

A FULL ISSUE OF PELVIPERINEOLOGY FOR OUR CONGRESS

This is a very special edition of Pelviperineology as it is published to coincide with the first ever joint meeting between the Australian Association of Vaginal and Incontinence Surgeons (AAVIS), the International Collaboration of the Pelvic Floor (ICOPF) and the International Pelvic Floor Dysfunction Society (IPFDS). These three diverse societies with members spread around the world have different origins and aspirations but they have come together with a common goal: to share knowledge and learn from each other.

IPFDS grew from an idea in 1995 and involved consultation with a number of recognized experts and opinion leaders. IPFDS was the very first multidisciplinary Pelvic Floor Society and was founded in 1996. The 1st International Congress of the IPFDS was held in 1997 in Rome, Italy. Subsequently over 300 fellows attended the 2nd International Congress in Barcelona 1999, the 3rd in Cairo in 2001, the 4th in Taormina in 2002. In Buenos Aires a multidisciplinary meeting was held in 2005 with colorectal surgeons, gastroenterologists, urogynecologists, urologists, neurophysiologists, physical therapists and gerontologists. There were 600 attendees from all over the world. A number of midwives and physiotherapists attended with Kari Bo and Barry Berghmans participating in sessions on the pelvic floor. At this meeting the bylaws of the IPFDS were reviewed and the new Executive Board was nominated. The past presidents of the IPFDS are Alain Bourcier (1997-2001), Filippo La Torre (2001-2005) and Oscar Contreras Ortiz (2006-present).

ICOPF is a diverse group of specialists from a number of European countries who met in Lausanne and formed a group for interdisciplinary collaboration to focus on developing and teaching vaginal surgery. This group was chaired by Bernhard Liedl (Munich) and Emmanuel Delorme (Chalon-sur-Saone) with a committee including Jean-Pierre Spinosa (Lausanne), Marcus Drake (Bristol) and Isabel Schorsch (Munich). The ICOPF is committed to improving the understanding of pelvic floor function and holds regular workshops in Europe.

AAVIS was formed in Perth, Australia in 1997 and was initially a group of doctors who joined together to learn the new techniques of suburethral slings being taught in Australia by Peter Petros. As time has gone by AAVIS has also become a multidisciplinary pelvic floor society with active involvement of urologists, gynecologists and colorectal surgeons. Successful meetings have been held each year in Australia since 1999. In 2007 over 300 delegates attended our last meeting in Sydney, with visitors from all around the world. At the Sydney meeting delegates voted to hold the next meeting in Venice, Italy.

When AAVIS planned the Venice meeting it was an excuse for the members of AAVIS to catch up with our friends in Italy and enjoy a visit to a city that is truly one of the world's wonders. It has turned out to be a much bigger meeting that was envisaged and the quality of the speakers that have offered their services is unmatched by any meeting around the world and is a true multidisciplinary faculty. AAVIS is looking forward to collaborate with IPFDS and ICOPF at the meeting in Padua Venice. The Board of AAVIS are pleased to include in this edition of the journal abstracts of all the speakers who are participating as well as a selection of free communications.

Welcome to Padua and Venice.

THE EDITORS

PELVIPERINEOLOGY

A multidisciplinary pelvic floor journal

Pelviperineology is published quarterly. It is distributed to clinicians around the world by various pelvic floor societies. In many areas it is provided to the members of the society thanks to sponsorship by the advertisers in this journal.

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The aim of Pelviperineology is to promote an inter-disciplinary approach to the management of pelvic problems and to facilitate medical education in this area. Thanks to the support of our advertisers the journal Pelviperineology is available free of charge on the internet at www.pelviperineology.org. The Pelvic Floor Digest is also an important part of this strategy. The PFD can be viewed in full at www.pelvicfloordigest.org while selected excerpts are printed each month in Pelviperineology.

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