to make this happen!!). ICS 2008 had a



fantastic response to the call for videos, and for ICS 2009 we plan to have a full discussed Video Session in the programme which we expect to be a big hit.

We are asking all potential authors of Video Abstracts to plan ahead now for their ICS 2009 submissions, as the best will form the basis of a prestigious podium-presented session to our delegates. Never submitted a video? Watch the best from last year – ICS Members can visit the website and catch up on the video abstracts they might have missed from Cairo – simply go to the **Videos** page in the **Abstracts Section**, and click on the video you want to watch, streamed online in high definition.

Missed the Video Abstracts at Cairo? Watch them again online...

Please read ICS e-news carefully!

Important information, including on voting and deadlines, is regularly sent by email to the ICS membership by the ICS Office and the Trustees in the form of **ICS e-news** updates. Please read these carefully and if necessary adjust your computer spam settings so as to ensure that these emails from the ICS Office are not rejected.

INTERNET CORNER

http://www.who.int/ictrp/en/

This is the website of the International Clinical Trials Registry Platform (ICTRP) of the World Health Organization. Its aim is to ensure that a complete view of research is accessible to all those involved in healthcare decision-making. It was set up to be one place to search simultaneously all the licensed registries of clinical trials. The ICTRP Search Portal <u>http://www.who.int/trialsearch/</u> was developed as a 'one-stop-shop' to search for reliable clinical trials information worldwide.

http://www.iasp-pain.org/AM/Template.cfm?Section=Home &Template=/CM/ContentDisplay.cfm&ContentID=6831

This takes you to the Pain Clinical Updates of the International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), volume XVI, issue 6, September 2008 on *"Chronic Pelvic and Urogenital Pain Syndromes"* by Ursula Wesselmann. This very interesting publication can also be accessed via the IASP home page: **www.iasp-pain.org**.

http://stemcells.nih.gov/info/scireport/2006report.htm

Want to read more about regenerative medicine? Go to this National Institutes of Health website on Stem Cell Information.

ICS Documents – New Look, New Approach

Dominic Turner

For many years the ICS Documents system has been the cornerstone of ICS online publishing. Staff have been able to publish documents and reports both publicly and restricted to ICS Members from anywhere in the world using our online upload and publishing system. In 2008 a new project was born to create a much more interactive system, that allowed content to be generated by the ICS Membership themselves.

Have your say! All ICS Members can join in the debate on any ICS Publication...

Design Goals:

- Allow Committee's to upload their own documents, for internal discussion, allowing multiple versions, with a chronological log of feedback and comments – track reports from drafts to final publication
- Allow ICS Members to give feedback to ICS Documents, stimulating debate and discussion
- Sophisticated folder and document permissions to control access to committees and individuals
- Utilize the latest AJAX technology to make the system dynamic and interactive in real time
- Track member ratings and download patterns to give statistical data (e.g. most viewed/popular documents)
- Simple search interface similar to mainstream search engines
- Deep-linking to our documents and folders to allow cross referencing to external websites

New ICS Standardisation Reports – Public Consultations

The launch of this new system coincided with the public consultation period of the new ICS & IUGA Joint Terminology Standardisation Report. This open forum discussion with the ICS & IUGA Membership demonstrates many of the features of the new system, and is hoped to be the first of many.

The Future of ICS Online – Power to our Members

Opening up the website to its members should encourage member participation and move us closer to the website goal of being a true online meeting place for continence professionals. This system is the first of many planned member-contributed communities for debate, education and research on the ICS website.





Book Reviews by Hashim Hashim and Jane Meijlink



TEXTBOOK OF RECONSTRUCTIVE UROLOGIC SURGERY

Editors: Drogo Montague, Inderbir Gill, Jonathan Ross, Kenneth W. Angermeier Publisher: Informa HealthCare (2008), pp: 992, ISBN: 9781841846446, Price: £ 225 / \$ 449.95

This textbook covers open, laparoscopic, endourological, robotic, microsurgical, and prosthetic reconstructive techniques in adults and paediatrics. It is clearly structured and divided into nine sections covering reconstruction of all parts of the genitourinary tract with a section on general surgical aspects and a section on the future in reconstructive surgery. The authors are internationally renowned from North America, Europe and Africa. Although I don't think the book serves as a comprehensive step-by-step operative textbook, the chapters do however cover diagnostic considerations, surgical indications, pre- and postoperative care instructions, and discussion of complications of all the common surgical reconstructive techniques and would therefore be very useful for both residents in training and established urological surgeons. The chapters are supplemented by 400 illustrations, some with colour and others in black and white linedrawings.

Effective Management of lder and

EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF BLADDER AND BOWEL PROBLEMS IN CHILDREN Authors: Liz Bonner, Mandy Wells

Publisher: Class Publishing (2008), pp: 376, ISBN: 9781859591659, Price: £ 29.99

In this very readable book on bladder and bowel disorders in children, edited by Liz Bonner and Mandy Wells, the different chapters have been contributed by a variety of experts from different fields. Aspects dealt with include safeguarding children and young people with continence difficulties and the impact of incontinence on the child's physical and psychological health and well-being, involving and communicating with parents and helping parents to deal with the situation, a fascinating chapter on embryology, anatomy and physiology, bedwetting and faecal soiling, infections, surgical aspects, psychological factors, holistic assessment, transition from childhood to adulthood, continence issues in schools and chapters on proficiency and governance. The many case studies are presented in a very thought-provoking and often moving way. Throughout this sensitively written book, the plight of the child remains at the centre. The layout is well designed with helpful key points and where appropriate health promotion points in highlighted boxes at the start of each chapter. There are references at the end of each chapter, and at the end of the book a useful glossary and resources. This book is ideal for anyone working in the field of paediatric incontinence. In her foreword Christine Norton writes: "The editors are to be congratulated...for recognising that a text on this issue of great importance to children and their families is long overdue."



URINARY

TEXTBOOK OF THE NEUROGENIC BLADDER (2nd Edition)

Editors: Jacques Corcos & Erik Schick Publisher: Informa Healthcare, 2008, pp: 962, ISBN: 9780415423168, Price: £375.00

The topic of neurourology is often poorly covered in neurology and urology textbooks. This book, one of the very few on the market, covers all aspects of neurogenic bladders and its associated problems from aetiology and pathophysiology to diagnosis and treatment. It is divided into 13 parts and 83 chapters. There are over 300 images both in colour and black and white. The book has an international list of contributors including leading world experts in the field of neurourology and should serve as an authoritative reference textbook for trainees and specialists in the field of urology or for anyone who is involved in the management of patients with neurourological conditions.

MANAGING AND TREATING URINARY INCONTINENCE (2nd Edition)

Authors: Diane Kaschak Newman, Alan Wein, Publisher: Health Professions Press (2008) pp: 664 with CD Rom (210 additional pages), ISBN: 9781932529210, Price: \$ 64.95

This revised and updated edition of an already well-known resource is aimed at nurses, nursing home administrators, incontinence specialists, primary care doctors, social workers and other healthcare professionals working in the field of incontinence or with elderly people. This is a sizable reference work with detailed information on anatomy and physiology of the lower urinary tract and pelvic floor, causes of incontinence and identification of risk factors, bowel dysfunction, assessment and evaluation, self-care techniques, behavioural therapy, drug therapy, collection and management products, pelvic organ prolapse and an overview of surgical interventions. The accompanying CD Rom contains care plans, patient education tools (including dietary advice to prevent night-time voiding problems, exercising your pelvic floor muscles, preventing bladder infections, using catheters), and assessment forms for use in the continence practice. There is a huge amount of practical information in this comprehensive guidebook and although USA-focused it is a must-have for every continence reference library.



ICS 2009 in San Franciso

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

IT IS A great honour to welcome you to the ICS Annual Meeting in San Francisco from 29 September to 3 October 2009. This will be the first time in ten years that the meeting has been held in the USA, and it is most fitting that our society has chosen this vibrant, diverse and beautiful city to host this event.



Anthony Stone, 2009

Annual Meeting Chair

The meeting will be held at Moscone West, the newest addition to the Moscone Convention Center (www.moscone.com). It is

surrounded by hotels, restaurants, gardens and museums. You will be in the heart of the city, within walking distance of many major attractions, including Union Square, China Town, and the Ferry Building. You can hop on a cable car to sample the culinary delights of Fishermans Wharf, or enjoy the breathtaking views from Nob Hill.

We hope these wonderful surroundings will not distract you from the educational and scientific programme being planned for you. The 5-day meeting will start with over 40 educational courses and workshops spread over the first two days. The scientific meeting will open on 1 October, and you can be assured that a stimulating programme is being planned.

Tradition has been an important cornerstone of our society and accordingly we will welcome you at San Francisco City Hall on Wednesday 30 September. You will be able to meet old friends and renew the spirit of ICS in this beautiful French Renaissance-style Beaux Arts building, the "Crown Jewel" of the city. San Francisco International Airport has connections from all over the world and is an easy 20 minutes from the city centre. Additionally, we hope you will spend some extra time in this beautiful corner of the world. San Francisco is within easy driving distance of many tourist spots including the Napa Valley and the wine country, the Monterey Peninsula, the gold country and magnificent Lake Tahoe. I should add that the weather in Northern California at this time of the year is perfect.

On behalf of myself and our organising committee, we are truly looking forward to seeing you in San Francisco in September.

Anthony Stone

Chair, ICS 2009



Meeting website: www.ics-meeting.com Deadline for abstract submission is 1 April 2009. Abstracts can be submitted via www.icsoffice.org

Deadline for Expressions of Interest for ICS COMMITTEES 1 April 2009

The following committees are specifically calling for interest:

Ethics Committee

Publications and Communications Committee

Please send your nominations for the following ICS posts by 1 April 2009

Continence Promotion Chair

Neurourology Chair

In order to stand for a position as Chair you need to be nominated and seconded by two ICS members.

Please send your nominations to the ICS office at info@icsoffice.org

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS TO HOST 2013 ICS ANNUAL MEETING

are to be received at the ICS office by 1st April 2009. For more information contact the ICS office.

Annual Meeting 2012 ICS 2012 Annual Meeting to be held in Beijing, China 15-17 October 2012

We are pleased to announce that the ICS 2012 annual meeting will be held in Beijing, China.

Our congratulations are extended to **Limin Liao**, Meeting Chair, **Bo Song**, Honorary President, **Lan Zhu**, Scientific Chair, and all members of the local organising committee who we feel sure will provide an excellent scientific programme for us all.

As there were no other suitable bids, in full conformity to our guidelines there is no requirement for a vote.