

Abstract Book

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Dear Colleague,

I have the honour to officially present the *Abstract Book* of the **1st World Conference on Abdominal Wall Hernia Surgery**. It is for me a reason of great pride and at the same time of apprehension to acknowledge the success of this first and unique worldwide event.

The preparation of this event required 5 years of diplomatic work to achieve agreement from the 5 Societies of the 5 Continents; scientific work to organise a programme that includes all of the knowledge related to abdominal wall surgery, and organisational work to respect the different cultures, orientations, needs and expectations of thousands of surgeons coming from the 5 Continents and from more than 90 Nations.

In the last year and a half, I have prepared this Congress involving, throughout the different development steps of the scientific programme, the entire National and International scientific Committees, which include, more than 200 well-known surgeons whose suggestions, advice and observations have contributed to the realization of the final programme. All the work has been continuously monitored by the Presidents of the 5 Societies of the 5 Continents.

Since the very beginning, my inspiring principle was the intent to organise an event that, while deeply scientific, would be able to promote human relationships, without accepting any impositions or any kind of preconceived judgement.

In particular, three inspirational phrases have guided the “making” of the scientific programme:

The first is from Aeschylus, a Greek tragedian, who says that “*everything bears its burden*”.

The second one says “*Is reality more real than science?*”

The third says “*Does simplifying the surgeon’s life really mean simplifying the patient’s life?*”

Today, abdominal wall surgery has become a “super specialisation” that necessarily requires from the surgeons who

choose this branch of medicine, an eclectic attitude, inclined to the acquisition of the most diverse and complex techniques and methods able to address the different situations: in a word, a tailored approach.

But if this is true for the so called “super specialists”, we cannot forget that a vast majority of simple hernia procedures, which represent the one most frequently performed surgical procedure in operating rooms all over the world, are treated by general surgeons who very often do not have the time and sometimes not even the desire to analyse the most complex topics.

This is why the Scientific Societies, with their Boards of experts, besides supporting and showing a tailored approach to surgery, must take care to prepare the guidelines in the most simple way in order to help, everyday surgery in all 5 Continents in a objective manner.

The role of a Congress of such impact is also to catalyse international interest so as to ensure the sharing of knowledge at global level, while at the same time concentrating and limiting Congress expenses.

This is not only a goal of the companies that sponsor the Congress, but also of the surgeons, Universities, Hospitals and Government Institutions.

It is therefore with great pleasure, some apprehension, and a spirit of deep gratitude towards the 5 Societies that have believed in me and entrusted me with their first joint Congress in the history, that I announce the opening of the 1st (and, I am sure, not the last) **World Conference in Abdominal Wall Hernia Surgery**, and I am confident that all this hard work will help all surgeons to achieve the final and most important goal of our profession: to help the people who suffer.

