EAES has been my association for many years and I would like to say why. The founding members of this association were surgeons who had an innovative idea and did not hesitate to push it forth, and, especially, prove its worth by adding the necessary scientific support. We should not forget this, and continue to strive to do the same for all new innovations to come. This has lead us to include “innovation” as one of the themes for the next EAES congress which will take place in Geneva, under the presidency of Professor Philippe Morel, June 16-19, 2010. Write these dates down!!!

EAES is the group of hard working people that can lead endoscopic surgery through the jungle of poor indications to make sure that our patients do not take the toll of our ignorance of sound thinking and evidence-based indications. We must make a particular effort to enforce the idea of safety for our patients: this is one of the reasons why “safety” is the second of the themes for the Geneva meeting.

The EAES office and the members of the executive are already hard at work. For several members of the executive and committees, our summer has been full and we have been actively exploring many working stations. Let me tell you about a few of the achievements, and projects for the near future.

1) A web site committee, called the “e-information” task force, has been set up and is hard at work to improve and embellish the EAES website.

2) The program committee will produce the upcoming program for the EAES Geneva meeting within a few weeks time. Plans are underway to start the program for the 2011 Torino meeting as well.

3) An EAES fellowship committee is in the making: the role will be to create and reinforce the existing EAES fellowships for young surgeons to be able to travel to centers of excellence around Europe, to learn and bring home new ideas and technology.

4) Efforts to create an EAES endorsed European curriculum for endoscopic surgeons are getting under steam.

5) Simulation as a teaching tool is becoming a landmarking field of interest under EAES guidance. However, who is EAES? It is you, the person reading this, be you an academic or non University doctor, an accomplished endoscopic surgeon or on your way to becoming one, an established professional or a student making his or her first steps in the field. EAES cannot do anything or progress without you. EAES needs you to be the thinker, the doer, the someone who will contribute to the work of the committees, to the progress of science, publish your work (in Surgical Endoscopy!) not only with the goal of showing what you have done but with the goal of increasing our knowledge, helping all to make the big stride forward to improve our standards of patient care.

Thank you for your efforts and confidence in the past, In advance, thank you for what is to come.

Abe Fingerhut, MD, FACS, FRCPS (g), FRCS Ed

EAES President
EAES Executive Board 2009-2011

Daily Board

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Chairman: Eduardo Targarona (Spain)

International Relation Committee
Chairman: Tadeusz Wroblewski (Poland)
Dear Colleagues, Dear Friends,

My election as EAES General Secretary represented for me a great honour and I would like to express to all the EAES members my gratitude and the assurance that in my new role I’ll continue to work hard, together with our President Abe Fingerhut and all the board, to strengthen the international role of our prestigious Society.

I have completed a 4 years term as Chairman of the Research Committee and I would like to thank all the Committee members for a very pleasant and productive activity: it has been a fantastic period and I am particularly happy to leave the chairmanship to George Hanna, a brilliant academic surgeon that will bring to the EAES his expertise and enthusiasm in designing, coordinating and implementing European research in the field of minimal invasive surgery.

The different EAES Committees have worked intensively in the last months and you’ll find the different reports in the present newsletter. From my side, I would like to concentrated my report on two issues on which I have concentrate my activity in the last period:

I. The EURO-NOTES Registry

A new web based platform created jointly by EAES and ESGE, has finally started enrolling patients! This Registry represents an important opportunity for the EAES and in general for European surgery to take the leadership in this new and fascinating field of surgery.

The new platform is extremely user-friendly, consisting of a web based electronic registry of clinical cases. Integrated systems are installed on shared servers. Project is entirely based on Web 2.0 systems open source. Upload of multimedial data, photo and video in Flash format (flv) with variable resolution is possible, and welcome, as well as it is available for consultation. A peculiar characteristic of the platform is the on-line inclusion of basic statistical processing and report with personalized printing of all the data included. The importance of a NOTES Registry is represented by the amplitude of the different activities proposed and performed although in an embryo phase, till now, and the lack of knowledge about opportunities and potential complications. The existence of a registry would help to proceed the clinical challenge avoiding repeating errors, and exchanging fruitful experiences. A few national registries were already active in some European countries such as Germany and Switzerland, but we are in the process to negotiate the inclusion of these important national registries under the “umbrella” of the Euro-Notes Registry. For all of you who would like to have more details about it, please visit the registry website (www.euronotes.world.it), or get in contact with the registry coordinator dr A. Arezzo (alberto.arezzo@unito.it). The Euronotes Registry website will be soon accessible also through the EAES website (www.eaes-eur.org). All colleagues having clinical experience with NOTES are strongly advised to participate to the Registry for the benefit of the entire community.

2. RESEARCH GRANTS and FELLOWSHIP GRANTS

The EAES board has decided to create research grants in order to improve and stimulate European Research in MIS. During the 2010 EAES Congress in Geneva a special session will be devoted to the presentation of the BEST RESEARCH PROJECTS and a 50.000 Euros grant will be attributed to the 2 best projects. This session will become a regular feature of every EAES Congress. The call for the “Research Projects” will follow the same dead lines as the traditional call for abstracts and videos for our annual Congress.

Furthermore, Fellowships for young surgeons to be trained in prominent European clinical Centres affiliated to the EAES will be available starting from 2010. The precise definition of these fellowships in terms of economical consistency, terms and rules to apply and selection criteria will be soon available trough our website and will be diffused in the next Newsletter.

MIS surgery was born in Europe, during the last 20 years European surgeons have been in the forefront of MIS scientifical and clinical practice and with your cooperation and with your enthusiasm European surgery and the EAES will continue and implement this leadership. In my role of General Secretary I will devote all my energies to this task.

Mario Morino
EAES General Secretary
The all day meeting was chaired by the new American Editor, Dr Mark Talamini and incorporated a SWOT analysis (strengths, weakness, opportunities, threats) of the current state of the Journal. It then addressed several issues concerning the Journal and its future progress: (i) composition of the new Editorial Board (with calendar for rotation), (ii) review of the structural content of the journal, (iii) revision of Instructions to authors and Reviewers’ check list, (iv) need to improve the quality of peer review by establishing EAES/ SAGES Peer Review Courses, (v) change of the cover page of the Journal, (vi) system for providing feedback and for formal recognition of the work of the reviewers and (vii) commissioning of keynote articles including a series on clinical research.

It was agreed that the format should be based on surgical approaches: conventional laparoscopic surgery, endoluminal surgery, natural orifice surgery, NOTES, single incision minimal access surgery (SIMAS) and that the Technology Section needs to be strengthened. The Two Editors-in-Chief have commenced work on revision of the Instructions to authors and the reviewers check list. Each of the two Editors-in-Chief was entrusted to formulate the new members of the Editorial Board for the respective Society (in accordance with decisions reached at the retreat). The new Editorial Board will ex officio contain all members of the Executive Board and all Chairpersons of the various Committee and will not exceed 30 from each society. However it is the Editor’s prerogative to choose the rest of the Editorial Board members based on Specialty, commitment to the journal and geographic distribution. Prof A Cuschieri will present the EAES list at the next meeting of the Executive Committee of the EAES and then at the annual members meeting of the Association. The commissioning of keynote articles on clinical research has been entrusted to Prof E Neugebauer. The workshop/course on peer review is scheduled for the EAES Congress in Geneva (June 2010) and will be organized by Prof A Fingerhut and A Cuschieri.

All these measures are designed to improve the standing of Surgical Endoscopy, as although it has done well (Impact Factor in 2008 was 3.231, ranked 18 out of 148 journals in the subject category), it has the potential to do much better and one of the short term objectives agreed at the retreat was to further improve the impact factor to exceed 4 in 2 years and to double it in the next 5 years. This of course is largely dependent on the membership of both organizations, since if all concerned were to submit their top papers to Surgical Endoscopy these objectives would certainly be achieved. Thus the future of the journal is as much in your hands as it is on the work and dedication of the two Editors-in-Chief.

Alfred Cuschieri, Editor in Chief

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**EAES Research Grant Program**

The EAES is introducing the EAES Research Grant program. Each year, the three best research projects will be awarded a grant from 10,000 to 50,000 Euros. The Research grant program is open to any young investigator who is an EAES member. The purpose of these grants is to stimulate original research in endoscopic surgery. A special session devoted to present the winning research projects will be scheduled during the annual EAES congress. Submission rules and requirements will be available on the EAES website soon at www.eaes-eur.org.
WEB Committee

On the initiative of EAES President Abe Fingerhut at the annual meeting in Prague, a working group was established to redesign the association's homepage. The members of the group are Abe Fingerhut, Ria Palmen, Willem Corbijn, Amir Szold, Andrew Renwick, Jose Schiappa, Marek Soltes and Selman Uranues. The aim of the working group is to create a new electronic platform using the most modern technology to better and more effectively fulfill our basic obligation to our members with regard to education and training. The group has taken up its work enthusiastically and effectively and in the short time since its founding has met twice, on July 30, 2009, in Graz, and on September 25, 2009, in Barcelona.

The working group has set itself the following goals:
1. The website will provide credible, peer-reviewed, updated information.
2. It will do so in at least 3 common European languages other than English, and aspire to include, at least in pertinent parts as will be determined from time to time, data in additional languages.
3. It will provide educational material for all surgeons, from residents to senior staff, in a comprehensive, scientific manner.
4. It will serve as a platform for the members of the EAES to communicate, exchange ideas, and share their knowledge.
5. It will be accessible in a variety of forms, and provide downloadable, open access information.
6. It will be technologically updated on a regular basis and designed to allow future applications such as online simulation and remote interactive learning.
7. It will contain all current EAES material such as full consensus material, the EAES manual, committee work and updates on EAES policy, guidelines, etc.

These goals generated the new logo for the working group, which will identify the group's activities within EAES in the future:

Electronic
Academic
Educational
Simulation

Jose Schiappa kindly agreed to chair the group, with Selman Uranues as his deputy.

It is our great pleasure to report to the EAES membership the newest developments on the part of the newest working group. You may also follow further developments online on the EAES homepage.

Jose Schiappa
Chairman

Selman Uranues
Vice Chairman

Education and Training Committee

Dear Members,

Our committee’s work currently concentrates on two main issues. The first is the major project of the EAES Manual, which has made considerable progress this year. Sally Lutz of Philadelphia has agreed to edit the manual, which will considerably speed up progress. It is planned that the first chapters will go online at the beginning of 2010. This of course assumes that by then, the modernization process for our homepage will have been completed. We are most gratified that the Executive Committee has made the funds available that will allow provision to be made for images, simulation and surgical videos as illustrations for the individual chapters.
On the second front, it is also a pleasure to report that hands-on training activities are on the upswing. Under Ahmad Nassar’s leadership, a number of workshops have been offered, among them upper GI tract laparoscopy and common bile duct exploration. Worldwide, a number of hands-on training courses and workshop involved the EAES and members of the EAES Education Committee. Further, EAES involvement in the International Surgical Week 2009 in Adelaide, Australia, served to disseminate information on minimally invasive surgery.

For some years now, EAES has cooperated with the United European Gastroenterology Federation (UEFG). A joint project was a postgraduate course on “Management of biliary diseases” in Amsterdam, September 18-19, 2009, whereby our committee assumed responsibility for the surgical part on the first day and the practical exercises on the second. These included CBD exploration (Ahmad Nassar, Jack Jackimowicz, Alessandro Paganini), and ERCP and ultrasound courses. A further advantage to EAES members of the cooperation with UEGF is the possibility of submitting educational projects for UEGF sponsorship under the Monothematic Projects and Postgraduate Educational Proposals program (PEPs). Further information is available at http://www.uegf.org/education/edu.

This is an outline of what our committee has been doing. We welcome comments and suggestions, which the administrative office will forward to us. We should like to thank our members for their confidence in us, and we look forward to further good and productive cooperation.

After these items of good news, there is a piece of sad news: Prof. Béla Baltás, for many years a member of the Education and Training Committee, recently passed away. In his native Hungary and internationally, he was respected and well liked as a physician and a friend to many. He will be missed.

Selman Uranues
Chairman

Ahmad Nassar
Vice Chairman

Committee of international relations: future trends and challenges

Dear colleagues,

We consider the main targets of the Committee of international relations to be (1) enlargement of membership to EAES from Eastern Europe and other countries worldwide, (2) intensification of scientific communication between national surgical societies and EAES, and (3) intensification of attendance of congresses, meetings and educational courses organized by EAES.

Current statistics show that there is relatively poor membership from several European and non European countries. Our goal is to improve this.

What’s our strategy to improve the present state of international relations? We emphasize the idea of Prof. Fingerhut about reforming the web-pages of EAES. Thus: creation of an educational tool with expert comments will be a very important attractive factor for new members, particularly for surgeons of Eastern European countries. Even without great knowledge of English, they will be able to obtain useful information.

In addition, we are going to stimulate submitting manuscripts of authors of Eastern European countries to Surgical Endoscopy and even help by translating them into English.

Vladimir Grubnik
Chairman
Membership Overview 2004-2009

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Please join us at the 18th EAES Congress

18th International Congress of the European Association for Endoscopic Surgery

Geneva Switzerland
16-19 June 2010

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Deadline Submission: 1st of February 2010

You are invited to submit abstract to the
18th International Congress of EAES
free paper sessions for oral, video or poster presentation.
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For hard copies of the abstract form, please contact the EAES office at
+31 40 252 5288 or e-mail: info@eaes-eur.org

All abstract submitters are encouraged to submit abstracts electronically. You may also visit the EAES website for electronic congress registration and for detailed information regarding the congress and pre-congress program.
17th EAES Congress, 17-20 June 2009

The annual EAES congress was held 17-20 June 2009 at the Prague Convention Center in the Czech Republic. Main activities started at 7 AM on Wednesday 17th of June as delegates registered for the various Post graduate courses and workshops.

Congress President Professor Stanislav Czudek officially opened the congress proceedings during the opening ceremony on Wednesday evening, followed by short speeches by the EAES President Professor Antonio Lacy and President Elect Professor Abe Fingerhut. A spectacular presentation of the various fascinating aspects of the Czech Republic, orchestrated by Professor Czudek, with live music of three different groups ranging from classic medieval to folkloristic and new modern pop style represented the pride of the Czech Nation in their rich cultural heritage and modern day capabilities. After this, the exhibition was officially opened and flooded by some 1000+ delegates eager to see the exhibition, enjoy the food and drink on offer and most importantly the opportunity to catch up with old friends and meet new ones.

The next day started off on a much more serious note as the delegates lined up to enter the 6 simultaneous sessions starting at 8 AM. The scientific highlights of the day were too numerous to mention individually. Parallel to these, several satellite symposia presented by the Industry, active partners in the meeting, some included live surgery transmissions, were well attended. Numerous posters were exposed during the poster sessions: many were so good that the judging panel had a difficult task of nominating the winning presentations. The day ended with the Consensus Conference session where the results of the year’s hard work on “Surgical Innovation” were presented.

Friday the 19th saw the same pattern of frantic activity as delegates and exhibitors alike were aiming to get the most out of the congress and concentrate their multitude of actions and objectives. Again satellite symposia were presented and the exhibition grounds heavily attended with live surgery transmissions available to see on stands and demonstrations by eminent surgeons in the various disciplines.
Friday evening saw in excess of 1000 delegates and attendees gather in the Zoom restaurant in the Congress Centre for an evening of networking and, most importantly recognition of excellence through the official announcements of the various awards. With a spectacular panoramic view on Prague old town on the back ground featuring the famous Prague Castle, newly appointed EAES President Professor Abe Fingerhut, inaugurated during the EAES General Assembly, Congress President Professor Czudek, Immediate Past President Professor Antonio Lacy and Program Committee Chair Professor Mario Morino presented the deserving winners of the various categories with their awards.

The evening festivities went well past the hour of midnight with live music, good and plentiful of food and drinks and were immensely enjoyed by participants. The Saturday sessions were well attended. As the hour of 1 PM chimed throughout the city of Prague, came the closing of yet another wonderful Congress and friends bade farewell to each other.
One entry into the abdomen was already installed by nature.

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Key experts in the fields of surgery and gastroenterology presented their experiences in NOTES implementation, including the recent approach by SILS. In addition, problems and possible solutions related to clinical practice were discussed in the working groups. The novel industry forum, was a very successful initiative to promote a fruitful debate with the industry about the latest innovations in stapling, imaging, energy and robotics and the importance of coordinating efforts if NOTES and SILS are to become a reality in everyday practice. Additionally, attention was dedicated to the implementation of a European registry, as well as to the taxonomy of NOTES procedures.

A special session was dedicated to the presentation of the conclusions of the studies funded by the Olympus Research Fund Project, yielding some very interesting results.

In view of the above, we can only conclude that the success of the EuroNotes meeting is an undeniable proof of the importance of NOTES in present surgery, and that the joint/coordinated approach is the only one possible to make NOTES move forward.

Antonio Lacy
Chairman

**Upcoming EAES Events**

**June 16 - 19 June, 2010**
18th International congress of the European Association of Endoscopic Surgery (EAES)
Geneva, Switzerland

**June 13 - 18, 2011**
19th International congress of the European Association of Endoscopic Surgery (EAES)
Torino, Italy

**September 9 - 11, 2010**
4th European NOTES Workshop
EURO-NOTES A joint initiative of ESGE and EAES
Rome, Italy

**Other Future Events**

**April 14 - 17, 2010**
12th World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery hosted by SAGES & CAGS
Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center
Landover, MD (just outside Washington, DC, USA)

**September 1 - 4, 2010**
19th SLS Annual Meeting and Endo Expo 2010
Sheraton New York Hotel and Towers, New York, USA

**EU health strategy**

The Health Programme is the European Commission’s main instrument for implementing the EU health strategy. The programme aims, through projects and other actions it funds, to improve the level of physical and mental health and well-being of EU citizens and reduce health inequalities throughout the Community.

Calls for proposals for the year 2010, for projects, operating grants, conferences and joint actions, will be launched already in 2009. Please check this website regularly for news about next calls.

http://ec.europa.eu/eahc
One of the aims of the EAES Education Committee is to ensure that appropriate endoscopic training courses are available in Europe for residents in training and certified surgeons who wish to be trained in endoscopic surgery. All European Education centres who run courses in endoscopic surgery may apply. The course application will carefully be reviewed by the Education Committee on concepts, faculty and content of the course. The following courses meet the guidelines established by the Education Committee and are endorsed by EAES.

**Aarhus University Hospital**  
Prof. P. Funch-Jensen  
Surgical Gastroenterological Department  
Noerrebrogade 44  
8000 Aarhus  
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Tel: +45 89493879  
Fax: +45 89493890  
E-mail: pfjen@as.aaa.dk

**University of Dundee**  
Prof. Sir A. Cuschieri  
Cuschieri Skills Centre  
Level 5, Ninewells Hospital & Medical School  
DD1 9SY DUNDEE  
UNITED KINGDOM  
Tel: +44 1382 645857  
Fax: +44 1382 646042  
e-mail: cscbookings@dundee.ac.uk  
www.dundee.ac.uk/surgicalskills

**Postgraduate Medical School University of Surrey**  
Prof. M. Bailey  
Minimal Access Therapy Training Unit  
Manor Park, Guildford  
SURREY GU2 7WF  
GREAT BRITAIN  
Tel: +44 1483 688691  
Fax: +44 1483 688633  
www.mattu.org.uk

**AKH Linz**  
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FRANCE  
Tel: +33 88119000  
Fax: +33 88119099  
E-mail: gtemporal@websurg.com  
www.eits.fr

**National Center for Advanced Laparoscopic Surgery**  
Dr. Ronald Marvik  
St. Olavs Hospital  
University Hospital of Trondheim  
7006 TRONDHEIM  
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Fax: +47 73869689  
e-mail: nsalk@online.no  
www.nsal.k.org

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www.lrc.edu.org

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Dr. Liam Horgan, Director of NUGITS  
North Tyneside General Hospital, Rake Lake  
North Shields  
Tyne and Wear, NE29 8NH  
NORTHUMBERLAND  
GREAT BRITAIN  
www.nugits.nhs.uk
Join us in Washington, DC as SAGES & CAGS host the 12th World Congress of Endoscopic Surgery
April 14 - 17, 2010
Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center
Landover, MD
(just outside Washington, DC)

Registration & Program Information will be available Summer, 2009

PROGRAM CHAIRS:
Daniel Herron, MD
(SAGES Co-Chair)
Barry Salky, MD
(SAGES Chair)
Christopher Schlachta, MD
(CAGS Chair)

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and Canadian Association of General Surgeons
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