

International  
College  
of Surgeons

Past, Present,  
and Future



This book is dedicated to:

The unnamed officers, past and present of  
our sixty-six national sections, whose  
efforts and inspiration have given vitality  
and resilience to the ICS;  
TOGETHER the national sections ARE  
the College

International  
College  
of Surgeons

Past, Present,  
and Future

Six Decades of  
International  
Surgical  
Collaboration



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# Foreword

I was asked to do a foreword to this book; this assignment was given to me because of my close relationship to the formative years of this great institution. The founder of the International College of Surgeons was my father, the late Max Thorek. Being in constant contact with him, I observed and felt the thoughts that were going through his mind. He knew that there were many medical and surgical societies but because of distances and language dissimilarities it was difficult for the members to communicate. Distances were being and are being conquered; however, the surgical Tower of Babel persisted. In our specialty communication is indispensable; we must know what other surgeons are thinking, doing and contemplating. In surgery there can never be any geographic boundaries or barriers.

It was the brainchild of Max Thorek to create an international society which would bring together surgeons from all countries to exchange knowledge in the various fields of surgery. He lived to see his dream become reality.

The birth of our society took decades. There were those who thought it could not be accomplished, there were those who thought it would

antagonize other groups; and there were those who said "Don't rock the boat". But the boat had to be rocked and it was this challenge that was the stimulus for the formation of our college. It was not an easy task. The early formative construction work was done by a coterie of dedicated, distinguished surgeons selected by the Founder. These men represented various and distinct parts of our globe and were eager for surgical communication and education. It took years of committed devotion to accomplish our present state.

Elisabeth Braam has taken on the assignment of writing this history. No easy task! She has done a superb job. I am sure I express the gratitude of our Fellows in thanking her for collating this vast amount of material.

There is no status quo in surgery. We wonder where our comprehensive health care system will take us. We will do our part to remain in the forefront of providing the best and safest techniques that can be offered to humankind.

**Philip Thorek, FICS**

July 1994



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The information in this book was pieced together, for the most part, from articles in old newsletters and other documents in the ICS archives, which were, at times, accompanied by photographs. We have benefitted greatly from the work of officers and staff who chronicled much of the development of the College over many years.



# Introduction

## A look to the past for a better view to the future

Professor Refaat Kamel, ICS President (1993–1994)

Perhaps it is the fast approach of the third millennium that has given us, the ICS leadership, a sense of urgency to look far down the road towards the future of the College. The calendar milestone, albeit an arbitrary one, seems to issue a stronger than usual call to us to take a moment to reflect. Reflect on what? “The future, of course!” we answer. “Let us aim for a still higher platform of progress, let us make plans, chart our course!” And that is exactly what we have done. During the last few years, we have engaged in intense brainstorming sessions, where the present situation would be bluntly analyzed as a way to uncover innovative changes; where new ideas were chased after, tossed around, and shaped into realistic plans.

Paradoxically, it was then, when we were so intensely occupied with the future, that I began to see that we would be better equipped to interpret the future, if we had a comprehensive knowledge of the past. Some of you may ask why, at this point, and to that question I have several, somewhat different, answers.

Chronicling the events that took place as the College was founded and developed, as best we can, is certainly of interest in itself, but the real value of recording the highlights of the past lies in the opportunity it gives us to assess and evaluate what happened, and to draw our conclusions. That constitutes a learning process which makes the past meaningful to the present, as it provides insights in the successes, failures,

and struggles that were part of the founding and growing process. We will learn much that we can apply to our thoughts and plans for the future.

But perhaps the greatest gift that we receive from looking back at the past is pride. Pride, because we find ourselves in the company of people of good will, surgeons who wished to share knowledge with each other, wherever they lived, whatever their language, beliefs, social or political status. They deeply aspired to an international brotherhood at a time, in the thirties and forties, when division, strife, and violence were the main items on the agendas of the world. Pride, because we find ourselves in the company of many men who were not only brilliant surgeons and scientists, but idealists as well – idealists who had the courage to act in the light of their conviction.

We can be proud to belong to an organization that has brought together thousands of surgeons who otherwise would never have had a chance to meet. How much professional enlightenment, understanding, and insight was sparked between surgeons from every corner in the world, meeting in Cairo, Mexico City, Vienna, Manila, New Delhi, Los Angeles, Buenos Aires, to name just a few of the scores of cities where meetings sponsored by our College took place over nearly six decades? How many barriers of ignorance were broken down in the process, how much cross-fertilization of ideas took place, how many surgeons became friends? As with so many valuable things, this cannot be measured, but it is fair to believe that the



College's global embrace has greatly enriched the profession as a whole and thousands of surgeons individually, for the benefit of humankind.

ICS founder, Max Thorek, was 55 years of age when his preparatory work came to fruition in 1935 with the incorporation of the International College of Surgeons in Geneva, Switzerland. Among those working closely with him in the early years were Albert Jentzer of Geneva, Rudolph Nissen (then in Turkey), Mario Dogliotti and Raffaele Paolucci of Italy, Manuel Manzanilla of Mexico, Hamilton Bailey of England, Ali Ibrahim Pascha of Egypt, Francisco Graña of Peru, Felix Mandl of Palestine, and Herman de las Casas of Venezuela. Foremost on the minds of these men was the desire to shape a global surgical fraternity open to all surgeons in good standing, who would join efforts to raise the standards of surgery and medical ethics everywhere, improve health care policies, and contribute to peace and understanding.

The sparks of Thorek's vision kindled the enthusiasm of surgeons in the USA in particular, a group that quickly developed into the College's first national section, established on December 19, 1936. The group immediately organized clinical guilds around the nation which did much to bring surgical training and updates to the less centrally located cities and hospitals. Fellows in Mexico organized the second section in 1939, and by 1945 Argentina, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Bolivia, Haiti, China, and Turkey had brought the number of sections to 14. Europe and many other parts of the world were involved or affected by the Second World War, which limited the expansion of the College temporarily. The pace quickened in the late 1940s when Italy, Hungary, Finland, Austria, Nicaragua, and the Philippines joined the ranks of ICS sections, followed in the early 1950s by more European sections, and sections in different regions of the world – Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, and Pakistan. Currently the College is composed of 66 national sections, the most recent ones having been established in Russia, Bulgaria, Bangladesh, Singapore, and Lithuania.

The first two international assemblies, which took place in the late 1930s in Philadelphia and New York, were hosted by the US section, but the third one was hosted outside the USA, by the Mexican Section in 1941, impressing all with the high quality of the scientific program and the lavish hospitality. As the number of national sections increased and, in addition, their vitality, the international assemblies, or biennial congresses as they were later called, moved all over the globe. From 1957 on, when the sections were so numerous that they needed to be grouped into federations for greater cohesion, international congresses multiplied because of the federation congresses now being held as well. These international congresses brought panels of foremost leaders in surgery to many different lands, making available to large numbers of local surgeons an unequaled surgical update from around the world, as they do to this day.

The first issue of the College's scientific journal appeared in July 1938, its editorial board composed of members from 25 different countries. All articles were summarized in Spanish, French, Italian, and German. To the present day it has provided another on-going update in surgical advancement and scientific thought from every corner of the globe. Max Thorek was its Editor-in-Chief until his death in 1960. Current Editor-in-Chief since 1979, Professor Giuseppe Pezzuoli of Italy, has been instrumental in elevating the caliber of the *ICS Journal* to new heights.

In a decade the College had grown so substantially that it was in need of a headquarters where business meetings of its officers could be held, dignitaries and other guests received, and, in addition, to provide consolidation of the increasing administrative services. The current ICS headquarters at 1516 Lake Shore Drive in Chicago, an elegant mansion overlooking Lake Michigan, was acquired in 1947. An adjacent, even grander, mansion was purchased a few years later to house the Hall of Fame and International Museum of Surgical Science. This was yet another of Thorek's dreams realized. Murals, paintings, antique surgical artifacts, old books, letters of

surgical greats form a unique collection that tells the story of the history of surgery.

Surgeons' spouses in the USA and Canada established a Woman's Auxiliary in 1952, inspired by Mrs Max Thorek, and raised substantial amounts of money with which they supported the Research and Scholarship program and the Museum. Hundreds of young surgeons have benefited over the years from grants, distributed on a worldwide basis, made available by ICS for advanced training at surgical centers of excellence. Twenty years later, in 1972, the interest of active surgeons' spouses in other countries prompted the founding of the International Woman's Auxiliary.

Max Thorek died in 1960, just a few months away from his eightieth birthday. He was mourned by many in every part of the world. With his passing an extraordinary era came to an end; but the organization was solid and many capable hands were ready to continue the work of the College. Dr Horace Turner became Secretary General and the Founder's son, Dr Philip Thorek, took over as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal.

In the 1970s, the valuable work of the College was recognized by the World Health Organization (WHO) and several pertinent United Nations' groups, with which the College became affiliated, such as UNICEF and ECOSOC. Under the auspices of the WHO the College launched a major undertaking when, spearheaded by Professor Paride Stefanini of Rome, the surgical teams' program was established and implemented in 1974. It was conceived to counteract the "brain drain" which had been identified by the WHO in a report asserting that 50% of the surgeons who

studied abroad on a grant did not return to their homeland. ICS began sending teams of highly qualified surgeons, experts in the specialties requested, to all quarters of the globe, to provide education and training. It proved to be a mutually rewarding experience, with the teaching team learning as much about unusual pathologies and alternative surgical approaches in the face of limited availability of equipment and resources. Twenty years have passed since the first team went to Kenya in 1974; since then scores of teams have traveled far and wide to help promote greater equity in technical and ethical surgical standards.

The list of eminent surgeons who helped shape the College, who worked hard to fulfill its mission to elevate surgical standards of excellence around the world, is long. Their accomplishments are numerous, and they have left us a rich heritage with unlimited potential, for us to unfold. How can we not be inspired, motivated, and fortified by their example? How can we not be challenged by this heritage of opportunities left to us by fellow surgeons whose vision and altruism shaped this unique organization?

I hope that the following pages, guiding you on a little excursion into our past, will inspire you to forge ahead with courage and optimism as a surgeon and as a Fellow of the International College of Surgeons. I welcome each one of you to help bring about the realization of our vision and plans for the future of the College, defined in the last chapter of this book. Together we shall meet the challenge and enjoy the excitement of the continuous, fast-paced changes in surgical concepts and technology.





# Chapter 1

## Founding and founder

On December 28, 1935 “The International College of Surgeons, Founded in Geneva” was legally established and incorporated in Geneva, Switzerland.

It was the brainchild of Dr Max Thorek (1880–1960) of Chicago, USA, who, as the organization’s permanent Secretary General, was also the driving force behind its growth and development during the first 25 years of its existence, from 1935 until his death in 1960.

It is interesting to note that Thorek felt the need to draw surgeons together into an international fraternal organization at a time when the opposite was happening in the world at large, which experienced an alarming increase in divisiveness, aggression, and confrontational stance. Triggered by the economic collapse of most of the industrial nations after the 1929 stock market crash in the USA, political tensions had erupted into full boil, turning loose hatred and enmity in this era.

It would not be difficult to believe that Thorek’s desire to unify surgeons from around the world was fueled, among other things, by a private revolt against this rising tide of hostilities. The numerous editorials he wrote in the *ICS Journal* give evidence that he was an idealist, someone who was always exhorting himself and others to do better, to reach for higher ideals. Being a surgeon first and foremost, it seems logical that Thorek’s ideals would find form in the founding of an international fraternity of surgeons. He

reasoned that such an international brotherhood, while promoting the exchange and advance of surgical knowledge everywhere, would, at the same time, foster understanding and good will worldwide. He began to share his ideas with the circle of colleagues around the world with whom he already had a lively professional correspondence.

As he invited their views on his ideas, his correspondence, always large, grew to tremendous proportions. Thorek reminded them that “science has no fatherland, but the world” and he wrote:

“ . . . We must share experiences, discoveries and all research for the sake of science and mankind . . . Many eminent men in surgery have declared . . . that the common language of scientific endeavor and the interchange of experience enrich the surgeon, when in a mutual affiliation, with fraternal obligations, there is a sharing of experience and a mutual participation in advancement.”<sup>1</sup>

He recognized that ICS would fill a definite need by serving as a liaison between surgeons throughout the world, and the colleges and surgical societies already in existence.

In the course of the years, Thorek’s persistent efforts were duly rewarded as he found many kindred minds among highly respected colleagues: eminent men who were receptive to the idea of

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<sup>1</sup>*Transactions of the ICS*, 1938, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 14.

establishing an international college of surgeons, and supportive of his endeavors.

Thorek wrote about some of these early supporters in an editorial in 1938:

“Enthusiastic expressions for its [the College’s] future and ideals were received from president Jirasek and many others. [Professor Arnold Jirasek of Prague became the first President of ICS] Professor Jentzer, the European Secretary–Treasurer General has done much constructive work in spite of the unsettled political conditions on the European continent. Similarly, great enthusiasm has been displayed by many European regents to mention only the excellent work of Professor Stanischeff of the University of Sofia, Bulgaria, vice-president Rudolf Nissen, erstwhile of the Sauerbruch Clinic, now head of the Surgical Department of the University of Istanbul, Turkey, Professor Papayannou of Cairo and many others. It was through Professor A. Mario Dogliotti [of Turin, Italy] that the distinguished senator and surgeon, Professor Raffaele Paolucci and Professor Gino Pieri became interested in the College and their names added to its roster. Expressions of encouragement were received from Professor Juan M. Corpas of Bogota, Colombia; from Professor Manuel A. Manzanilla of Mexico and from many others in remote quarters of the world.”<sup>2</sup>

First and foremost on the minds of these founder members was to base admission to Fellowship in this new organization on professional credentials alone. As Rudolph Nissen said:

“... Where we are pioneering is in the democratic way which we are making the rule of this new College. Race, color, creed, politics, financial status – those things are not going to enter into our policies or be used to sift the members admitted to the fellowship... Perhaps it is this fact, in part at least, which draws to the College the kind of men who are working for it...”<sup>3</sup>

The emphasis placed on this issue seems to indicate dissatisfaction with the admission criteria of other existing organizations. A paragraph in an

address by Dr Crotti in 1939 is suggestive of that notion:

“... With this in mind, the College regards itself as a school, and not merely as a Pantheon where the eligibles come to peacefully rest, crossing their arms on their chests, and from the height of their grandeur looking down with condescension upon the passing flow of surgical humanity and saying to each other: *Non sunt digni intrare in nostro docto corpore* (they are not worthy to belong to our learned body) ...”<sup>4</sup>

Although ICS aspired to be elitist in the sense that it wished to bring together surgeons of excellence from around the world, it did not want to exclude the well-respected and qualified practicing surgeon who strives continuously to keep abreast of new advances. Professor Rudolf Nissen said:

“... The International College of Surgeons is specifically interested in furthering the standards of the average practicing surgeon – the unknown soldier of surgery, who still is the most important person in the practice of surgery the world over...”<sup>5</sup>

That these founder members wholeheartedly believed in the stated ideals of the College is apparent from their actions. All gave generously of their time and energy without compensation, most refused reimbursement of their expenses, and many made substantial financial contributions to the organization.

Thorek hoped that the organization would be “a true college whose prime function would be to teach younger men, and older men, and all who thirsted for knowledge of whatever age. Every man in it would be at one and the same time teacher and student.”

Elaborating further on his vision, he wrote:

“I found myself thinking of the medieval university. I remembered how scholars traveled the length and breadth of a Europe much longer and broader than it is today to sit

<sup>2</sup>*Transactions of the ICS*, 1938, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 13.

<sup>3</sup>*A Surgeon’s World*, Max Thorek, MD, 1943, p. 337.

<sup>4</sup>*JICS*, 1939, Vol. II, No. 4, p. 266.

<sup>5</sup>*JICS*, 1956, Vol. XXVI, No. 5.



at the feet of learned men, now at Paris, now at Padua, now at Oxford. I remembered that those days when learning knew no national boundaries had been days when Europe had attained a spiritual unity lost and all but forgotten since then. I hoped that something of the same idea would be built into the new institution. Perhaps it could become, not only a channel through which surgical knowledge could flow quickly, easily, to all parts of the world, not only a source of encouragement and inspiration for the ambitious youth of our profession, but also a force making for international understanding and good will and peace.”<sup>6</sup>

With the ominous threat of war heavy in the air, it is understandable that they hoped that the College would also be a force contributing to international goodwill and peace. This thought was expressed eloquently in a 1938 address by Dr André Crotti (USA), who was President of the College at that time:

“The International College of Surgeons feels that it has also another mission. By bringing together the leaders in surgery of the other nations of the world, it hopes to soften and perhaps to break down the barriers of antagonism and prejudices which our tormented era has erected among the nations. Indeed, the sky of nations is laden with dark clouds, the block of old traditions disintegrates, everything changes, or is about to change. Nations orient themselves toward new principles. This entry of Nations into a new and unforeseen mental world cannot take place without a period of transition, difficult and uncertain. Between the ruins of lost illusions and the application of new principles, there are bound to arise many new and pressing problems which will have to be solved. In this task the International College of Surgeons feels that it can be of valuable service. It feels that it will not only be a powerful instrument in elevating the standards of surgery, but feels also that it can be a medium through which will be brought about better understanding among the surgeons of the various nations of the world. And since these surgeons represent largely an intellectual élite, they should have great influence in their respective countries.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>*A Surgeon's World*, Max Thorek, MD, 1943, p. 326.

<sup>7</sup>*Transactions of the ICS*, 1938, Vol. I, No. 1, p. 29.

The man who sought out and relentlessly pursued the challenge of bringing the whole world of surgery closer together, Max Thorek, MD, is described as a man with an electrically charged personality, an original thinker with a restless mind and boundless energy. Enriched by the cultures of two continents and an extensive knowledge of the classics, conversant in several languages, an excellent violinist and photographer, Max Thorek had everything it took to come close to the minds and hearts of men and women among all peoples and nations, crossing every barrier of class and color and creed.

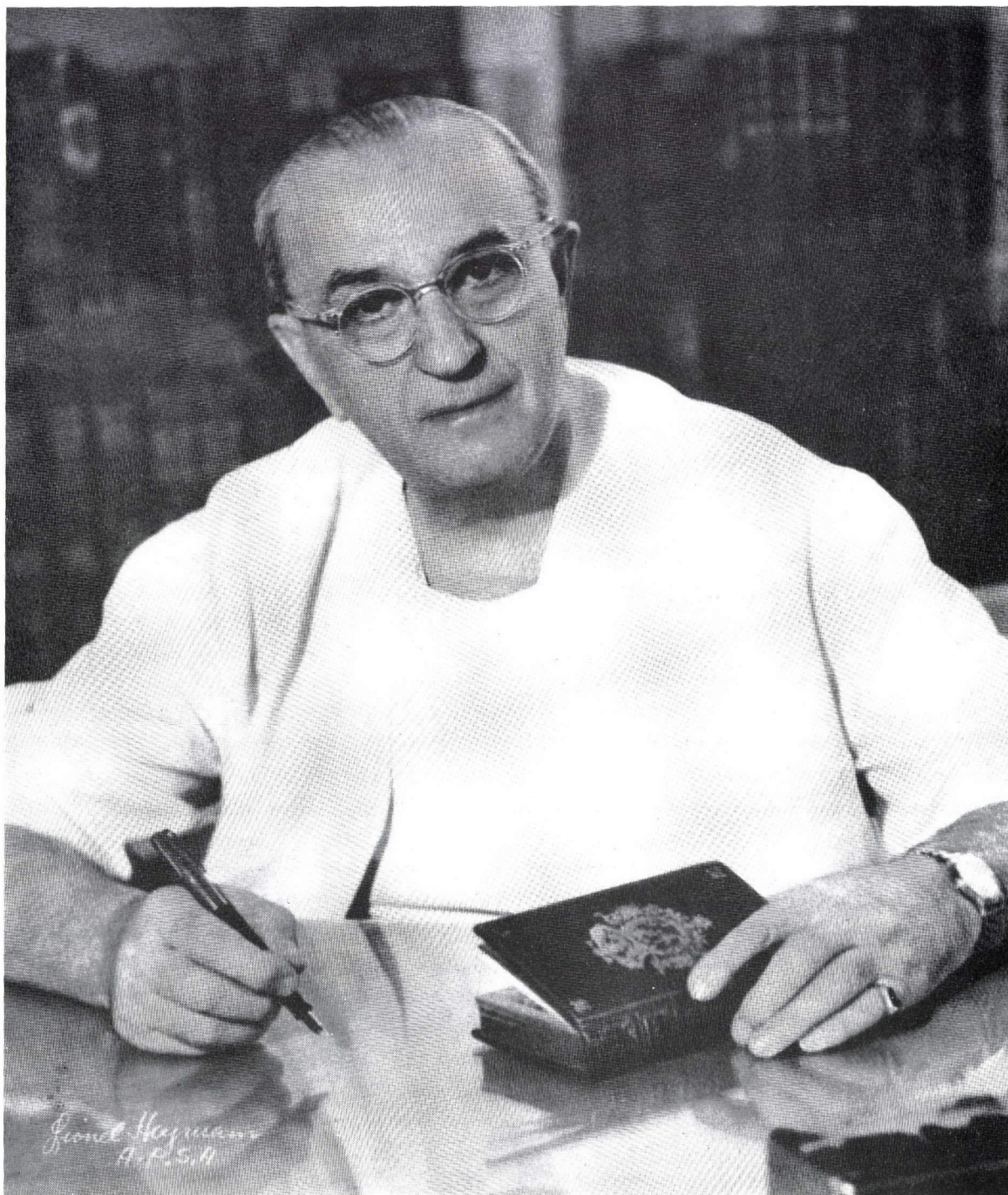
A Hungarian immigrant to the United States of America, Max Thorek arrived in Chicago at the turn of the century without a penny to his name. He eagerly took on the challenges of his new homeland and, through hard work, endless study, and an agile mind, he reaped the rewards. In 1904 he received the degree of Doctor of Medicine from Rush Medical College in Chicago. He became attending surgeon at Cook County Hospital and later Professor of Clinical Surgery at the Cook County Graduate School of Medicine. He founded and became Chief Surgeon to the American Hospital in Chicago, currently named the Thorek Hospital, which, under the direction of his son, Dr Philip Thorek, continues to enjoy a reputation of excellence.

In retrospect it does not seem surprising that this multi-faceted and dynamic man, with his grasp of the world at large and keenly aware of the needs of the times, would search for and find an opportunity to maximize his contribution to the development of surgery. What better way was there than to try and enhance surgical excellence throughout the entire world to benefit all humankind?

One of Thorek's earliest active supporters, and the prime mover in carrying out the formalities of incorporation of the International College of Surgeons in Geneva in 1935, was Professor Dr Albert Jentzer of Geneva, Switzerland.

Jentzer was the College's first Secretary General for Europe, a long-standing member of the Board of Trustees and the Editorial Board, and Chair-





Dr Max Thorek, Founder and International Secretary General, International College of Surgeons.

man of the Twentieth Anniversary Meeting of ICS at the University of Geneva, in May 1955.

With international communications lacking the present-day conveniences of fax machines, efficient telephone systems, and air courier

service, it must have been a demanding task for Thorek and his group in the USA, and Jentzer and his people in Europe, to keep a continuous and efficient dialogue going to chart an appropriate course of action together, and prepare the





From left to right: Dr Max Thorek, Professor Dr Albert Jentzer, and Mme Jentzer (Geneva, Switzerland). Professor Jentzer carried out the formalities of incorporation of ICS in Geneva. He was Professor and Director of the Surgical Clinic of the University of Geneva, a position he had assumed in 1933; he held the position of Dean of the Faculty of Medicine from 1940 to 1944. He contributed hundreds of articles to the surgical literature and, comparatively late in life, undertook the study of isotopes and their relationship to biology. Professor Jentzer was President of the Swiss Society of Surgery from 1936 to 1938.

necessary documents in English and French for the incorporation of the organization, including a constitution and bylaws. Their persistence bore fruit, however, and on December 28, 1935 the formalities for the incorporation of the International College of Surgeons were finalized by a Founding Committee, established for this purpose. Professor Albert Jentzer was designated President of the Founding Committee, Mr Pierre Jeandin, an attorney, served as Secretary, and Mr Emile Adler, a banker, was the third member on the Committee. All were from Geneva, Switzerland, as practicality dictated. Geneva had been chosen because the city stood for the great principle of international amity and cooperation.

The minutes of the General Assembly of the Founding of the International College of Surgeons, dated December 28, 1935, furthermore reflected that the first constitution and bylaws were unanimously adopted at that meeting,

PROCES-VERBAL  
DE L'ASSEMBLEE GENERALE CONSTITUTIVE  
DU COLLEGE INTERNATIONAL DE CHIRURGIENS

- - -

Sont présents :

M. le Professeur Albert Jentzer, demeurant à Genève, rue de l'Université No 8,

M. Pierre Jeandin, Notaire à Genève, Place du Port, No 1, et

M. Emile Adler, banquier, demeurant à Genève, rue Ernest Hentsch No 11,

formant le Comité de Fondation du Collège International de Chirurgiens.

M. le professeur Jentzer est désigné comme président de l'assemblée, et M. Jeandin comme secrétaire.

M. le Président présente à l'Assemblée les statuts du Collège International de Chirurgiens, Association organisée corporativement, dont le siège est à Genève, rue de l'Université No 8. Ces statuts sont adoptés à l'unanimité et seront communiqués à M. le Dr Lyons H. Hunt, demeurant à New York, 4, East 66th St., et à M. le Prof. Dr Max Thorek, The American Hospital of Chicago, Irving Park Boulevard at Broadway, Chicago, Ill., conformément à l'art. 66 du Code civil suisse, alinéa 2.

L'assemblée générale désigne à l'unanimité M. le Dr Lyons H. Hunt aux fonctions de Directeur général du Collège International de Chirurgiens, et M. le Prof. Dr Max Thorek aux fonctions de secrétaire-trésorier-général pour l'Amérique, de ladite Association.

Ces nominations sont faites à l'unanimité et après lecture tous les membres du Comité de Fondation ont signé le présent procès-verbal.

Genève, le 28 décembre 1935.

First page of the minutes of the General Assembly of the Founding of ICS, December 28, 1935.



**S T A T U T S**

**Article 1.**

**Il est créé à Genève (en 1935) un Collège International de Chirurgiens qui a pour but:**

- a) de rapprocher les différents chirurgiens en chef du monde entier, et de former ainsi une élite chirurgicale.**
- b) de contribuer à l'avancement de la chirurgie en collaboration intime avec les autres sociétés de chirurgie des autres pays.**
- c) de combattre la pratique illégale et contre-indiquée de la chirurgie.**
- d) de chercher les derniers perfectionnements de la chirurgie et de les faire valoir.**
- e) d'encourager la recherche scientifique chirurgicale, ainsi que les disciplines qui s'y rapportent.**
- f) d'offrir des récompenses et des distinctions annuelles à ceux qui le méritent.**
- g) d'élever par tous les moyens l'idéal chirurgical.**

**Ce Collège a son siège à Genève.**

**Il a été décidé de limiter à mille le nombre des membres.**

**Il est projeté d'ériger un Institut à Genève (Suisse), sous le nom de Collège International de Chirurgiens. Il sera créé un Fonds de Recherches et un Musée de l'Histoire de la Chirurgie. Le Collège compte sur Genève, ville si justement réputée pour ses efforts pacifiques, pour faciliter les rapports internationaux du Collège International de Chirurgiens.**

Article I of the first constitution of ICS.

that Dr Max Thorek was designated Secretary General/Treasurer of the organization, and Dr Lyons H. Hunt of New York its Director General.

Article I of the constitution (translated from French) reads as follows:

"An International College of Surgeons is incorporated at Geneva [in 1935] for the following purpose:

- a. To bring together the leading surgeons of the entire world so as to form a surgical élite.
- b. To contribute to the development of surgery in close collaboration with other surgical societies of other countries.
- c. To combat illegal and unethical practices in surgery.
- d. To seek out and to make known the latest developments in surgery.
- e. To encourage research in the surgical and related sciences.
- f. To yearly award prizes and distinctions to those who are worthy of such honors.
- g. To elevate the surgical ideal in every possible way.

This College will have its headquarters in Geneva. It has been decided to limit its membership to one thousand. It is planned to build an institute in Geneva (Switzerland) to be named the International College of Surgeons. A research library and a museum of surgical history will be established. The College counts on Geneva, a city justly renowned for its peaceful efforts, to facilitate the international relations of the International College of Surgeons."

Already three years later, as the number of members who actively participated in the development of the College grew, and its purpose, goals, and philosophy were more closely defined, this first version was extensively modified and expanded. A special Executive International General Assembly was duly called for that purpose in Philadelphia, October 14, 1938. Among many other changes, the 1000 limitation of membership was deleted, and the location for the College headquarters and museum could be Geneva, "or anywhere else in the world as decided by the General Assembly."

The reason why the College was later incorporated again, this time in Washington, DC in 1940, was explained by Dr André Crotti in 1941:

"... because the European war was bringing about, almost overnight, profound geographical changes in the map of Europe, and also because of the difficulties and uncertainties of communication with Europe, it was feared that the College might find itself without a legal status should anything untoward happen. For that reason it was deemed prudent to secure a legal status in the United States. With this in view, the International College of Surgeons, has been duly incorporated in Washington, D.C.; it still retains, however, its original incorporation in Geneva, Switzerland."<sup>8</sup>

The Washington DC documents of incorporation were signed by Dr Custis Lee Hall, Dr George B. Tribble, and Dr André Crotti on August 8, 1940.

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<sup>8</sup>JICS, 1941, Vol. IV, No. 5, p 459.

Other existing surgical organizations did not receive the International College of Surgeons with open arms. In a speech in 1956, then ICS President Professor Rudolf Nissen of Switzerland, looking back at the early years, alluded to a less than warm welcome for the fledgling organization:

“ . . . my thoughts go back to the years immediately following the founding of our organization. Compared to the initial period, when hostility against the College was a daily event – such as is experienced by every organization in its formative years – the situation today is very different indeed. Now, we are all proud to see the International College of Surgeons definitely established not only in the United States but in the majority of countries in the civilized world. This is a source of great satisfaction to me, particularly since I have been with the College from the very beginning.”<sup>9</sup>

Some animosity was undoubtedly anticipated by the early ICS officers, who pointed out at every opportunity that ICS had the highest regards for the work and accomplishments of the American College of Surgeons, the American Medical Association, the Société Internationale de Chirurgie, the various Royal Colleges of Surgeons, and other national surgical groups. They stressed their desire for close collaboration, noting that every surgical society contributes something worthwhile and different to the whole, whether in education or in direct service to humanity. ICS President, André Crotti, expressed this succinctly in his address to the General Assembly in New York in 1939:

“ . . . The International College of Surgeons merely wishes to add its bit to what other organizations are doing for the advancement of surgery, and it wishes to do it in its own way . . . We are all seeking the same object, namely, the progress of this great profession of ours. That is the sole and ultimate goal which we are all striving for, no matter if we belong to the International College of Surgeons or if we belong to other affiliations. This being the case, the sooner we all join hands, the sooner the goal will be attained . . . ”<sup>10</sup>

That this philosophy of collaboration was foremost on their mind when they drafted and adopted the first constitution and bylaws, can be seen already in the second sentence of that document, which states as one of the purposes of the organization:

“To contribute to the development of surgery in close collaboration with other surgical societies of other countries.”

In this context it is interesting to note that most ICS officers from the USA were Fellows of the American College of Surgeons, and that the College’s first International President, Professor Jirasek of Czechoslovakia, was that country’s representative to the Société Internationale de Chirurgie.

The International College of Surgeons was legally established. The work could begin . . .

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<sup>9</sup>*JICS*, 1956, Vol. XXVI, No. 5, p. 8.

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<sup>10</sup>*JICS*, 1939, Vol. II, No. 4, p. 267.





# Chapter 2

## The formative years: 1935–1950

### First roster of officers and worldwide representatives

From its very beginnings the International College of Surgeons was amply justified in calling itself “international”. A worldwide network took shape and developed rapidly, 35 countries being represented in its early roster.



Professor Arnold Jirasek (Czechoslovakia) – first ICS President (1936). Professor Jirasek was Chief of the first Czech surgical clinic of Charles University in Prague, a position he had held since 1927. He was the fourth surgeon to occupy that prestigious post since the clinic was founded in 1882. Professor Jirasek was greatly praised for elevating and expanding surgery and the teaching of surgery in Czechoslovakia, and was particularly recognized for his work in the development of a Czech school of modern neurosurgery.

### 1936: Professor Arnold Jirasek (Czechoslovakia) – first ICS President

Professor Arnold Jirasek, Head of the Department of Surgery, University of Prague, then Czechoslovakia, was the first President of ICS from 1936 to 1938, and Dr Rudolf Nissen of Switzerland, who was then Director of the University Clinic of Surgery in Istanbul, Turkey, was the ICS Vice-President. Dr Albert Jentzer, Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, was Secretary/Treasurer for Europe. Dr Max Thorek, Professor of Surgery, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine, Chicago, Founder and Surgeon-in-Chief, American Hospital, was the College's Secretary/Treasurer General, which position he held until his death in 1960.

### 1936: Founding of the US section

As the International Secretary General, Dr Max Thorek, the driving force of the College, lived in Chicago, USA, it was to be expected that particularly strong membership growth would take place in the USA. Dr Thorek fired the imagination and kindled the enthusiasm of many surgeons around him, inspiring them to leadership in their own right. This soon led to a general desire on the part of the US surgeons to establish a US section within the International College of

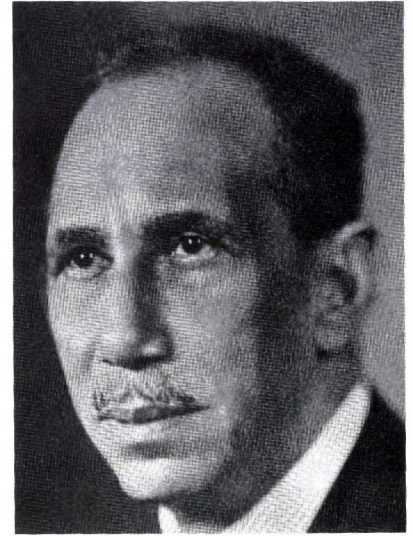




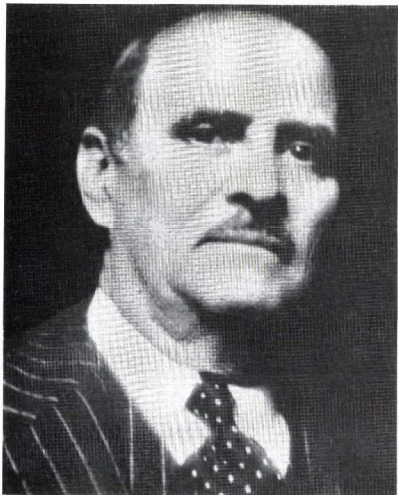
Dr. Herman de las Casas, Venezuela, Vice-President and Associate Editor, The Journal of the International College of Surgeons.



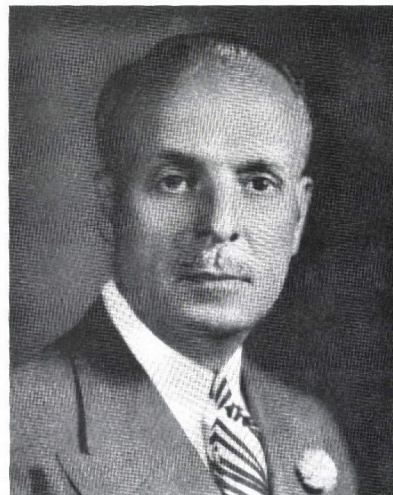
Dr. Alberto Gutierrez, Buenos Aires, elected Representative of the International College of Surgeons for Latin America.



Dr. Ali Ibrahim Pascha, Cairo, Egypt, Vice-President, I. C. S.



Dr. Francisco Graña, President of the Peruvian Academy of Surgery; Member of Board of Trustees, I. C. S.



Dr. Raymond W. McNealy, Chicago, Illinois, Vice-President, United States Chapter, I. C. S.



Dr. Felix Mandl, Palestine, elected Representative for the Near East.



Dr. Rudolf Nissen, Member of the Board of Trustees.  
Some early supporters of the ICS.



Mr. Hamilton Bailey, F.R.C.S., London, Executive Secretary-Treasurer for Europe.



Dr. A. Stanischeff, Sofia, Bulgaria, Vice-President, I. C. S.



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Dr. Arnold Jirasek, President, Head of Department of Surgery, University of Praha, Czechoslovakia.

Dr. Rudolf Nissen, Vice President, Director of the University Clinic of Surgery, Istanbul, Turkey. Formerly Chief of Prof. Sauerbruch's Clinic at Berlin.

Dr. H. Lyons Hunt, L.R.C.S. (Edinburgh) Director General, New York, N. Y.

Dr. Albert Jentzer, Secretary-Treasurer-General for Europe, Head of Department of Surgery, University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Max Thorek, Secretary-Treasurer-General, Prof. of Surgery, Cook County Graduate School of Medicine; Attending Surgeon, Cook County Hospital; Surgeon-in-Chief, American Hospital, Chicago.

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Prof. Barbosa Vianna, Prof. of Clinical Surgery, Infantil Faculdade Medicina.

Prof. Castro Araujo, Prof. of Surgical Clinic and Traumatology in the Rio de Janeiro University, Rio de Janeiro.

Prof. Edmundo Vasconcellos, Prof. of Clinical Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, Sao Paulo.

Prof. Fernando Luz, Prof. of Clinical Surgery and Faculdade de Medicina de Bohai.

Prof. Benedicto Montenegro, Prof. of Surgery, Medical School University of Sao Paulo Medical Director Santa Catherina Hospital, Sao Paulo.

Prof. A. De Oliveira, Director Instituto Cirurgico Bernardes de Oliveira, Prof. Cirurgia Escola Paulista Medicina, Campinas.

Prof. Luiz Barros Lima, Prof. of Orthopaedic Surgery School of Medicine, Surgeon of Orthopaedics Clinics in Hospital Infantil and Hospital Santa Amaro Recife.

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Dr. Herman de Las Casas, Prof. of Traumatic and Orthopedic Surgery, University of Caracas, Head of Dept. of Traumatology and Orthopedics at Hospital Vargas, Caracas.

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Dr. Dagoberto Arriagada, Hospital San Borja-Surgeon, Santiago.

Prof. Italo Alessandrini, Prof. of Oral Surgery, Aggregate Prof. of Surgical Clinic, Chief of Surgical Clinic, Santiago.

Dr. De La Fuente, Chief Surgeon of Pensionado Carlos Van Buren, Chief

Surgeon of Women's Section of Hospital C. Van Buren, Valparaiso.

Dr. René Rios, Chief Surgeon at Hospital Concepcion, Concepcion.

Dr. Hugo Grove, Chief Surgeon (Gen'l) at Carlos, Van Buren Hospital, Valparaiso.

Dr. Alvaro Covarrubias, Surgeon at Hospital Del Salvador, Santiago.

Dr. Juan Wood, Professor Gynecology, University of Santiago; Hospital Clinico De San Vincente De Paul, Santiago.

### SYRIA

Dr. M. R. Altounyan, Chief Surgeon, Altounyan Hospital, Aleppo.

### TURKEY

Prof. Rudolf Nissen, Head of Surgical Clinic of University of Istanbul.

### VENEZUELA

Prof. Salvadore Cordoba, Prof. of Surgery, School of Medicine, Caracas.

Prof. Alfredo Borjas, Director of the Hospital Vargas, Prof. of Urology, University of Caracas, Ven.

### CUBA

Prof. Benigno Souza, Chief Surgeon, Emergency Hospital, Havana.

### MEXICO

Prof. Manuel A. Manzanilla, National University of Mexico.

Surgeons. For this purpose a meeting was duly called and held in New York City on December 19, 1936 at the Academy of Medicine Building, where the section was formally organized. The first officers of the US section were:

- President: Dr André Crotti
- First Vice-President: Dr E.H. Cary of Dallas, Texas
- Second Vice-President: Dr Karl A. Meyer of Chicago
- Third Vice-President: Dr P. Brooke Bland of Philadelphia
- Secretary: Dr Charles H. Arnold of Lincoln, Nebraska
- Treasurer: Dr Oscar B. Nugent of Chicago.

On February 18, 1947 the section was incorporated in the State of Illinois.

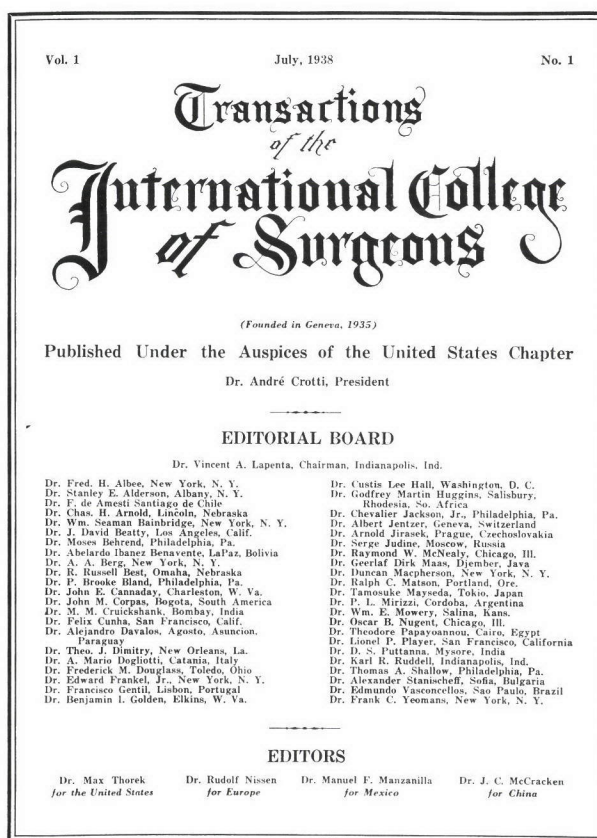
The First Assembly of the US section was held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York City, on June 1 and 2, 1937, under the general chairmanship of Dr A.A. Berg, who would later, in 1946, become the fifth International President of the College. The program committee was composed of Drs P. Brooke Bland, Karl Meyer, Stuart N. Michaux, Henry M. Scheer, with Dr Berg as chairman. The meeting drew 256 surgeons from 25 states and four foreign countries. The Governor of the State of New York honored the meeting with his presence and gave a welcoming address.

One of the section's main goals was to assist especially the younger surgeons toward perfecting their technique. It was recognized that few young surgeons could afford to be away from their practice for any length of time to do post-graduate work in the larger medical centers. Consequently, it would be beneficial to them if opportunities to keep abreast of advancements in surgery and surgical technique would be available closer to home. Inspired by the example of the Iowa Clinical Surgical Society, and guided by a plan of activities presented by Dr William Jepson and Dr E.A. Jenkinson, officers of that Society, the US section adopted and set in motion the Clinical Guild Plan.

This plan called for the College membership in each State to organize themselves into Clinical Guilds, which would conduct clinics by rotation in hospitals of the cities where its members resided. These small groups would regularly witness surgical procedures, presented in turn by their own members, which would be followed by group discussion. Before long the Guilds were productively functioning all over the USA, achieving the educational goals that had been envisioned.

### 1938: First issue of scientific journal published

In July 1938 the first issue of *The Transactions of the International College of Surgeons* was published. After the first two issues, the publication's name was changed to *The Journal of the International*



First issue, scientific journal of ICS.



*College of Surgeons*. In January 1966 it was renamed once again and called *International Surgery*. The Journal was hailed as the College's "certificate of birth and visibility". It was published six times per year until 1950, after which it appeared monthly for several decades. All articles were summarized in Spanish, French, Italian, and German. Max Thorek was its Editor-in-Chief until his death, after which his son, Dr Philip Thorek, who had served as associate editor for many years, would shoulder this task for a number of years. The



Dr André J. Crotti – second ICS President (1938). Dr Crotti was Medical Director of the Free Cancer Clinic in Columbus, Ohio, an institution he had founded in 1921. The Clinic was chiefly devoted to early detection and diagnosis of cancer. Recognizing the need for large sophisticated cancer centers where first-rate scientists would work together, Dr Crotti, in later years, directed his energy to promoting a merger of the Clinic with the Health Center at Ohio State University. His vision became a reality in 1953 when the Clinic merged with the new Cancer Research Laboratories of the Health Center at Ohio State University. A plaque commemorating Dr Crotti's achievements was placed near the main entrance of the new Cancer Center.

editorial board, composed of members from different countries, also reflected the vast international scope of the organization.

The first ten issues were published under the auspices of the US section, which owned the Journal. This changed with the August 1940 issue which was the first one published by a separate corporation known as the Journal of the International College of Surgeons Publishing Company. This was made possible by capital subscriptions ranging up to \$1,000.00 each, which were paid or pledged to the publishing corporation by a group of American members of the College.

### **1938: First International Assembly, Philadelphia**

The first International Assembly took place in conjunction with the second Annual Assembly of the US section, and was held on October 14, 1938, in Philadelphia. It was called mainly for the purpose of adopting a considerably revised and expanded constitution, the first version being considered inadequate and flawed.

The meeting in Philadelphia drew 311 surgeons from 39 US states and six other countries. Dr Moses Behrend was the assembly's general chairman.

### **1938: Dr André Crotti (USA) – second ICS President**

The organization had now acquired a motto, and a quote of a famous statement made by Pasteur to express its ideals, which were incorporated in the new constitution. These were the idea of Dr André Crotti, the College's second President, who was elected at the Philadelphia meeting to succeed Professor Jirasek.

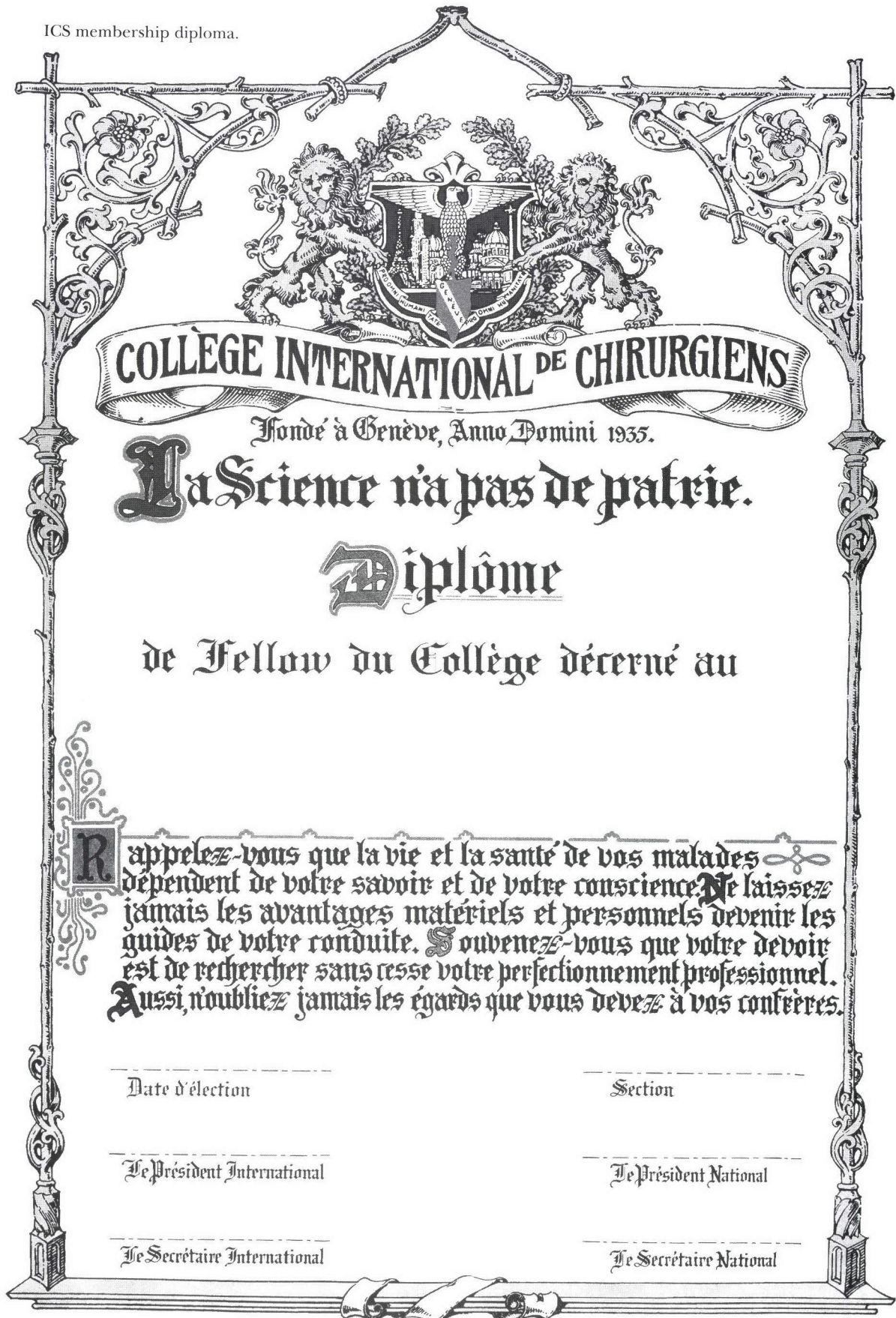
### **Motto and aphorism adopted**

Thorek recognized Crotti's contribution as follows:

" . . . To this fine and sincere man the debt of the International College of Surgeons is great indeed. It was



ICS membership diploma.



he who chose for it its motto: *Pro omni humanitate* [for all humankind] and he who gave to it the perfect aphorism in which to express its highest ideals – the words of Louis Pasteur: ‘La science n’a pas de patrie, parce que le savoir est le patrimoine de l’humanité, le flambeau qui éclaire le monde . . .’ [Science has no country, because knowledge is the patrimony of mankind, the torch that illuminates the world.] He had been assistant to the famous Roux of Lausanne and to the equally famous Kocher of Bern. His work on the thyroid has brought him international fame . . .”<sup>11</sup>

Crotti was responsible for the conception and execution of the diploma of the College. To the words in French of Pasteur was added a brief paragraph, also in French, which, as Crotti stated, “represent the fundamental principles which should guide the conscience of each surgeon”:

“Rappelez-vous que la vie et la santé de vos malades dependent de votre savoir et de votre conscience; ne laissez jamais les avantages matériels et personnels devenir les guides de votre conduite. Souvenez-vous que votre devoir est de rechercher sans cesse votre perfectionnement professionnel. Aussi, n’oubliez jamais les égards que vous devez à vos confrères.”

[Remember that the life and health of your patients depend upon your knowledge and your conscience; never allow material and personal gains to become the guides of your conduct. Remember that it is your duty to never stop pursuing your professional improvement. Also, never forget the consideration you owe to your colleagues.]

### 1938: Vice-Presidents and Treasurer

In addition to the election of Crotti as International President in Philadelphia, three Vice-Presidents were elected in October 1938: Professor Rudolf Nissen (re-elected), Professor Mario Dogliotti (Italy), and Professor Alexander Stanischeff (Bulgaria).

Dr William Seaman Bainbridge (USA) became International Treasurer and Dr Max Thorek



Dr William Seaman Bainbridge – first ICS Treasurer, 1938–46. Dr Bainbridge was Captain, Medical Director, US Naval Reserve; Surgical Director to the US Public Health Service and the New York and Third Naval Districts. He was operating surgeon on the transport USS George Washington during the First World War and did special assignments at the front lines and in rehabilitation centers in France and England. Dr Bainbridge was the author of many monographs on cancer, operative technic, abdominal gynecology, and thyroid surgery.

was re-elected to the position of International Secretary General. Regional Secretaries General were:

- Europe: Professor Albert Jentzer (Switzerland) (re-elected)
- Asia: Dr J.C. McCracken (Peiping, China)
- Mexico: Dr Manuel Manzanilla (Mexico)
- India: Dr M.M. Cruickshank (Bombay).

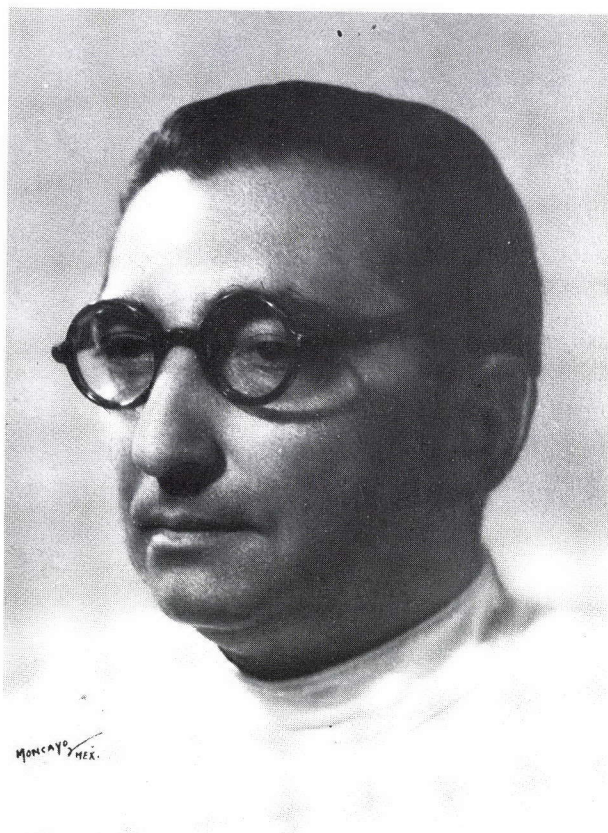
Nissen and Dogliotti later became International Presidents of the College – the former in 1954 and the latter in 1961.

Dr William Seaman Bainbridge (USA) was the first Treasurer of ICS, and held that important position for the next eight years: 1938–1946.

Dr Manuel A. Manzanilla (Mexico) served on the editorial team of the *ICS Journal* for several decades, starting from its inception in July 1938. He was also a Vice-President of the College from 1941 to 1948.

<sup>11</sup> *A Surgeon's World*, Max Thorek, MD, 1943, p. 33.





Dr Manuel A. Manzanilla (Mexico) – Vice-President and assistant Editor. Specializing in gynecology and abdominal surgery, Dr Manzanilla became founder of the International Society of Gastroenterology. In addition to his surgical studies, he took courses at the Graduate School of Philosophy and Letters, University of Mexico over three years. His extensive writings reflected the scientist, philosopher, and artist. Dr Manzanilla served as a national delegate on numerous international commissions and congresses, and received many honorary distinctions. He was secretary of the Academy of Surgery and was the driving force behind the organization of two ICS Biennial Congresses held in Mexico – in 1941 and 1957.

### **1939: Second International Assembly, New York**

The Second International Assembly was held in New York, May 21–25, 1939. It was again hosted by the US section in conjunction with the section's third National Assembly, and organized under the presidency of Dr André Crotti, and the general executive chairmanship of Dr Edward Frankel, Jr. Dr Fred H. Albee was Chairman of the committee on the scientific program. That participants in the scientific program had come from such diverse countries as Romania, Mexico, Cuba, Argentina,

France, Finland, Venezuela, Hungary, Turkey, Belgium, Syria, and Canada, as well as the USA, was an unequivocal testimonial of continuing worldwide interest and approval of the College and its aims. Crotti was encouraged by the glowing success of this first fully fledged international scientific meeting, which he and the other founder members felt augured well for the College's future.<sup>12</sup> Ninety-two US surgeons joined the College ranks at the meeting in New York and received their diplomas at the convocation ceremonies.

At the Executive Session of the International Council, held on May 24, 1939 during the New York meeting, Dr Edward Frankel, Jr and Dr Earl B. Craig would be recognized "for the excellent cap and gown they designed and registered in Washington as the distinctive insignia of the International College of Surgeons."

### **1939: Mexican section founded**

At that same meeting, on May 22, 1939, the Mexican section was officially admitted to the College, and so had the distinction of being the second ICS section (it was called "chapter" in those days) to be founded. Dr Manuel A. Manzanilla introduced the section's duly elected officers:

- President: Dr Gonzalo Castañeda
- Vice-President: Dr Luis Rivero Borrell
- Secretary: Dr Francisco Fonseca García
- Treasurer: Dr Miguel Lopez Esnaurrizar.

National regents to ICS were: Dr Manuel A. Manzanilla, Dr Gonzalo Castañeda, and Dr Miguel Lopez Esnaurrizar.

A delegation of 29 surgeons from Mexico was in attendance, all of whom received a diploma of Fellowship. Most of them were outstanding surgeons garnered from among the members of the National Academy of Medicine and the Mexican Academy of Surgery.

<sup>12</sup> *JICS*, 1939, Vol. II, No. 4, p. 265, Presidential Address by André Crotti.



Banquet during the second International Assembly, Hotel Roosevelt, New York City, May 23, 1939.

## GOWN, HOOD AND CAP

made to your order exclusively  
by John Wanamaker, Philadelphia

The robe is designed in the fluted Geneva style with Doctor's Degree trimmings in exclusive International College of Surgeons colors. Fine quality pure silk ruby-wine body with a broad stole of non-crushable velvet from neck to hem in emerald green, symbolizing medicine, piped in gold velvet, signifying science. Full bell shaped sleeves over inner sleeves, with three chevrons of royal blue for Fellows, two chevrons for members, and one for associate members. Conventional International College of Surgeons hood of wine silk trimmed with green velvet. With chevrons in Alma Mater colors on lining of hood. Semi-stiff cap of wine silk with green velvet band, yellow silk tassel. Your name embroidered on robe and hood; initials in cap. Finest materials, impeccable tailoring. *Mrs. Lillian Wright will represent John Wanamaker at the convention.*

*John Wanamaker*  
PHILADELPHIA

ICS gown, hood, and cap.





Committee of the Mexican section. Seated, from left to right: Dr Albee, Dr Thorek, Dr Francisco Castillo Nájera, Ambassador from Mexico, Dr Crotti, Dr Bainbridge, and Dr Lapenta. Standing: Dr Rabago, Dr Morones Prieto, Dr Manzanilla, Dr Lopez Esnaurrizar, Dr Lagarde, and Dr Torres Estrada.

The young Mexican section would soon prove its high calibre when it hosted the third international assembly in Mexico City in August 1941, the first one outside the USA. This event was praised as a grandiose success in every respect.

### **Strong bonds between North and Latin-American surgeons**

Mounting political tensions in Europe and destabilization of the traditional ways of life had of necessity slowed the development of the College in Europe. Most communications came to a temporary halt during the years of the Second World War (1939–1945). Although this was a setback for the College, it had an unexpected positive side effect.

In spite of the geographical proximity of North America and the countries of Central and South America, surgeons of both continents had always looked to Europe for scientific stimulation and exchange, and seldom to each other. In Central and South America pre-medical preparation was patterned by and yardsticks taken from European

requirements, and the greater number of their students pursued their education mainly in France and Germany, complemented by further study in the schools of Vienna, Italy, and Britain.

When relations with the European countries were cut as a result of the war, the surgical communities in Latin and North America began to discover each other, and fruitful relationships and exchanges developed. This explains the strong expansion of ICS in Latin America in these years. The first two occasions on which International Assemblies were held outside the USA, they were hosted in Mexico City, Mexico (1941), and Lima, Peru (1946). In addition, four consecutive US presidents were followed by a President from Latin-America – Professor Francisco Graña of Peru (1949–1950).

### **1941: Third International Assembly, Mexico City**

The third International Assembly, celebrated in Mexico City, August 1941, signaled the beginning of strong links between North and Latin-American surgeons.





Dr Max Thorek addressing the President of the United States of Mexico, General Don Manuel Avila Camacho. From left to right: Dr Tirado, Dr Esnaurrizar, Dr Thorek, Dr Manzanilla, Dr Quiñones, Dr Castañeda (behind Dr Quiñones), Dr Manero, and President Camacho.

Dr Desiderio Román, then President of the US section, praised the scientific program highly:

"... The Organization Committee [of the Mexican Section], in charge of all arrangements for both social and professional entertainment, arranged a surgical program which probably gave greater evidence of the progress of our art than anything yet recorded. Never before in the history of medical gatherings has scientific achievement been represented on so worldwide a scale as in the Scientific Program of the International College of Surgeons; for, notwithstanding the current world crisis, Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas were all represented at this notable gathering . . . As is the custom in international medical programs, the various papers were grouped according to special subjects, allowing full development of the material under discussion, participated in by specialists of different nationalities in a worldwide interchange of medical experiences. In order to facilitate complete understanding between the speakers and their listeners, competent interpreters summarized the leading points of each address with the approval of the speaker . . ."<sup>13</sup>

The country's highest dignitaries personally welcomed the delegates on several occasions, adding special lustre to the meeting. His Excellency, General Manuel Avila Camacho, President of the Republic, officially opened the General Assembly. The solemn ceremony took place in the grand theater of the Palace of Fine Arts, and was broadcast over Mexico's radio network. In addition, the President granted an impressive audience to the visiting surgeons at his castle, greeting them individually.

The outstanding and extensive social program included a reception and luncheon for 1500 guests at the roof gardens of the Colonial Hospital, hosted by General Enrique Estarada of the Administrative Corps and by Dr Gabriel Malda, Surgeon-in-Chief of the famous institution.

ICS officers and Fellows showed their appreciation of their gracious hosts by symbolically honoring Mexican surgery, holding an inspiring

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<sup>13</sup> *JICS*, 1941, Vol. IV, No. 4, p. 380.





Placing of wreath, and address by ICS President Albee at the monument of the eminent Mexican surgeon, Francisco Montes de Oca.

ceremony at the monument of the renowned Mexican surgeon, Dr Francisco Montes de Oca, in San Pablo Park. ICS President, Dr Fred H. Albee, placed a floral offering and delivered an address.

Another ceremony was held at the monument of Louis Pasteur, where ICS delegates were joined by the French Ambassador to Mexico, Mr Gilbert d'Arvengas. The immediate past President of ICS, Dr André Crotti, placed a wreath and both dignitaries spoke.

The successful meeting in Mexico was a milestone in the development of the College because it established channels of communication where few had been before; this would provide a conduit for fruitful exchange for decades to come. Here was a successful example of what the College had set out to accomplish – dissemination of advancements in surgery and promotion of understanding and friendship on a worldwide scale. Thorek summed it up in an editorial which he entitled “We should know our neighbors”:

“... The recent Assembly of the International College of Surgeons in Mexico City brought home to us the knowledge that we had missed much by narrowing our interchange of ideas. It is highly regrettable that in the past we in the United States shrugged our shoulders at the capabilities of our neighbors, while they in turn shrugged their shoulders at us.

“The resulting misunderstanding and indifference caused Latin Americans to travel to countries other than ours for surgical training, while we lost out on a better understanding and a finer esprit de corps, as well as the advantages which would have been bound to result from a concurrence in effort.

“While in Mexico city the writer (Thorek) was impressed with the excellent facilities of the Railroad Hospital, which is the last word in construction and equipment; with the magnitude of the Military Hospital just nearing completion; with the splendid talents of the surgeons. At the meetings the excellent papers on various surgical topics from representatives of every part of Latin America showed the fallacy of standing apart and the advisability of close cooperation. These neighbors of ours presented





At the Pasteur monument, where ICS past President Dr Crotti placed a wreath, and he and the French Ambassador to Mexico delivered addresses.

many ideas and methods which were refreshing to us. They are thirsty for knowledge and well qualified to give generously in exchange for any information we may impart to them.”<sup>14</sup>

#### **1941: Dr Fred Albee (USA) – third ICS President**

The links thus established between North and Latin-American surgeons were strengthened when, a year later, Dr Fred Albee, who had taken

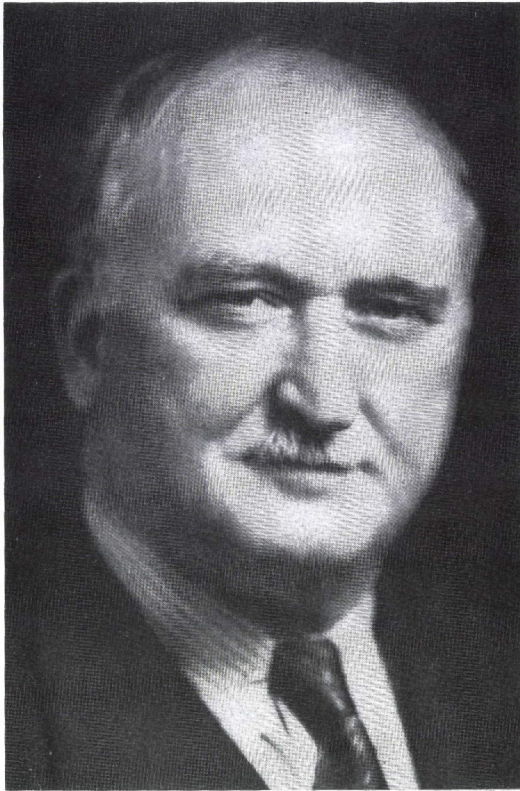
over the international presidency from Dr André Crotti in Mexico City, in August 1941, made an extensive trip to several countries in the southern hemisphere. Albee, well known for his outstanding work in bone graft surgery, performed operations and gave lectures wherever he went, doing much for the promotion and goodwill in the profession, and stimulating growth of the various national sections of the College which had recently been established.

In Brazil Dr Albee was honored with an Honorary Professorship in Surgery at the

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<sup>14</sup> *JICS*, 1941, Vol. IV, No. 5, pp. 469-470





Dr Fred H. Albee (USA) – third ICS President, August 1941. Dr Albee was called a pioneer and a prophet in the field of orthopedic surgery. His contributions as a surgeon and a teacher in the field of bone surgery were of great benefit to many countries in rehabilitation efforts in war and peace. He was a leader in the development of modern rehabilitation. He was called the world's foremost "Ambassador in White". The *Journal of the American Medical Association* reviewed his autobiography which appeared in 1945, and stated: "The autobiography of Fred Albee could almost be accepted as a history of modern bone surgery. Every page of this thoroughly interesting volume is stamped with his dynamic personality."

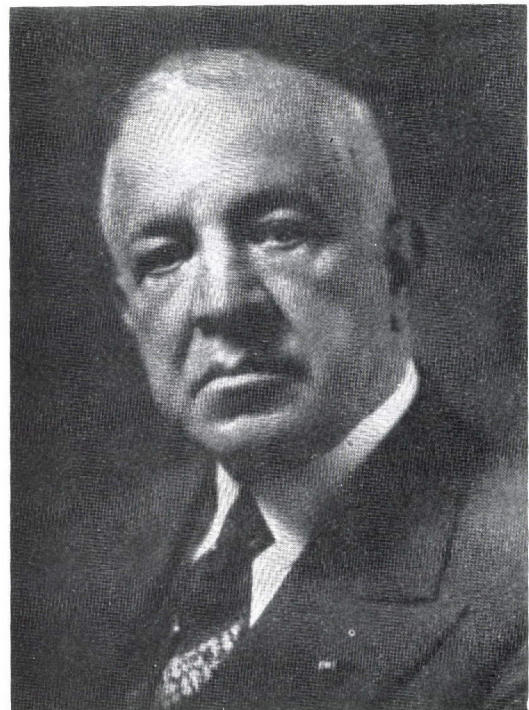
University of Brazil. In Argentina, he participated in the dedication ceremonies of the new operating room of the University of Buenos Aires which was named after him. Professor Francisco Graña, Chief of the then six-month-old Obrero Hospital in Lima, extended warm hospitality to Dr Albee during his visit to Peru, where he had the pleasure of lecturing at the University of San Marco, the oldest university in the western hemisphere. In Panama, Dr Albee was a guest at the Presidential Palace. President Ricardo de la Guardia had been a patient of Dr Albee's about 12 years previously, and during the visit Dr Albee

operated on one of the President's personal friends.

Dr Albee died in 1945. At the seventeenth Annual Congress of the US Section in 1952, a dedication took place: the Fred H. Albee Memorial Chair was created in his honor, and this was to be used ceremonially in the years to come in commemoration of ICS Fellows who had passed away. The Chair graces the College's headquarters as a tribute to Dr Albee. In addition, Albee Annual Lectures on Rehabilitation were regularly held in his memory.

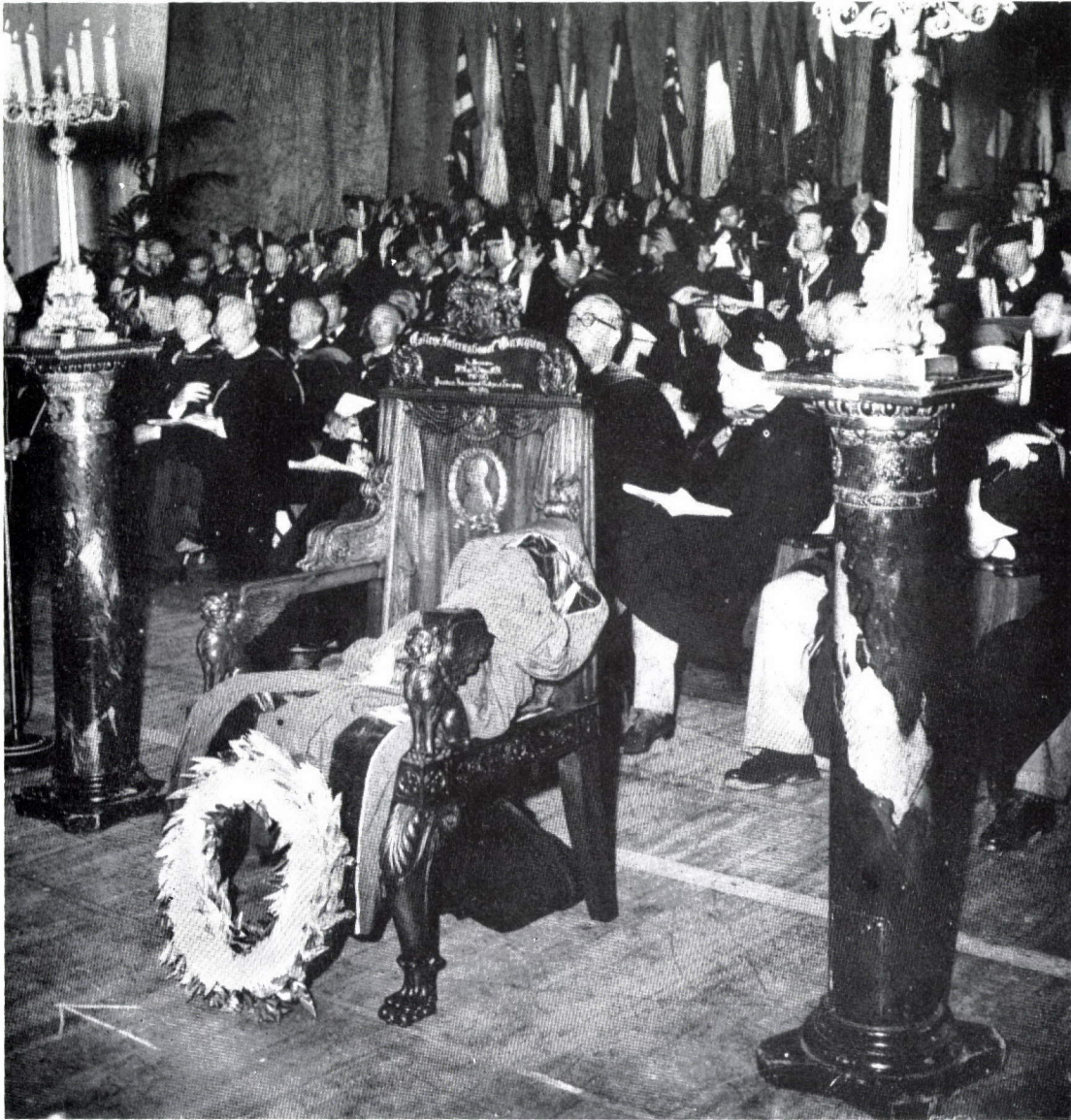
**1943: Fourth International Assembly, New York City – Dr Desiderio Román, fourth ICS President**

The fourth International Assembly was hosted by the US section, in conjunction with its own eighth national assembly, at the Walfdorf-Astoria hotel



Dr Desiderio Román (USA) – fourth ICS President, 1943. Dr Román, born in Nicaragua, but a citizen of the USA, was Surgeon-in-Chief and Head of the Department of Surgery of St Luke's and Children's Hospital in Philadelphia. He was Professor of Clinical Surgery in the Hahnemann Medical College and Hospital of Philadelphia. Dr Román was a charter Fellow and member of the Board of Governors of the American College of Surgeons, and a founder member of the American Board of Surgery.





Dedication of the Fred H. Albee Memorial Chair, 1952.

in New York City, June 14–16, 1943. Dr Desiderio Román took over the international presidency from Dr Fred Albee during that meeting.

As most of the world was now involved or affected by the Second World War, the organizers of the fourth International Assembly felt the need to present a scientific program reflecting the latest lessons in war surgery and rehabilitation. Surgeons were urged to attend to acquaint themselves with the surgical advances often resulting from experiences gained on the battlefields. The new knowledge would be valuable in the

treatment of victims of accidents in surgeons' operating rooms as well. More than 1500 members of the medical profession of the USA and representatives of the armed forces, as well as approximately 40 delegates from other countries, attended.

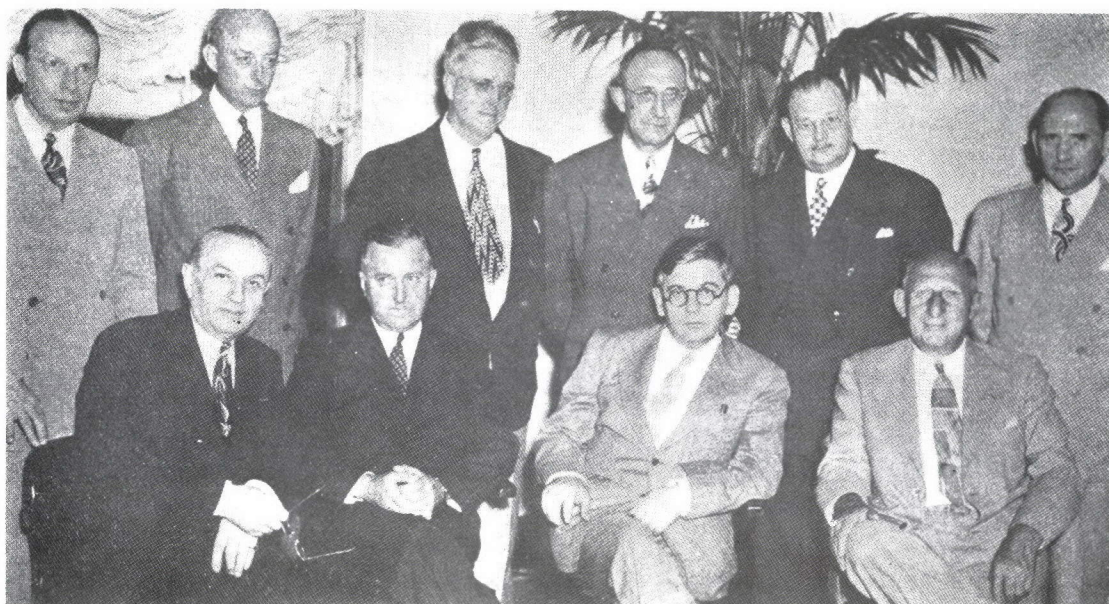
The following examples of presentations illustrate the war focus of the program:

- Blast injuries: Commander B.W. Hogan, USA
- War casualties caused by gas: Brigadier-General A.H. Waitt, USA
- Crush syndrome: Mr Hamilton Bailey, UK





Gala dinner during fourth International Assembly, Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, New York, 1943.



Reception committee of Chicago Fellows during the visit of Professor Lebedenko of the USSR to Chicago. Standing from left to right: Dr Chester W. Trowbridge, Dr Horace Turner, Dr Edmund G. Brust, Dr E.W. Fischmann, Dr Michael Badzmierowski, and Dr Richard Lawler. Seated: Dr Max Thorek, Dr Karl Meyer, Professor Vladimir V. Lebedenko, and Dr Alfred Strauss.

- Gas gangrene: Mr Robert McNeill Love, UK
- The management of abdominal injuries in warfare: Mr Rodney Maingot, UK
- Anesthesia in war surgery: Dr Francisco Graña, Peru
- Plastic surgery applied to war injuries: Captain H.I.D. Kirkham, USA
- Blast: Mr Basil Hughes, UK
- Wounds of the mediastinum: Dr Emin Erkul, Turkey
- Effects of traumatism on abdominal viscera: Dr Wm Seaman Bainbridge, USA
- War surgery in the Brazilian navy: Lieutenant José Londres, Brazil
- The organization of surgical aid in the Soviet Army: Dr V. Vladimir Lebedenko, USSR





Advertisement for US war bonds and stamps.

- Experiences at the Naval Hospital at Pearl Harbor during and after the Japanese Raid: Captain Reynolds Hayden, USA
- Difficulties of a Chinese army surgeon: Dr J. Heng Liu, China.

#### Other effects of the war

There were other indications that the College was affected by the pervading preoccupation with the war. When the Axis troops invaded Russia in June 1941, it became politically correct to reach out to the USSR. Reflecting that spirit, the ICS Journal *International Surgery* in 1943 began summarizing its scientific articles not only in French and Spanish, but in Russian as well. Summaries were no longer provided in German and Italian. This continued until 1948 when Russian was dropped and Italian added again. Summaries in German were reinstated in the mid-1950s.

When Professor V. Vladimir Lebedenko visited Chicago in August 1943, the International College was there, together with representatives from the American Medical Association, the Mayor's office of Chicago, and the American Red Cross, to receive him with all due courtesies. Professor Lebedenko was Professor of Surgery at the First Moscow Medical Institute, representative of the Russian Red Cross and Red Crescent, Honorary Fellow of ICS, and a member of its Board of Trustees. He visited Chicago under the auspices of the Chicago Committee of Russian War Relief.

Professor Nicolai Burdenko was another Honorary Fellow of ICS from the USSR. In the span of one year two articles on Soviet Military Field Surgery by him were published in the Journal, apparently without reservations about some strong politically charged language.<sup>15</sup>

Advertisements to buy US war bonds and stamps were published in the ICS Journal *International Surgery*, as well as an Honor Roll listing the members of ICS who were serving in the US Armed Forces.

#### Study guilds of the US section

The US section was looking ahead and formulating plans to assist colleagues returning from military service to private practice. Refresher studies were envisioned in preoperative diagnosis, gross pathology in the operating room, operative technic, postoperative follow-up, and microscopic pathology. This would serve to close the gap between the particular limits of military medicine and the larger scope of private practice.

Such a program would readily fit into the ongoing educational programs which were successfully organized on the state level at numerous surgical centers; these were well attended. The following report is an illustration of a post-graduate course of which many were taught on the state level, so that young surgeons did not

<sup>15</sup> *JICS*, 1943, Vol. VI, No. 1, pp. 73-75; 1943, Vol. VI, No. 4, pp. 428-429.





Guild Fellowship dinner, Union League Club, Philadelphia, 1941.

have to travel great distances to attend:

"Under the auspices and supervision of the Toledo Guild, an intensive course of lectures and cadaver work on basic and surgical anatomy, gross and microscopical pathology and post mortem demonstration was provided from March 22 to 29th, 1942, in St. Vincent's Hospital, Toledo, Ohio . . . The members who attended this course have brought us glowing accounts of the interest, knowledge and practical help which they received . . ." <sup>16</sup>

The Study Guilds, which were instituted from the very beginning of the US section's foundation in 1936, were a great success, with the result that a tremendous number of educational meetings were continuously organized by Guilds established in Indiana, Colorado, New England, south California, Nebraska, Montana, Philadelphia, the Hudson Valley, Ohio, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Florida, and other regions.

The format of a typical guild meeting would be similar to the one which took place in Nebraska, April 1942:

"The entire forenoon was given over to operative clinics. Dr. André Crotti . . . was guest surgeon and demonstrated goiter surgery and operative work . . . Following the

demonstration, members of the Guild operated in the five rooms at their disposal; in addition, there were demonstrations in the two obstetrical delivery rooms.

"After luncheon at the Hospital, . . . there was a round-table discussion under the chairmanship of Dr. E.C. Henry of Omaha, President of the guild. Fellows, members, and associate members of the College presented to the presiding officer unsigned statements outlining briefly diagnostic and technical pitfalls, and a discussion of these followed.

"At 2:00 p.m. . . the operations of the morning session were discussed in detail . . .

In the evening a dinner was tendered at the Cornhusker Hotel; following this Dr. Crotti spoke on 'Some of the Latest Aspects of the Cancer Problems'." <sup>17</sup>

The general opinion was that the small groups, practical hands-on approach, opportunity for social contacts, and easy accessibility made the guild meetings very attractive to the young surgeon eager to continue his advancement in surgery.

To respond appropriately to the needs of the steadily growing number of members in the US section, it became necessary to expand the

<sup>16</sup> *JICS*, 1942, Vol. V, No. 2, p. 178.

<sup>17</sup> *JICS*, 1942, Vol. V, No. 2, p. 179.



leadership structure of the section, and give it a geographical spread. At its ninth annual meeting, October 1944, Philadelphia, the designation of 21 regional districts was announced, each with its respective regent.

#### **1940–1950: New sections**

With war raging not only in Europe, but also in Asia and the Pacific, geographical expansion of ICS was limited during the early 1940s; many of the new sections established at that time were in Latin America. The expansion accelerated during the second half of that decade, however, and the influence of ICS spread around the world. New sections included Peru, Argentina, Honduras, Venezuela, Panama, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Haiti, China, Turkey, Italy, Hungary, India, Finland, Austria, Nicaragua, the Philippines, and Canada.

##### *Peru*

The Peruvian section was founded in 1940 as

a result of the enthusiastic efforts of Professor Francisco Graña, who served as its first President.

##### *Argentina, Honduras, Venezuela, and Panama*

On August 11, 1941, the International Assembly at Mexico City approved and ratified ICS sections in Argentina, Honduras, Venezuela, and Panama.

##### *Panama*

Officers of the Panama section were:

- President: His Excellency, ex-President of the Republic of Panama, Dr Augusto S. Boyd
- Vice-President: Dr Ernesto Zubieta
- Secretary: Dr Luis D. Alfaro
- Treasurer: Dr Roberto Sandoval.

##### *Brazil*

The Brazilian section was formed on April 21, 1942, but formal installation was postponed until June 19 to coincide with the arrival of International President Dr Fred Albee. Officers



Founders of the Colombian section: (1) Dr Hernando Anzola Cubides; (2) Dr Humberto Correa; (3) Dr Santiago Triana Cortes; (4) Dr Roberto Serpa; (5) Dr Jorge Helo; (6) Dr Hernando Matallana; (7) Dr Cesar Augusto Pantoja; (8) Dr Enrique Botero Mrulanda; (9) Dr Pedro Eliseo Curz; (10) Dr Juan N. Corpas; (11) Dr Luis Pineros Suarez; (12) Dr Edmundo Rico; (13) Dr Rafael Barberi; (14) Dr Manuel Antonio Rueda Vargas; (15) Dr Hernando Velasquez; (16) Dr Pablo Gomez Martinez; (17) Dr Dario Cadena; (18) Dr Alvaro Fajardo Pinzon; (19) Dr Jorge Bejarano; (20) Dr Jorge E. Cavelier.



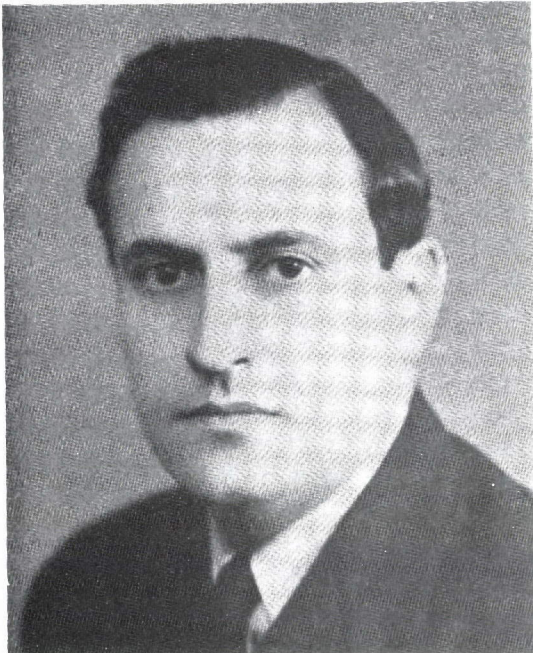
elected were:

- Honorary President: Dr Jorge Gouvea
- President: Dr Oswaldo Pinheiro de Campos
- Vice-Presidents: Dr Estellita Lins, Dr Jorge Morais Grey, and Dr Dagmar Aderaldo Chaves
- Secretaries: Dr Joao da Costa Monteiro and Dr Domingos Guilherme da Costa
- Treasurer: Dr José Cortes.

#### *Colombia*

The Colombian section was established on May 28, 1942, when the first meeting of the Founder Fellows of the section took place under the chairmanship of Professor Jorge E. Cavelier, Dean of the National Medical University of Bogota. Officers elected were:

- President: Professor Jorge E. Cavelier
- Vice-President: Professor Juan N. Corpas
- Secretary: Professor Cesar A. Pantoja
- Treasurer: Professor Cesar Alvaro Fajardo Pinzón.



Dr Rafael Angel Calderón Guardía, President of Costa Rica and Vice-President of ICS gives his address at the founding of the Costa Rican section.

#### *Costa Rica*

The Costa Rican section joined the College on October 1, 1943. Dr Rafael Angel Calderón Guardía, President of the Republic of Costa Rica, and Vice-President of ICS, delivered an inspiring address at the ceremony. Dr Ortiz C. was the section's first secretary.

#### *Bolivia*

The Bolivian section was formally inaugurated at an imposing ceremony held in the Salon de Actos Publicos of the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés at 6.30 p.m. on January 13, 1944. More than a hundred distinguished members of the medical profession, diplomatic authorities, and students were in attendance. Officers elected were:

- President: Dr Enrique St Loup B.
- Vice-President: Dr Abelardo Ibañez Benavente
- Secretary: Dr Valentín Gómez
- Treasurer: Dr Claudio Calderón Mendoza.

#### *Haiti*

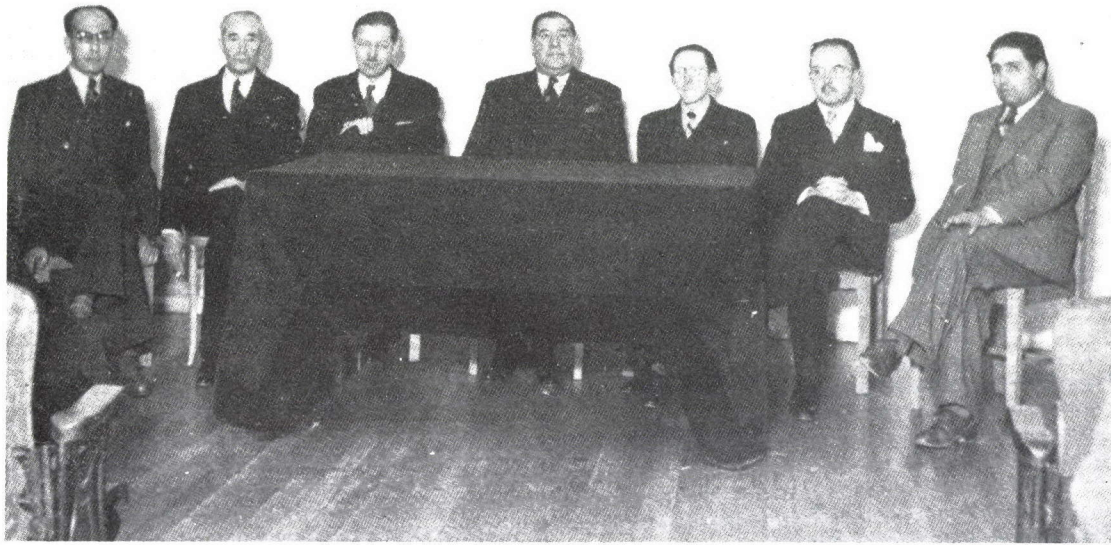
The Haitian section was organized on August 29, 1942. Dr Bourand and Drs Elie S. Villard and V. Noel attended the fourth International Assembly of ICS in 1943 in New York City, where Dr Bourand was elected to the Board of Trustees of ICS. The section's first officers were:

- Honorary President: Dr Martial Bourand
- President: Dr Antony Leveque
- Vice-Presidents: Dr C. Hollant and Dr V. Bellevue
- Secretary: Dr Constant Pierre-Louis
- Treasurer: Dr M. Liautaud.

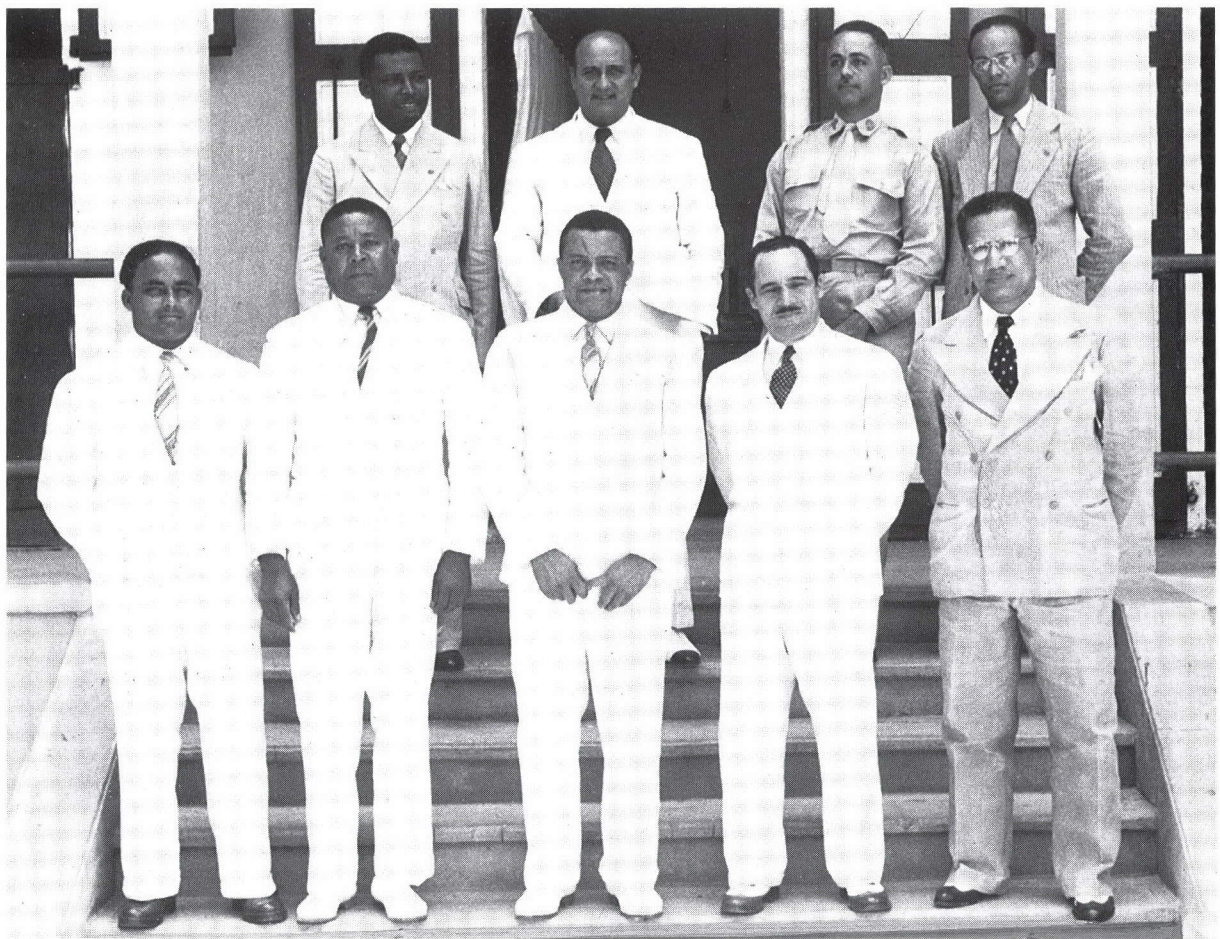
#### *China*

The China section was formally inaugurated on October 2, 1944 at the ninth Annual meeting of the US section held in Philadelphia. Dr J. Heng Liu was authorized by the President of the section to receive the diplomas on behalf of the 25 founder members of the new section. Dr J. Heng Liu (China), Head of the Department of





Founding of the Bolivian section. Left to right: Dr Valentín Gomez; Dr Claudio Calderón M.; His Excellency P. de Boal, Ambassador to the USA; Dr E. Navarre, Vice-Rector of the University; Dr Enrique St Loup B.; Dr Enrique Hertzog G.; and Dr Hector Aliaga Suarez, Chief of the Department of Public Health.



Founding of the Haitian section. Back row, left to right: Dr A. Garnier, Dr M. Armand, Dr L. Maximilien, Dr A. Miot. Front row, left to right: Dr L. Roy, Dr C. Valme, Dr Elie Sd. Villard, Dr J. Thebaud, and Dr M. Bourand.





Dr Jui Heng Liu, ICS liaison with the surgical community in China, received diplomas on behalf of 25 founder members of the China section.

Medical Supplies, China Defense Supplies, Inc., Washington DC, was the ICS liaison with the surgical community in China. He was a graduate from Harvard, and served as Associate in Surgery, Harvard Medical School of China, Shanghai, Associate Professor of Surgery, Peiping Union Medical College, Minister of Health and Director-General of the National Health Administration, Surgeon-General of the Chinese Army Medical Service, and President of the Chinese Medical Association.

The officers were:

- President: Dr James K. Shen
- Vice-President: Dr Eugene Chan
- Executive Secretary: Dr Gordon King.
- Members of the Board of Governors: Dr Charles Chang, Dr Henry I. Chen, and Dr M.L. Hu.

#### *Turkey*

The Turkish section was also formally inaugurated on October 2, 1944 at the ninth Annual Meeting of the US section in Philadelphia. Mr



Founding of Turkish section. Standing: sixth from left, Dr Derois Manizade, Secretary; on right, Dr Hazim Bumin, Founder and Regent. Seated, left to right: Dr Avni Aksel, member; Dr Emin Erkul, Founder and Regent; Dr Mrs Suat Giz, member; Dr Burhanettin Toke, Vice-President; Dr Aziz Fihret, member; Dr Fahri Arel, Founder and Regent; Dr Naci Bengisu, member.



Orhan Eralp, Secretary to the Turkish Embassy in Washington, received the charter on behalf of the new section. The section counted 31 members at its founding.

The officers were:

- Trustees: Dr Emin Erkul, ex-mayor of Istanbul and ex-professor of War Surgery at the Gulhane School of Medicine; Dr Fahri Arel, Dean of the School of Medicine, University of Istanbul; Dr Hazim Bumin, surgeon of the Cerrahpasa Hospital and assistant professor at the school of Medicine, University of Istanbul
- Board of Trustees:
  - President: Professor Cemil Pasa
  - Vice-President: Professor Burhanettin Toker
  - Secretary: Dr Derois Manizade.

#### **1947**

The founding of new sections around the world was testimony to the College's positive and active role in fostering global understanding and goodwill among surgeons. In 1947 new national sections were organized in Italy, Hungary, Finland, and India.

#### *Italy*

The Italian section's first President was Professor A. Mario Dogliotti. Professor Antonio Bobbio was elected Secretary. The new section started off with 105 members. It adopted the *Bollettino e Memorie della Societa Piemontese di Chirurgia* as the section's official publication, and hoped to publish abstracts from its original articles in the *ICS Journal*. The young section immediately started preparing for the International Assembly which was to be held the following year in Rome.

#### *Hungary*

The Hungarian section was formed under the presidency of Professor Joseph Frigyesi, with Professor Miklos Temesvary as Secretary. The new section began with 29 members.

#### *Finland*

The Finnish section also came into existence in 1947, and reportedly started to collect books for a library. Dr Kalle E. Kallio was its Secretary.

#### *India*

The charter meeting of the Indian section was held on August 3, 1947 at the Irwin Hospital in New Delhi, under the chairmanship of Major A.T. Andreasen, Professor at the Medical College of Calcutta. Many of the 15 charter members had traveled thousands of miles to attend the meeting; there were representatives from Calcutta, Bhavkagar State, Vellore, Lahore, Indore, Maymyo, Orissa, Madras, and Bombay. Most were Fellows of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS). The officers elected were:

- President: Dr R.N. Cooper of Bombay
- President-Elect: Dr M.G. Kini of Madras
- Treasurer Dr. S.K. Sen of New Delhi
- Secretaries: Dr Major A.T. Andreasen (Calcutta) and Dr G.D. Kapur of Lahore.



Dr Kalle E. Kallio – first Secretary, Finnish section.





Dr Jorge A. Taiana, Argentina.

### **1948**

In 1948 Austria, Nicaragua, Argentina, and the Philippines organized sections.

#### *Austria*

The Austrian section was established on November 14, 1947. The officers were:

- President: Professor Dr Wolfgang Denk
- Vice-President: Professor Dr Hans Finsterer
- Secretary: Professor Dr Felix Mandl
- Additional member: Professor Dr Rudolf Demel.

It received its official charter on May 17, 1948 at the meeting of the House of Delegates in Rome, Italy.

#### *The Philippines*

At that same meeting in Rome, a charter was

granted to the Philippine section. Its first officers were:

- President: Dr Baldomero Roxas
- Vice-President: Dr Basilio Valdes
- Secretary–Treasurer: Dr Manuel N. Tuaso.

#### *Argentina*

The Argentinian section was established on December 28, 1948, and two years later would celebrate an outstanding International Assembly in Buenos Aires. One of the most active Fellows in the Argentina section was Dr Jorge Taiana.

#### *Nicaragua*

The Nicaraguan section of the College was inaugurated on March 28, 1949 at Managua under the direction of former ICS President Dr Desiderio Román. The inauguration ceremonies and the first meeting of the section were held in the National Palace, and were attended by several members of the diplomatic corps, including the ambassadors from the USA, Spain, Argentina. ICS Honorary Fellowship was bestowed on Dr Victor M. Román y Reyes, President of Nicaragua.

The following officers were elected:

- President: Dr Tomás Pereira
- Vice-President: Dr Luis M. Debayle
- Executive Secretary: Dr Fernando Vélez Paíz.

#### *Canada*

The Canadian section was founded on August 3, 1950. Dr Lyon H. Appleby, its first President, was to be the College's President in 1962. Dr E.N.C. McAmmond was its first Secretary.

The rapid geographical spread of the ICS was impressive. As the various sections became stronger, they were able to host the large International Assemblies (later called Biennial Congresses) which took place every two years. The organization's fifth, sixth, and seventh International Assemblies were held in Peru, Italy,





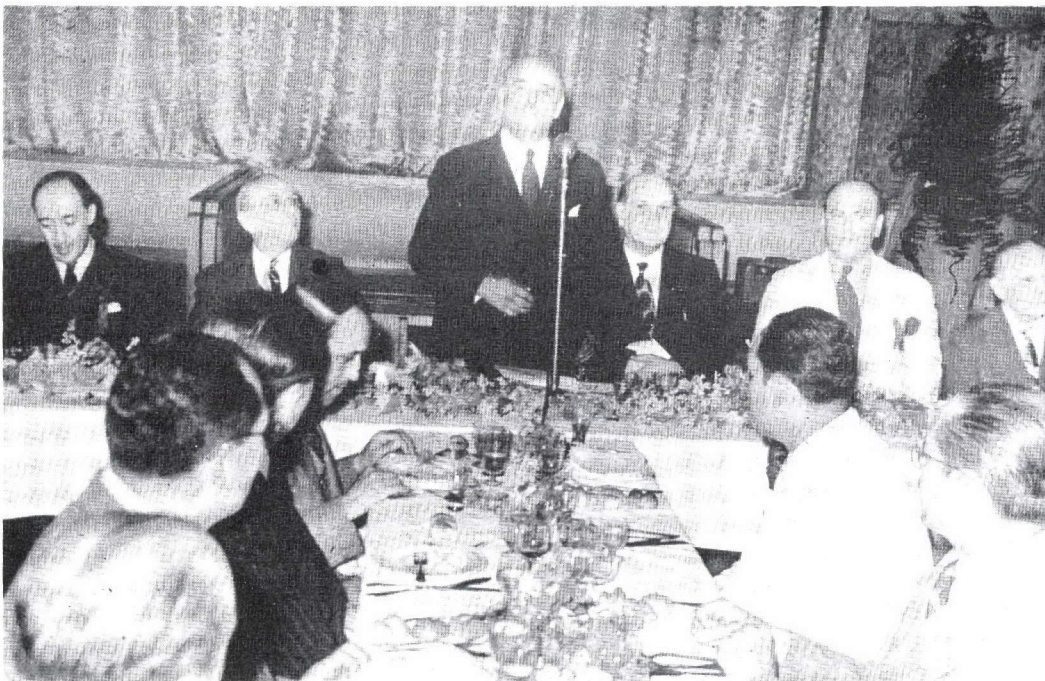
Dr E.N.C. McAmmond – first Secretary, Canadian section.

and Argentina respectively, Italy being the first country on the European continent to host an International Assembly of the ICS. Dignitaries the world over honored the College with their presence and support of its meetings.

#### **1946: International Assembly, Lima, Peru**

The inaugural session of the Assembly in Lima, Peru (March 24–27, 1946) was presided over by the President of the Republic, Dr José Luis Bustamante y Rivero, who also held a special reception for the delegates a few days later. The meeting was organized by ICS President-Elect, Professor Francisco Graña, who was assisted by Dr Felipe A. de la Torre, President of the Peruvian Academy of Surgery.

The extensive scientific program included surgical operations which were performed by local surgeons and by delegates in a number of hospitals designated for that purpose. Cinematographic demonstrations of surgical procedures were also displayed.



Professor Francisco Graña (standing), addressing visiting ICS Fellows at the banquet prepared for them in Lima, Peru, by the Peruvian Surgical Society. Second from left is Dr Max Thorek.



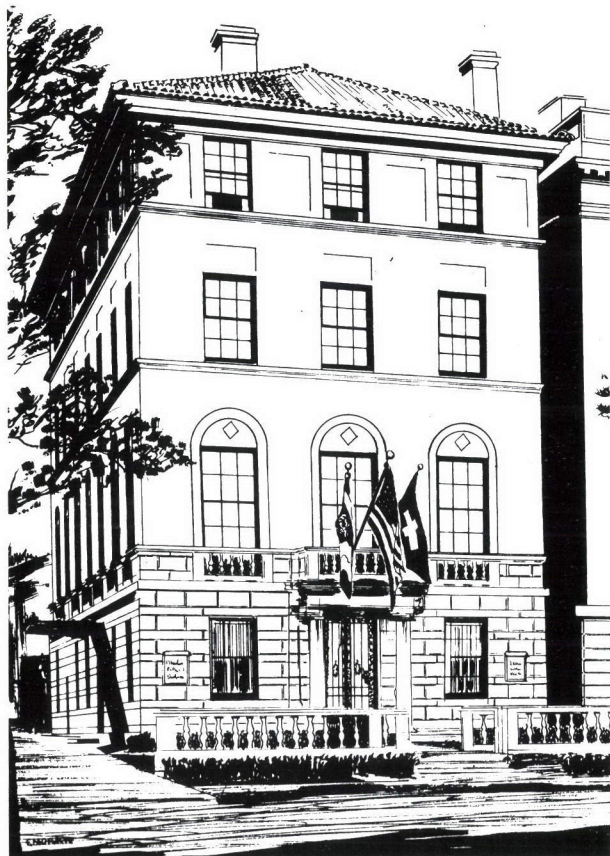
**1946: Dr Albert A. Berg (USA) – fifth ICS President**

At the meeting of the House of Delegates, on March 27, 1946, Dr Albert A. Berg was installed as the fifth President of ICS.

**1947: Acquisition of headquarters building in Chicago**

With the rapid and substantial expansion of ICS came a need for an administrative and representative headquarters building as a focal point in the global network. Twelve years after its founding, ICS acquired a grandiose home for its headquarters in Chicago, located in one of the most elegant neighborhoods of the city, with a full view of Lake Michigan.

On Thursday, October 2, 1947 the building was officially dedicated. The months prior to the



The newly acquired “home” of ICS, 1516 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois, USA.



Dr Albert A. Berg (New York, USA) – fifth ICS President, 1946. Dr Berg was Director of Surgery at Montefiore, Sydenham and Beth Moses Hospitals. He was the author of *Surgical Diagnoses* and numerous surgical monographs on diseases of the gastrointestinal tract. His contributions to the value of gastric resection versus the much abused gastroenterostomies were classic. Berg had been active in the College since the beginning; it was under his general chairmanship that the first assembly of the US section was held in New York City in June 1937.

dedication had been hectic:

“Fifteen sixteen Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, is certainly a beehive of activity: carpenters, plumbers, electricians, decorators, painters – and Dr. Thorek and his ‘Fim’ [Mrs Max Thorek] – all scurrying about in high gear to get things in complete readiness for the dedication of the HOME, Thursday, Oct. 2, 1947. The ceremony will take place during the National Assembly [of the US section].”<sup>18</sup>

The dedication was an emotional event for many:

“The crowd that filled the large rooms to the last corner heard a touching story of unswerving confidence and of determination in the face of all obstacles that culminated in so happy an occasion. Eyes were moist, as the heart is ever touched by the story of a high ideal brought to purposeful fruition.”<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> *JICS*, 1947, Vol X, No. 2, p. 230.

<sup>19</sup> *JICS*, 1947, Vol X, No. 6, p. 686.

Excerpts from US section President Dr Herbert Acuff's address at the dedication provide us with further details about the purchase of the "palatial stone mansion", as he referred to it, which, to this day, stands in the most select section of Chicago:

"The Home is located at 1516 Lake Shore Drive overlooking beautiful Lake Michigan and the wide boulevard in front. It was built by the late Edward T. Blair for his own home. The construction is of gray Bedford stone with architecture of the Italian Renaissance period. It is four stories and basement in height, contains some 30 large and spacious rooms which lend themselves for the purpose of conferences, offices of the College, editorial rooms, and for the books in the library. The interior is of the most superlative finish in oak, walnut, gum and with a circular stairway of white carrara marble. An elevator is also installed."

The building was acquired not only with a view to the present, but equally with a view to future expansion. Their vision, as described by Dr Acuff in 1947, is particularly interesting because it depicts how the property could be developed into a high-rise tower, a course of action which is currently, about 45 years later, being pursued:

"The property lends itself easily to expansion since there is an additional depth of some 50 feet of the lot which is now used only as garage and waste space. Additional auditorium space, museum rooms, specialists' rooms, where only books of the respective specialties may be housed, can easily be made available. This new portion of the building might well be built several stories high, the city building code permitting, and finished in tower design which would be an outstanding architectural contribution to the Gold Coast of Chicago.

"Another alternative for future consideration is the construction of a fifth floor on the present structure with or without the building in the rear. For the present the building is entirely adequate for the requirements of the College, but I can envision the day in the not too distant future when the International College of Surgeons and the US section will require not only all of the present space but the projected expansion as well . . .

"I would be untrue to my deep sense of appreciation if I did not mention the names of some of those whose efforts have meant so very much in the selection, purchase and remodeling of this Home and the establishment of the Library: Dr. and Mrs. Max Thorek; the Building Committee, consisting of Dr. Raymond McNealy, Dr. Karl Meyer; Dr. Lou Gariepy, Secretary of the US section; the members of the International Board of Trustees; Mr. Norman Littell, General Counsel of the College; and Associate Counsel for this transaction, Mr. Francis Gariepy. Toward these we shall forever feel the deepest homage."

Dr Thorek, in an earlier editorial, had nothing but the highest praise for Dr Acuff's own role in the acquisition of the building:

"Flushed with the love for the College and all it stands for, he (Acuff) promptly set to work with his Executive Council, brushed aside all obstacles (and there were many) and never rested until the signatures were affixed to the legal documents of purchase."<sup>20</sup>

Dr Thorek and others also gave particular credit to Mrs Thorek for locating the property and obtaining substantial reductions in the purchase price.

In his address Dr Acuff recognized those whose financial contributions had made the purchase possible:

"Finally, the true Founders of this Home and Library are those Regents, Vice-Regents and Members whose material contributions in legal tender have made possible this worthwhile enterprise. It is therefore a fitting tribute that the names of those men shall be placed upon an entablature within this building as a silent attestation of their vision, their confidence, and their generosity."

The names of approximately 300 donors were indeed inscribed on a bronze plaque which can be viewed in the foyer of the building to this day.

Dr Acuff further explained that the building was co-owned by the US section and the International Parent Body, as it is currently:

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<sup>20</sup> *JICS*, 1947, Vol. X, No. 2, pp. 224-226.





Planting of a shoot of a plane tree, under which Hippocrates was said to have taught medicine. Left to right: Dr Esteban Rocca (Peru), Dr Manuel Manzanilla (Mexico), Dr Francisco Graña (Peru), unidentified person, Professor Raymond McNealy (USA), Dr Ivy Pioneer (USA), Dr Henry Meyerding (USA), Professor Hans Finsterer (Austria), Dr Arnold Jackson (USA), Dr Max Thorek (USA), Dr Herbert Acuff (USA) (kneeling), Dr Skevos Zervos (Greece), remaining persons not identified.

"... This Home and Library was conceived by the Executive Council of the US section of the International College of Surgeons at a meeting in Philadelphia in the year 1944. The idea was presented to the House of Delegates in Washington, D.C., and to the International Board of Trustees which gave its approval and endorsement. The question of location was determined by the House of Delegates at its meeting in Detroit in 1946. Chicago having been selected on the basis of central geographical location, accessibility to all sections of the country and therefore to the membership of the College, a committee was appointed to secure an available site for the home. After consideration of many properties the present location was selected.

"... By negotiation and agreement, the US section has sold to the International College of Surgeons a one-half undivided interest in the property. By decisive vote of the International Board of Trustees this property has been designated as the Home of the International College of Surgeons as well as the Home of the United States section."<sup>21</sup>

A life-size statue of Hippocrates was placed in the vestibule of the building in 1949, a gift from Dr Skevos Zervos, a distinguished Greek physician and authority on the life and work of Hippocrates. On October 23, 1949 the College celebrated Hippocrates day by exhibiting Dr Zervos' collection of artifacts and pictures related to the teachings of the great master. Also, a shoot from a plane tree, under which Hippocrates was said to have taught medicine, was brought by Dr Zervos and planted on the front lawn of the building.

#### **US section's annual meetings**

The annual meetings of the US section had continuously grown in attendance, national as well as international, and in scientific excellence, and were hailed for their international scope.

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<sup>21</sup> *JICS*, 1947, Vol. X, No. 6, pp. 690–691.





Reception, Palmer House, October 1, 1947. Left to right: Dr A. Santaella (Puerto Rico); Dr Arnold Jirasek (Prague, Czechoslovakia) past ICS President; Mr Zachary Cope (London, England); Dr R.N. Cooper (Bombay, India), President of the Indian section, and Mrs Cooper; Dr Leon Gillis (Roehampton, England); Mrs Baliga and Dr Baliga (Bombay, India).

The Chicago press, for example, made extensive coverage of the addresses and proceedings of the 1947 meeting in that city; radio broadcasts further publicized the events. Medical magazines, *Time*, and *Newsweek Magazine* carried reviews of the scientific papers presented at the 1948 annual meeting in Detroit.

An informal promotional piece for the twelfth Annual Meeting in Chicago gives a glimpse of the interesting speaker forum:

"All in all, you can't afford to miss it [the meeting], dear Brother Scalpel-Wielder, if you want to keep in step with progress and to be ahead of our times. Come and listen to Adson and Counsellor from Mayo; to Crossman and Allen on 'how to freeze you'; to Darget of Bordeaux and Mandle of Jerusalem; to the Ambassador from Argentina, Dr. Ivannisovich and to Dr. Spain from Ireland; to Cope and Bailey and Lodge from England, to all the others eminent in their chosen professions."<sup>22</sup>

Approximately 3000 surgeons heeded the call and 17 different countries were represented.

In addition to the daily scientific sessions, clinics were arranged in numerous hospitals in Chicago.

Social events included the dedication of the College's recently acquired home, the dignified pageantry of the Convocation and a banquet at the famous Palmer House.

Indicative of the times were the speeches of many national dignitaries; these placed great emphasis on the need for global thinking and global understanding, which was felt to be the answer to the prevention of future wars. The College's internationality was hailed as a worthy example for fostering global interaction, to help the world evolve towards a saner civilization.

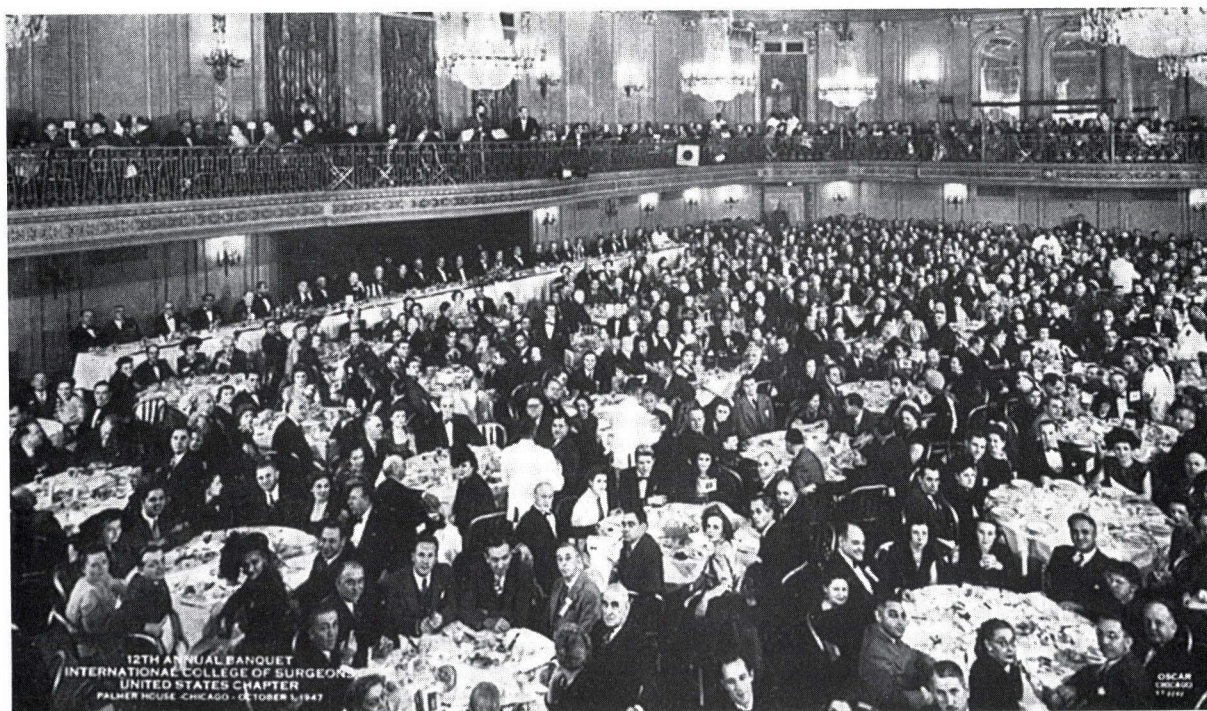
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<sup>22</sup> *JICS*, 1947, Vol. X, No. 2, p. 231.



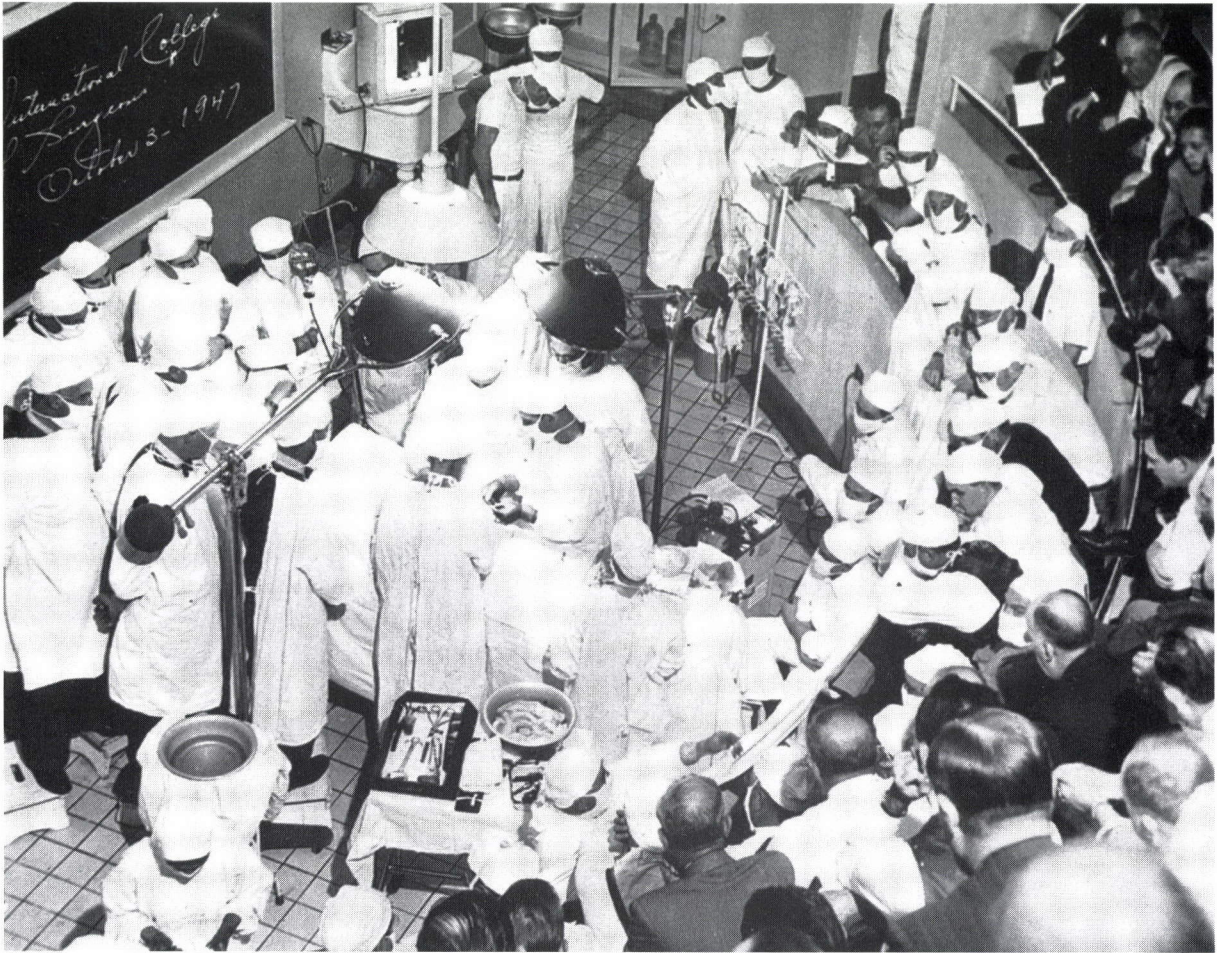


Mr Zachary Cope (London, England), delivering address at Cook County Hospital, Chicago.



Banquet during twelfth annual meeting of the US section, October 1, 1947, Palmer House, Chicago.





Surgical clinic at Cook County Hospital, Chicago.

In a radio broadcast, Dr Preston Bradley, distinguished minister of the People's Church of Chicago, said:

" . . . I met and talked with surgeons from London, Paris, Mexico City, Brazil, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, India, China, and the Philippine Islands. Here were all of these people, including several distinguished negro surgeons, spending days together, discussing their common problems, the advancements which have been made in various parts of the world in their profession, and many other matters of vital importance . . . I was impressed with the example which they set before us and the world. Here was a group of men of every race and creed and almost every nationality on this earth, meeting together in amity and in a cooperative manner . . . It occurred to me as I sat looking into the faces of these hundreds of fine and distinguished personalities, with all

of their backgrounds, religious and racial: Here is a group of individuals who do not permit their antagonisms or prejudices to interfere with the progressive development of their profession and their common interests . . . " <sup>23</sup>

ICS had received similar words of praise at the 1946 Annual Meeting of the US section in Detroit. The following words appeared in the *New York Times*, which quoted Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz of the US Navy who addressed ICS attendants at the closing session of that meeting:

" . . . The medical profession has gone far in breaking down the boundary lines and barriers that have so long isolated the peoples of the world from one another. The existence of the International College of Surgeons is

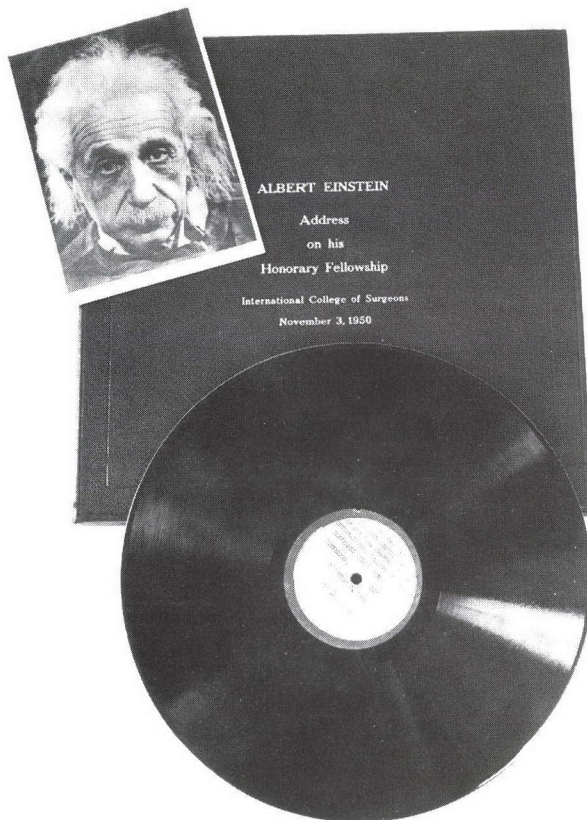
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<sup>23</sup> *JICS*, 1947, Vol. X, No. 6, p. 708.





H.H. Pope Pius XII greets ICS delegates during the International Assembly in Rome, Italy, May 1948.



Dr Albert Einstein's address, given before the Fifteenth Annual Assembly of the US section at Cleveland, Ohio, November 3, 1950, was captured on three gramophone records. The label on the first record bears Dr Einstein's signature. He was awarded ICS Honorary Fellowship on this occasion.

impressive evidence of the progress you have made in this direction." <sup>24</sup>

The fact that world-famous physicist, Dr Albert Einstein, was agreeable to presenting an address at a College meeting, and accept ICS Honorary Fellowship, was another instance of recognition for ICS. In his address given November 1, 1950, before the fifteenth Annual Meeting of the US section at Cleveland, Ohio, Dr Einstein had some complimentary things to say about surgeons in general:

"During the past twenty years, I think, I have become enough of an American not to be too much afraid of doctors. Last year, I even had occasion to learn, of my own experience, how accomplished they have become in the art of making their victim's lot easy to bear. But it is something altogether different that fills me with respect. Specialization in almost all branches of human endeavors has, to be sure, resulted in unprecedented achievements, although at the expense of narrowing the individual's field of vision. Thus, it is hard nowadays to find anybody able to repair properly a garment or a piece of furniture, let alone a watch. The situation is not much better in the professions or even in research, as every graduate student knows. In medicine, too, considerable specialization has its

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<sup>24</sup> *JICS*, 1947, Vol. X, No. 1, p. 90.



natural limits. If some part of the human body has gotten out of gear, a person with sound knowledge of the whole complex organism is needed to put it right; in a complicated case, only such a person can obtain an adequate understanding of the disturbing causes. For this reason, a comprehensive knowledge of general causal relations is indispensable to the physician. But there are two more requirements for the surgeon; unusual reliability of the senses and of the hands, and unusual presence of mind. If after opening of the body an unexpected situation presents itself, a quick decision has to be made as to what to do and what to omit; this is a situation that requires a strong personality. And this commands my deep respect.”<sup>24a</sup>

#### **1948: International Assembly, Rome, Italy**

Similarly, ICS scientific activities in other countries were hailed and acclaimed by surgeons and dignitaries, and extensively covered by the media. The International Assembly in Rome, Italy (May 16–23, 1948) was pronounced an unqualified success both scientifically and socially. Approximate attendance was 1000 with representation from 21 countries. The highlight of the social program in Rome was a reception for the delegates by H.H. Pope Pius XII who delivered a special message to the Assembly.

Dr Herbert Acuff, then ICS President-Elect, reported that Professor Raffaele Bastianelli was Honorary Chairman, and Professor Raffaele Paolucci the active General Chairman of the Assembly:

“Professor Paolucci, together with Professor Giuseppe Bendandi acting as his Secretary, organized the work of the Assembly in a most admirable manner. Surgical clinics were put on early in the morning, starting at 7:30 a.m. in order that they might not interfere with the scientific sessions which began about 9:00 a.m.”

The Assembly was followed by three “surgical days” in Turin to honor the memory of the great Italian surgeons, Professors Donati, Carle, and Uffreduzzi. Professor Mario Dogliotti, President of the Italian section of ICS and Director of the

Surgical Clinic of the University of Torino, was General Chairman of this congress.

#### **1948: Professor Francisco Graña (Peru) – sixth ICS President**

At the closing session of the House of Delegates, May 17, 1948, in Rome, Professor Francisco Graña of Peru commenced his term as the College’s sixth President.



Professor Francisco Graña – sixth ICS President, 1948. Professor Graña was a Founder and President of both the Sociedad Peruana de Cirugía, and the Academia Peruana de Medicina. He studied in the leading hospitals of New York and Los Angeles, and at the Mayo Foundation in Rochester, Minnesota. He was an Honorary Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. Professor Graña was Chief of the Department of Surgery of the Hospital Obrero in Lima. He was described as warm, sympathetic, outgoing, genial, impossible to forget. Together with Dr Esteban Rocca, he successfully performed a brain operation with instruments and techniques used 2000 years ago by the Incas. The instruments included chisels and scalpels made of a silver-copper-iron alloy, obsidian saws, as well as an ancient tourniquet. In a 14-minute operation they removed a tumor.

<sup>24a</sup>*JICS*, 1950, Vol. XIV, No. 6, p. 755.





Opening ceremony of the seventh International Assembly at Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 1950.



President of Argentina, General Juan Perón, addresses ICS delegates at Opening Ceremony. Mrs Eva Perón is seated behind him.

### **1950: International Assembly, Buenos Aires, Argentina**

The seventh International Assembly (August 1–5, 1950) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was warmly supported and welcomed by the country's President, General Juan Perón, and his spouse,

Señora Eva Perón. The General and the First Lady entertained 1500 guests at a special luncheon in the gardens of the presidential palace. Between courses Argentinian folklore was displayed and expressed in music, dance, and crafts.

Approximately 4000 general surgeons and specialists from all over the world participated in the scientific program which left no surgical field unexplored. Some 300 of these had come from the USA by boat, a voyage that was highlighted by a scientific symposium en route.

### **1950: Dr Herbert Acuff (USA) – seventh ICS president**

Dr Herbert Acuff of the USA became the College's seventh president.

### **1950: Founder Max Thorek honored on his 70th birthday**

In 1950, 15 years after the founding of the College, International Secretary General Max Thorek turned 70. He could justifiably look back with pride on his initiatives and accomplishments. He was reported to be still in the full force of his career, conducting a full calendar of surgical and organizational activities every day of his life. A cartoon of him participating in the organization of the annual meeting of the US section in Detroit, a few years earlier, confirms his active lifestyle.

The May–June, 1950 issue of the ICS Journal, *International Surgery*, was dedicated to him. Papers arrived from many countries submitted in his honor, many accompanied by letters:

From England, Mr McNeill Love:

"... twelve years ago, after reading Max Thorek's article on the technique of cholecystectomy, my colleague Hamilton Bailey and I adopted the technique he described and later reported 129 cases without mortality . . . Not only in this field but in many others Max Thorek has introduced new methods and new ideas . . ."

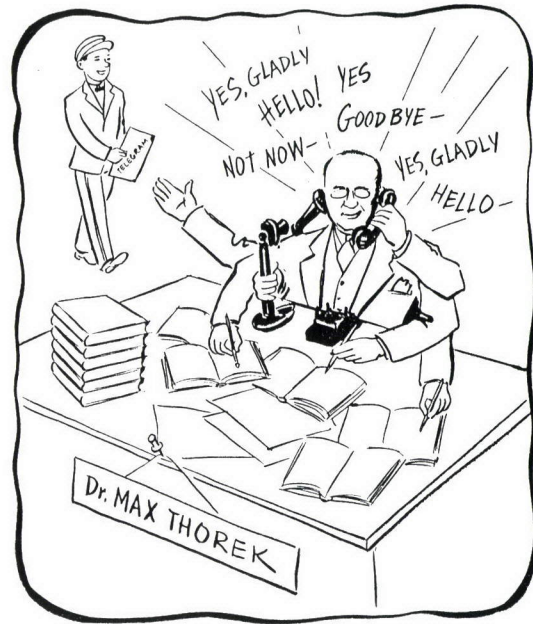




Dr Herbert Acuff (USA) – seventh ICS President, 1950. Dr Acuff was described as physically, socially, and mentally a towering giant, a bulwark of strength, genuinely friendly, and dignified. Dr Acuff did postgraduate work at the Mayo Clinic, and Bellevue Hospital in New York, in Vienna, Berlin, England, Scotland, and Sweden. Founder and head of the Acuff Clinic in Knoxville, Tennessee, he also was Chief of Staff at St Mary's Memorial Hospital in that city, and visiting general surgeon and consulting surgeon at various other hospitals and clinics. He was a driving force in the effort to acquire the headquarters building in Chicago for the International Parent Body and the US section. Dr Acuff died during his term of office at the age of 65 on November 2, 1951. The south-eastern Section of ICS held annual Herbert Acuff Memorial Meetings in his honor for many years.

P.T. Crymble from Belfast, Ireland:

"... For many years the name Thorek has been familiar to us by reason of his surgical books and publications. . . Our university library displays prominently his *Surgical Errors and Safeguards*, and his original gallbladder technique is a constant source of discussion at our meetings . . ."



Dr Max Thorek in action.

From Paris Mr. A. Plichet, Editor of *La Presse Médicale*:

"... In addition to his many fine works on surgery, his autobiography, *A Surgeon's World*, must be of great aid and comfort to struggling medical students during their hardest years. In this book he points out the intimate relation between surgery and psychiatry . . ."

Dr J. Bitschai of Alexandria, Egypt:

"... Thorek has a knack of making friends. He knows well how to kindle enthusiasm and to keep it burning . . ."

Dr Herbert Acuff, USA:

"... Dr. Thorek has an unusual sense of perspective. He thinks while others sleep; he works while others play. Truly, things do not 'just happen' to him; on the contrary, he makes them happen. Better still, he has the knack of 'making things make themselves', of bringing out the creative impulse in others."<sup>25</sup>

<sup>25</sup> *JICS*, 1950, Vol. XIII, Nos 5–6, pp. 467–469.



## The ICS Journal

### *Assistant editors of the ICS Journal*

Among the many tasks Thorek performed in the framework of ICS was his editorship of the Journal. He was assisted by outstanding surgeons of different nationalities, including Rudolph Nissen of Switzerland, Hamilton Bailey of England, Manuel Manzanilla of Mexico, and Mandl of Austria, who all gave generously of their time and efforts to the Journal for 10 or more years. Professor Herman de las Casas of Venezuela was also a dynamic force on the editorial staff until his untimely death in 1947.

Famous English surgeon and writer, Hamilton Bailey, served for more than a decade on the editorial team of the *ICS Journal*. His relationship with ICS was a special one, as was described in a long article by Mr S.V. Humphries, FICS, FRCS (England), which appeared in the May 1971 issue of the ICS Journal *International Surgery*:

"Hamilton Bailey, the surgeon, author and teacher, died 10 years ago [1961]. It is appropriate that his name and fame should be recalled to readers of this journal for he contributed as much as, if not more than, any other British surgeon to the International College of Surgeons, of which he became an Honorary Fellow and Vice President in 1947. During his career as a surgeon Bailey became a member of numerous societies, colleges and associations, but he seldom attended their meetings, and he did not exert any great impression on them or they on him, with the single exception of the International College of Surgeons which was the only association of surgeons dear to his heart. His interest in the International College probably started in 1938, for he wrote an article in the first volume of the *Transactions of the International College of Surgeons* on the transverse upper abdominal incision in October, 1938. After that he contributed 19 more articles to the Journal . . . Bailey had few close friends, but he was very friendly with Dr. Max Thorek, the founder of our College, who was President of the American Photographic Society. Their common interest in photography probably contributed to their friendship. Max Thorek presented Bailey with an inspiring photograph depicting a row of nurses, which was published in one of Bailey's books,

*Demonstrations of Operative Surgery* – a book primarily intended for nurses and one of the best of his smaller volumes. He corresponded with Max Thorek until the latter died, and was also friendly with Dr. Philip Thorek . . ." <sup>26</sup>

In 1948, Dr Herbert Acuff (US), seventh International President of the College, wrote about his visit with Hamilton Bailey in London:

"It was my privilege to visit the Royal Northern Hospital [in London] where Mr. Hamilton Bailey is surgeon and surgeon in charge of the Genito-Urinary department. He does an enormous volume of work and does it also with the greatest ease and facility. He is very opinionated and precise in his methods, and his various assistants and nursing staff seem to know exactly what he wants. I was impressed with the ease in manner with which he conducts his morning schedule. Mr. Bailey is a prodigious worker, writer, and one of the widest known medical authors in all Europe . . . his worth to the people of London and England will pay dividends in appreciation long after he is gone." <sup>27</sup>

Dr Acuff's prophetic words have indeed come true, and the International College of Surgeons is justifiably proud to count Mr Hamilton Bailey among its early and staunch supporters.

### *Editorials on the atomic bomb, and the role of physicians in Nazi-dominated Germany*

From the start the Journal had published editorials on the College's role in the world of surgery, on the moral obligations of the surgeon wherever he might practice, on the need to share scientific knowledge and skills, on euthanasia, and on other medical/ethical issues.

When Dr Thorek announced in 1949 that the six yearly issues of the Journal would be doubled to twelve, he stated that the additional pages, now available for publication, would also be used for articles of a social/political nature:

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<sup>26</sup> *International Surgery*, 1971, Vol. 55, No. 5, p. 140B.

<sup>27</sup> *JICS*, 1948, Vol. XI, No. 6, pp. 541–542.

"From the day of the Journal's conception we have regarded it as an important part of our task to interpret the shifting world scene from the surgeon's point of view, to the end that surgeons, like all other good citizens of the world, may be stimulated to think in terms of international good will and permanent world peace." <sup>28</sup>

In light of that philosophy it is not surprising that the editors did not shy away from publishing editorials confronting some of the most painful issues of the late 1940s, issues that touched the core of our humanity – the atomic bomb, and the role of physicians in Nazi-dominated Germany.

The editorial on the atomic bomb was written by Dr E. Forrest Boyd, who was an observer of the atom bomb tests at Bikini, which he called "one of the most awe-inspiring events in history". The tenet of his editorial was that:

"the only way to combat this Frankenstein monster that is about to engulf the world with its power, is to develop a new sense of patriotic citizenship and statesmanship . . . we must realize that our civilization is obligated to solve the problems of international strife, or perish . . . We must delve into the study of humanities . . . there must be global education . . . We must learn to live with each other." <sup>29</sup>

An "Editor's Note" was added to the article to clarify that this article did not violate the non-political position of the College:

"In view of the international, non-political and non-sectarian position of the International College of Surgeons, it is particularly fitting that an article concerning the atomic bomb, with its global implications, should be printed in this Journal. The members of the College must use their influence in educating the people of the world away from war of any type. This editorial by Dr. Boyd, an observer at Bikini, is timely and welcome."

At the ninth International Congress of the College in São Paulo, Brazil, the House of

Delegates confronted the issue and adopted a resolution on the constructive use of atomic energy on April 29, 1954. The resolution was introduced by Dr Max Thorek:

"Whereas the president of the United States has delivered an address on December 8, 1953 before the General Assembly of the United Nations, on the nefarious influence of the use of atomic energy for destructive purposes, and concluded his address with the following pledge:

'The United States pledges . . . its determination to help solve the fearful atomic dilemma – to devote its entire heart and mind to find a way by which the miraculous inventiveness of man shall not be dedicated to his death, but consecrated to his life.'

"Be it resolved that the House of Delegates of the International College of Surgeons wholeheartedly and unreservedly accept this pledge as their own and subscribe to it inflexibly."

The topic of medical and surgical crimes committed by physicians and surgeons under the Nazi political regime during the Second World War was discussed by Dr Thorek in 1949 in an editorial review of a book entitled *Doctors of Infamy* by Dr Alexander Mitscherlich, Head of the German Medical Commission to US Military Tribunal No. 1, Nuremberg, and Fred Mielke. The article focused on the terrifying realization that moral disintegration occurs so readily:

"If after so many centuries of struggle, persecution and martyrdom, the medical profession itself, . . . can fall so swiftly and easily to such barbarous depths, it is hard to reaffirm one's belief in man's power to escape the vestigial beast within him." <sup>30</sup>

Thorek further stated that the Journal of the International College of Surgeons wholeheartedly subscribed to the proclamation of the World Medical Association (WMA) which condemned those who took active part in the

<sup>28</sup> *JICS*, 1949, Vol. XII, No.6, p. 891.

<sup>29</sup> E. Forrest Boyd, The challenge of Bikini. *JICS*, 1946, Vol. IX, No. 6, pp. 684–686.

<sup>30</sup> *JICS*, 1949, Vol. XII, no. 3, pp. 386–388.



slaughter, but also the doctors who gave it their tacit support by silence. The Journal also endorsed the WMA's recommendation that the Hippocratic oath be revised to include formal recognition of the rights of all human beings, regardless of color, race, or creed.

**ICS: Founder Member of the World Medical Association**

ICS became a Founder member of the US Committee of the World Medical Association which was founded in Paris in 1947. The American Medical Association, the American Red Cross, and the Mayo Clinic had done likewise. The WMA's principal objects dovetailed with those of the College – to promote closer ties among the national medical organizations and among the doctors of the world by personal contact and all other means available. The

Association had sprung forth from friendships established among military medical men from numerous nations who found their way to the British Medical Association during the Second World War, when Britain was the base for allied operations. They found that they shared many common interests, problems, and ideas, and decided to give permanency to this valuable interchange. The College considered that its membership in the WMA was another avenue to contribute to the advancement of public health and the standards of medical care and education throughout the world, and equally well to the promotion of international goodwill.

Fifteen years after its founding, the formative years of the College had been successfully completed, and, with unabated enthusiasm and confidence, it now embarked on a future of further expansion and growth.

# Chapter 3

## Expansion

### 1950–1970

#### National sections' activities

The war was over; nations were rebuilding their economies, people were reassembling their lives. The devastation and terror of the war experience had, however, prompted the emergence of a general resolve that it should never happen again. International understanding and cooperation were seen as essential means to promote lasting peace, the same idea Max Thorek had advocated earlier. Obviously, ICS fitted right into that philosophy, and so the stage was set for its expansion in the next two decades between 1950 and 1970; this occurred at an amazingly fast pace.

Not only did the existing national sections grow significantly in size and strength, but they doubled to nearly 50 by the end of 1970, extending ICS's reach into every continent. It seemed as if the College had taken on a life of its own, unstoppable, every gathering triggering yet other initiatives, ideas, and expansion. Excerpts of a typical report on national section development give a glimpse of the amazing activity which took place under the auspices of the College throughout the world:

“ . . . The **Israeli section** held its annual meeting and general assembly on February 15. Forty fellows of the College met at luncheon, transacted the section's business and presented a scientific program. That same day, the **Thai section** met at Cholburi Hospital . . . the meeting was addressed by his excellency the governor of Cholburi province and by Dr. S. Vitchapan, director of the hospital..

The welcoming addresses were followed by an extensive scientific session . . . On March 19, the **Nicaraguan section** presented a surgical seminar at Managua . . . On March 31, the **Ecuadorian section** formally organized its Portoviejo division . . . the **Pakistan section** held its national assembly in Karachi, April 5–7. The three-day assembly consisted of morning and afternoon scientific sessions . . . the meeting of the **German section**, held in Munich on April 18, had as its guests of honor Prof. J.H. Oltramare, secretary general of the European Federation, and Prof. Paul Fuchsig, president of the Austrian section. . . The **Mexican section** held a meeting on April 27 in Mexico City, which consisted of a scientific session and a fellowship dinner. The section held its annual congress at Acapulco October 31–November 3 . . . The **French** and **Spanish sections** held a joint surgical congress from May 30 through June 1, at Barcelona at the historic Hospital de la Santa Cruz y San Pablo. The meeting was devoted to three themes: diagnosis and treatment of osseous metastasis of carcinomatous origin and their complications; cinematography and radiocinematography in surgical education; inflammatory tumors of the ascending portion of the colon . . . The **British section** held its summer meeting in London, June 14 to 16, under the chairmanship of Sir Denis J. Browne and Mr. Patrick W. Clarkson . . . The **Brazilian section** held its national congress at Belo Horizonte, October 1 to 6 under the presidency of Dr. Alipio Pernet and the secretaryship of Dr. Nelson C. Perez. The occasion combined symposia, panel and round table discussions, with instructional courses . . . The annual congress of the **Belgian section** addressed two topics: surgery of the



sympathetic nervous system, and surgery of the hand. It assembled a roster of eminent representatives of these specialties from France, England, the United States, Switzerland, Austria, and Belgium, and attracted an attendance from many nations . . . Climaxing a year of manifold scientific activities, the **Swiss section** held its annual meeting on November 9–10 at Berne. The theme of the meeting was the treatment of fractures. Earlier in the year, at Lausanne, the section presented a symposium on gastroduodenal surgery . . . the **Japanese section** arranged for a scientific meeting on November 15 at Kyoto, to coincide with the visit of the Around-the-World Clinic Tour of the College. Members of the tour shared the program with distinguished surgeons of the Japanese section . . .”<sup>31</sup>

ICS meetings were bringing together surgeons from all over the world; mutual respect, long-term collaboration, and individual friendships flourished. And so a vast network of links and connections grew, through which surgical news and knowledge flowed easily and effectively. Every Fellow who traveled outside his country felt free to call on other Fellows abroad. Their ICS credentials served as an “international passport”, assuring them of warm welcome to noted clinical and university centers, hospitals, and meetings of other national sections. Fellows and their spouses began to travel in groups, combining their professional interests with the pleasures of sightseeing; the hospitality of gracious colleagues in foreign cities added greatly to the enjoyment and insight of the experiences gained. The network kept expanding. An American group thus traveled to Austria, Italy, and France; French Fellows joined their Dutch colleagues in the Netherlands; the dynamic sections in Argentina and Brazil joined each other regularly and invited each other’s brightest young surgeons to study with their top surgeons on fellowship grants. The Indian and the Pakistan sections were expanding rapidly and extended their hospitality to a large group of American Fellows during their respective 1955 annual congresses.

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<sup>31</sup> *JICS*, 1964, Vol. 41, no. 1, pp. 7–8.

The International Assemblies, which were held every two years in a different country, expanded in scope, drawing speakers and attendants from all over the world, turning these events into world gatherings.

### **1952: Biennial Congress, Madrid, Spain**

The eighth Biennial International Assembly was held at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Madrid, Spain, May 19–24, 1952. It was reported in the *Journal* that it

“ . . . was not only one of the most rewarding but one of the most spectacular experiences in College History. Since accessory meetings were held before and after the Congress in Barcelona, Bordeaux, Vienna, and Amsterdam, it was actually not only an international scientific conference but a scientific grand tour of Europe, an almost bewildering pageant in which ancient and medieval splendor, immemorial tradition, and the historic dignity of the past alternated continuously with the accelerated tempo of today, the innumerable recent developments in medical and surgical technic, and the sharply modern concept of the universality of science . . . The Congress, together with the meetings in Barcelona, Madrid, Vienna and Amsterdam, attracted nearly 5,000 persons from all over the world . . . Prof. Dr. Martín Lagos, President of the Spanish Section, and Prof. Dr. A. de la Fuente Chaos, Secretary General, were the presiding officers of the Congress . . .”<sup>32</sup>

A new and prominent feature of the Congress was the use of closed circuit color television for surgical demonstrations, a technical advance which was hailed as a milestone in surgical instruction:

“ . . . six television receivers were in operation, accommodating approximately 300 persons at a sitting. Most impressive to this audience was the color fidelity, which was accurate to the point of providing natural color gradations of anatomic details, including nerves, arteries and tendons impossible to visualize properly with ordinary

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<sup>32</sup> *JICS*, 1952, Vol. XVIII, No. 4, pp. 573–574.





Officers of the Indian section and visiting surgeons from the US section in front of the Taj Mahal hotel in Bombay, India.



Professor Alfonso de la Fuente Chaos delivering closing address at the eighth International Congress, Madrid, Spain, May 1952.





Mr André Marie, Minister of Education of the French Government, arriving from Paris to attend the meeting of the French section in Bordeaux.



Professor Dr H. Chiari at opening session of the meeting of the Austrian section in Vienna.



television, and reproducing for the viewer the subtle nuances as actually seen by the operating surgeon . . .”<sup>33</sup>

Pre-Congress meetings had been organized in Bordeaux, France, presided over by Professor Raymond Darget, President of the French Section, and in Barcelona, Spain, under the chairmanship of Professor Soler-Roig. A large number of delegates took advantage of these additional opportunities to visit hospitals, observe surgical procedures, and make new friends.

Post-Congress meetings were held in Vienna and Amsterdam. In Vienna the theme of the meeting was carcinoma, its prevention and treatment. The organizing team was headed by ICS President, Professor Finsterer, with Drs F. Mandl, L. Schonbauer, R. Oppolzer, T. Antoine, and L. Bohler, all of Vienna, assisting.

Amsterdam was the last stop on the tour. There, the delegates added lustre to the official inauguration of the Netherlands section of ICS which



Dr Max Thorek responding to the welcome of the reception committee in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

elected Dr George Chapchal as its first President and Dr Jacob Glazenburg as Secretary.

### **1952: Professor Hans Finsterer of Austria – eighth ICS President**

On May 19, 1952 at the House of Delegates meeting, Professor Hans Finsterer of Austria became the eighth President of the College.



Professor Hans Finsterer (Austria) – eighth ICS President, 1952. Professor Finsterer was Chief Surgeon of the Department of Surgery of the well-known Allgemeine Krankenhaus in Vienna, Austria for 17 years. He published approximately 300 scientific works, mostly dealing with surgery of the stomach and the intestines. In 1914, he published his own modification of the Billroth II resection, known as the Hofmeister-Finsterer method, which improved the prognosis in cases of ulcer resection. His technique on resection exclusion, devised to diminish the primary mortality rates for duodenal ulcers that penetrate the pancreas, was used throughout the world. Outstanding is his monograph, entitled *Surgery of the Colon* which was published in 1952. With great energy he spread the popularity of local anesthesia throughout Austria and far beyond its borders. Friends spoke of him as a progressive and understanding human being, who left an indelible imprint in the history of surgery.

<sup>33</sup> *JICS*, 1952, Vol. XVIII, No. 4, p. 616.



### **1953: Establishment of the Hall of Fame and International Museum of Surgical Science**

In the meantime, Max Thorek had been pursuing another major project – the founding of a surgical Hall of Fame and Museum. For this purpose another beautiful large mansion was acquired, adjacent to the headquarters. In a commemorative article, written 15 years later, Mrs Penni Spiro Maller shared her memories about the rehabilitation of the building:

“... Like its prototype, the Petit Trianon in France, time and neglect had taken its toll, and few could envision any great possibilities. Mrs. Max Thorek was requested to supervise the decor, but she did much more than that. Acting as architect, designer and decorator, she restored the building to its former grandeur while adapting it skillfully to its present use. Those of us who had the privilege of being on hand from its incipience will always remember the innumerable journeys to contractors, tradesmen, dealers in lighting fixtures, antiques, parquet flooring, etc. Every detail was carefully attended to and the miles of corridors in the Merchandise Mart were well trod. The pace already exhausting, intensified as the date of the opening approached, but Fim Thorek was indomitable. That the dream became reality on September 9, 1954, is now a matter of history...”<sup>34</sup>

Thorek wrote:

“...The first steps have been taken to make another dream come true; a dream I have had for many years... the vision of some bright day... when men of genius in our profession all over the world, in all ages of recorded history, should receive due recognition and perpetuation of their great achievements; of a place where, in dignity, beauty and peace, their lives and their works should be enshrined forever... With the purchase, not long ago, of another majestic old mansion adjoining the first, the realization of my dream became possible... the

International Surgeons' Hall of Fame is an accomplished fact. At a recent meeting of the Board I projected the plan, which was met with unanimous acclaim... Architects are already at work; blueprints have been drawn, a preliminary slate of officers appointed... An Electoral College of approximately 150 members is being arranged, with medical historians representing all Sections of the College both here and abroad... Since time alone can bear witness to lasting worth, only the names of surgeons whose achievements have outlived them for a certain period of years will be eligible... The Hall of Fame, together with lectures on surgical history that will be given in the spacious amphitheater to be constructed in the new section of the Home, will perpetuate through generation after generation of our posterity the fair fame of the great apostles of surgery from time immemorial and from every corner of the civilized world... We are but paying another instalment of our age-long debt to those who cleared the way for us, a debt to which we can never write 'paid in full'. Without the heritage of knowledge and skill bequeathed us by the genius of the past, the genius of the future would be but a flickering torch...”<sup>35</sup>

The Committee on Arrangements, headed by Dr Rudolf Nissen and Dr Morris Fishbein, selected 12 medical “immortals”. Ambroise Paré and Joseph Lister were chosen specifically from surgical history; the others were selected from among the great in the whole field of medicine and the allied sciences, because their philosophy, their achievements and their discoveries became fundamental not for surgery alone, but for the art of healing in all its manifestations. The 12 immortals were:

1. Imhotep – Egypt (circa 3000 BC)
2. Hippocrates – Greece (circa 460 BC)
3. Galen – born in Asia Minor, lived in Italy (AD 130–210)
4. Ambroise Paré – France (1510–1590)
5. Vesalius – Padua, Italy (1514–1564)
6. William Harvey – England (1578–1657)

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<sup>34</sup> *International Surgery*, 1969, Vol. 52, no. 4, p. 23.

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<sup>35</sup> *JICS*, 1953, Vol. XIX, no. 1, p. XX.



1516 and 1524 North Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois, USA. Building on the left: ICS headquarters; building on the right: International Museum of Surgical Science and Hall of Fame.

7. Giovanni Batista Morgagni – Padua, Italy (1682–1771)
8. Ignaz P. Semmelweiss – Vienna, Austria (1818–1865)
9. Louis Pasteur – France (1822–1895)
10. Baron Joseph Lister – Scotland (1827–1912)
11. Wilhelm Konrad von Röntgen – Germany (1849–1923)
12. Marie Sklodowska Curie – France (1876–1934).

The generosity of Mr and Mrs Edwin Speidel of Providence, Rhode Island made it possible to commission full-size statutes of the “immortals” by

sculptors Edouard Chassaing and Louis Linck of the Art Institute of Chicago.

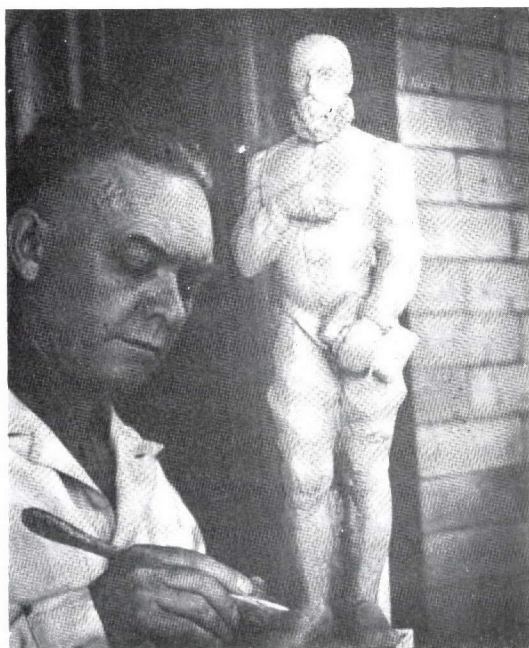
In further reverence to great scientists, surgeons and discoveries of the past, a Room of Murals was created with a series of large paintings depicting the development of surgical science through the ages. Count Gregorio Calvi di Bergolo, a renowned Italian painter, was the artist.

In 1955 sculptor Edouard Chassaing created a large statue, for the College, which bears the inscription “Hope and Help”, and represents a surgeon giving aid to his patient, a symbol eternally and universally representative of the spirit of medicine. To this day it graces the entrance to the College buildings.





Hall of Immortals – ICS International Museum of Surgical Science.

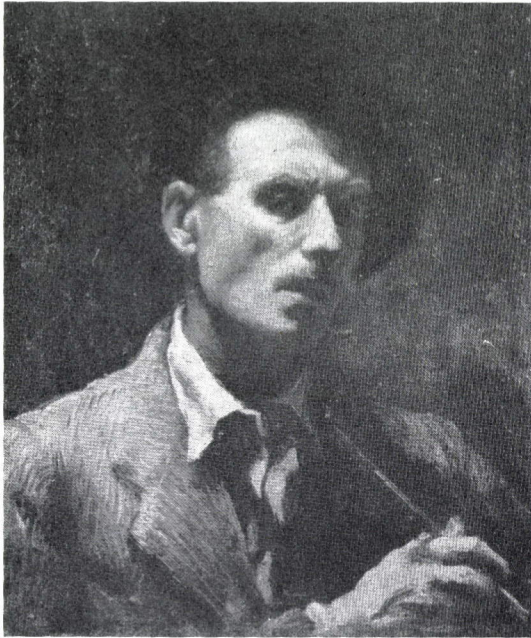


Louis Linck, sculptor, at work on the model of Ambrose Paré.

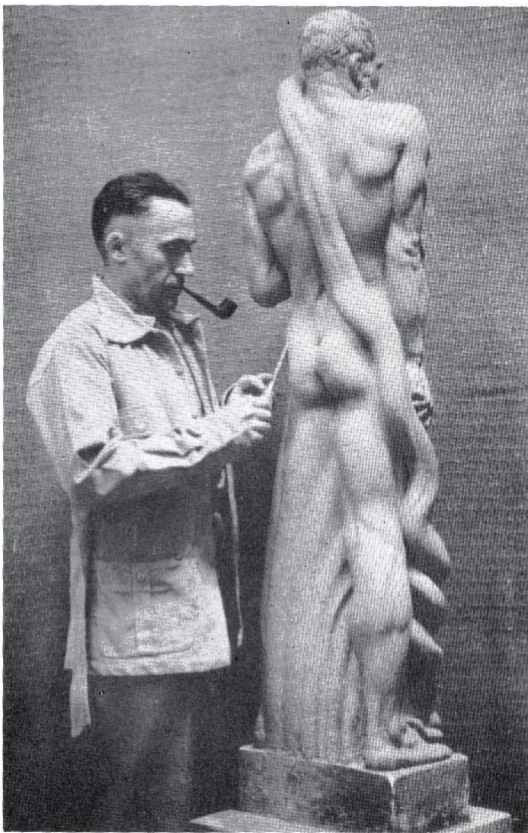


Mr Edwin Speidel. His generosity made possible the acquisition of 12 life-size statues for the ICS Hall of Fame.

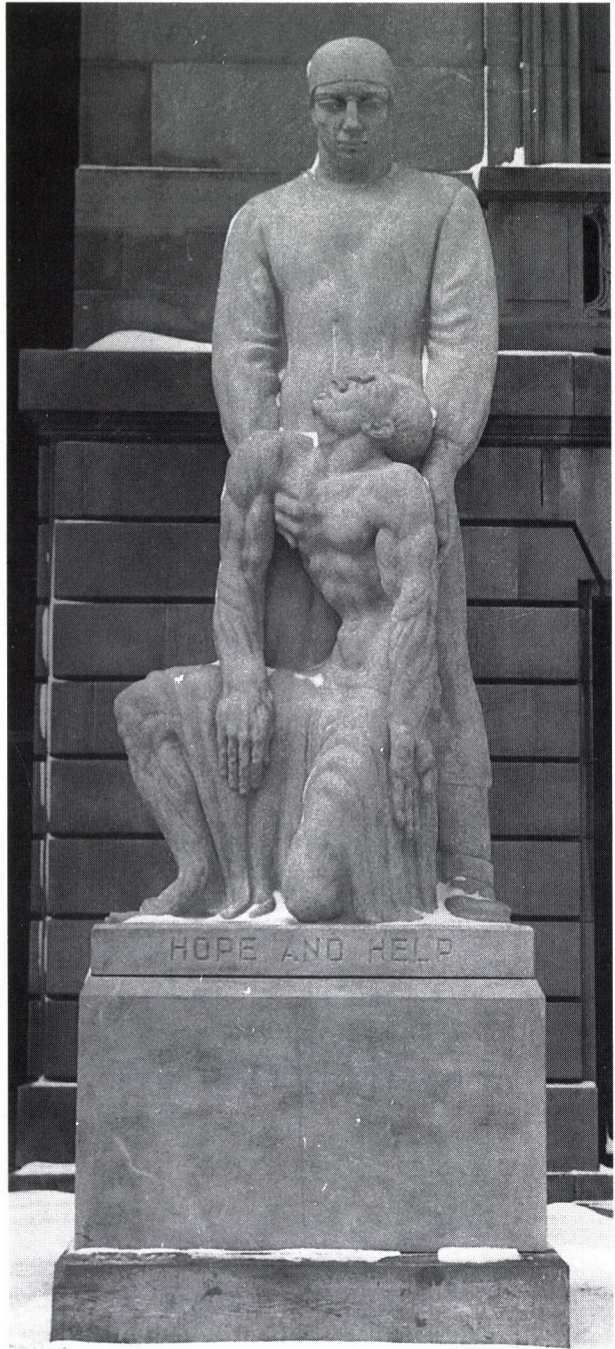




Count Gregorio Calvi di Bergolo, painter of murals in ICS museum.



Edouard Chassaing, sculptor.



Hope and Help – statue at ICS headquarters.





In the fifteenth century, hospitals were built like churches, with an altar in the background. The surgeons operated in the very halls where the sick were lying on cots. Mural at ICS Museum.





Andreas Vesalius, 1514–1564, born in Belgium, presents his epoch-making work *De Humani Corporis Fabrica Libri Septem* (*Seven Books on the Structure of the Human Body*) to the Emperor, Charles V. With that treatise modern medicine begins. He was a court physician to the Emperor and King Philip II of Spain. Mural at ICS Museum.



### **1954: Biennial Congress in São Paulo, Brazil**

The ninth International Congress was held in São Paulo, Brazil, April 26 to May 2, 1954, at the invitation of the Governor of the State of São Paulo, Professor Dr Lucas Nogueira Garcez. The Organizing Committee was headed by Professor Dr Carlos Gama.

The central theme of the Congress – Experience with Socialized Medicine throughout the World – attracted widespread interest. Delegations from all parts of the world participated in the discussion of this important and controversial subject. Men of different economic and cultural backgrounds met together and exchanged their ideas. Certainly, it was agreed that what is wise in one situation is not always so in another. However, the important thing was to understand how the situations differ, and to do this one must be informed. Here was found an experience in democracy on an international level:

“Dr. Edward J. McCormick, President of the American Medical Association (AMA), condemned socialization unreservedly, declaring that ‘an entrenched bureaucracy is a bumbling monster perpetually tripping over its own red tape.’ He emphasized that such systems lead to impaired efficiency, slowing of medical progress and lowering of the quality of medical care.”<sup>36</sup>

The French government system prevailing in Morocco was described by Dr Mauricio Dorbes, who declared that such a system was necessary because otherwise the people would be without any medical care.

Dr Roelof Ruding stated that partially socialized medicine in the Netherlands is leading to more and more government control over medical practice.

Dr David B. Allman, Trustee and Chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the American Medical Association (AMA), pointed out that socialized medicine resulted in impersonal care at a high, constantly increasing cost to all taxpayers.

Dr Morris Fishbein, distinguished Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)*, stated that Russia, with its system of medical care totally controlled by the government, had not contributed notably to medical progress since the establishment of the system.

Professor Dr Antonio Ferreira Cesarino, Professor of Social Medicine at the University of São Paulo and President of the International Society for Social Security, discussed the partially socialized system which prevails in Brazil, and recommended fundamental principles that should be followed under any system.

The discussions on socialized medicine generated such valuable insights in and agreements on the need for certain fundamental principles, that the House of Delegates, on April 29, adopted a lengthy resolution to record the views of the International College of Surgeons on this issue.

### ***Resolution on socialized medicine***

Dr Morris Fishbein of the USA introduced the following resolution on socialized medicine:

“Whereas, the Ninth International Congress of the International College of Surgeons meeting in São Paulo, Brazil, April 26 to May 1, 1954, has heard distinguished representatives of many nations in two symposia devoted to considering the effects of the socialization of medicine on medical progress and the care of the sick:

“Be it resolved that the International College of Surgeons is aware that the concept of social security is now recognized by all nations. It is convinced that security depends on the realization of the individual citizen that the primary responsibility for his welfare and his well-being rests upon himself. The extent to which government participates in a social security program varies with each nation, depending on national resources, economic conditions, education of the people, standards of living, programs of public health and preventive medicine, and many other factors. Health is dependent not only on the provision for care of the sick but also on nutrition, housing, sanitation and conditions of work, rest and recreation.

“The nations of the world differ in the extent to which provisions are made for the education of physicians who

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<sup>36</sup> *JICS*, 1954, Vol. XXI, No. 6, p. 172.



Principal speakers on "Socialized Medicine", the main theme of the Congress. Left to right: top: Dr David B. Allman, trustee of the American Medical Association; Dr Edward J. McCormick, President of the American Medical Association; bottom: Dr Antonio Ferreira Cesarino, Professor of Social Medicine, University of São Paulo; and Dr Morris Fishbein, Editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

are the most important factor in the care of the sick; in the establishment and maintenance of hospitals and facilities for roentgen and laboratory services; in the education of auxiliary workers, and in education of the public in prevention of disease and in seeking medical care. Conditions range from those in which all physicians are full time employees of government and all medical schools, hospitals and other medical institutions are governmentally owned and administered, to those in which government participates little in these functions. The International College of Surgeons is aware of the good that has been accomplished and also of the dangers and difficulties that have developed under each of these systems. With this background the International College

of Surgeons wishes to emphasize certain fundamental principles which it is convinced must be observed and maintained to secure the highest quality of medical service under any system.

"I. Implicit in maximum benefit of the sick patient is confidence in his physician or surgeon. This requires freedom of choice of physician by the patient whenever possible, and the physician's willingness to serve the patient. Freedom of choice cannot be maintained in any system in which all or the majority of physicians are employed by the government.

"II. The poor and those able to pay only a part of their medical costs must be provided with medical and surgical care. In the establishment of agencies and facilities for this





Professor Dr Lucas Nogueira Carneiro, Governor of the State of São Paulo (right), receiving gold medal from Dr Max Thorek, on the occasion of the ninth International Congress, São Paulo, Brazil, April 1954.



purpose the medical profession must have appropriate representation on all official and administrative boards and committees.

“III. The costs of medical and surgical care and of hospital services represent an increasing financial burden to the citizen and his family, due in large part to the progress of medical science. As a result of this progress the average length of life has been increased; devastating epidemics have been eliminated; pain and suffering are controllable. Economic conditions and methods of raising and administering funds for medical purposes govern the extent to which the people of any nation secure the benefits of medical science. In the administration and expenditure of funds for medical purposes whether raised by taxation, voluntary or compulsory insurance, contributions by workers and employers to welfare funds, or in other ways, the fundamental freedom to choose physician and hospital should prevail as far as possible. Interference of a third party whether a government, an insurance agency, a welfare organization or a labor group, destroys the initiative of the physician, reduces the quality of service and prevents the physician from doing his utmost for his patient.

“IV. Medical education and medical research are fundamental to progress in medicine and to a high quality of medical care. In the maintenance of faculties of medicine and in the staffing of hospitals of universities and medical colleges the employment of full time or part time physicians may be necessary. Whenever possible the patients cared for by such institutions should be the indigent or partially indigent and the number and type should be limited to the requirements of teaching purposes. Freedom in research is necessary for the greatest progress. Government aid to institutions for education and research should be supplied under conditions which will not dominate the choice of teachers, investigators or pupils, or permit political motivations to select personnel rather than scientific and intellectual qualifications.

“V. The outstanding accomplishments of the last twenty years in medical science have been the development of new life-saving remedies, new techniques in surgery and anesthesia, new methods in diagnosis and treatment. For economic reasons many nations find necessary the limitation of the extent to which such advances are made available to the sick. Governmental agencies through

administrative techniques endeavor to meet budgets by limiting the right of the physician to prescribe life-saving drugs, restrict the choice of new anesthetics, and sometimes endeavor to place high duties or tariffs on life-saving remedies. Such restrictions are not in the best interest of the sick.

“VI. The International College of Surgeons recommends that the nations of the world cooperate with their medical professions in establishing standards for medical care which will include the utmost freedom of choice



Professor Rudolph Nissen (Switzerland) – ninth ICS President, 1954. Professor Nissen worked with Professor Sauerbruch at the University of Berlin from 1921 to 1933. He then went to Istanbul, Turkey, to become Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery at the University of Istanbul, and Surgeon in Chief at the Carrabpasa Hospital. A research fellowship at Massachusetts General Hospital took him to Boston in 1939 where he remained for two years. From 1941 to 1952 he was attending surgeon and Chief of Division at the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn and Maimonides Hospital in New York. In 1952 he accepted the position as Professor and Head of the Department of Surgery at Basel University in Switzerland; he was also Surgeon in Chief at Buergerspital of Basel. Professor Nissen performed the first successful pneumonectomy in surgical history. He actively joined Max Thorek from the very beginning in his efforts to establish the ICS. Thorek said of his friend that he was not only admired and respected for his professional distinction but also for his personal integrity. “Fastidious almost to the point of austerity, yet gracious in manner and marked with charm of the true cosmopolitan, he is admired, respected and loved by his colleagues everywhere.” \*

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\* *JICS*, 1953, Vol. XX, No. 5, p 49.





Presentation of Founder's Plaque to Dr Max Thorek at the Opening Ceremony of the Twentieth Anniversary Congress in Geneva, Switzerland, May 1955.

among physicians, patients and hospitals; which will be as free as possible from compulsion; which will avoid as far as possible the development of full-time salaried physicians as employees of government, except where necessary, because of indigence or other economic or social conditions; which will avoid governmental or other interference between physician and patient. Above all, governments must recognize the right of the physician to participate fully in administrative bodies concerned with medical care.”

#### **1954: Professor Rudolph Nissen (Switzerland), ninth ICS President**

Professor Dr Rudolph Nissen of Switzerland assumed the presidency of the International College of Surgeons on April 29, 1954 at the close of the São Paulo International Congress.

#### **1955: Twentieth anniversary**

Twenty years after the founding of the International College of Surgeons, Dr Thorek could state:

“We have reached maturity. We have a global membership of about eleven thousand surgeons. The financial structure of the College is solid. Our buildings are fully

paid for and our assets are well over a million dollars.

“The Journal started as a quarterly; then it became a bi-monthly; now it is a monthly . . . While it is not as yet in the black, the deficit is made up by the treasury of ICS . . .

“It is necessary to nurture [the ICS's Hall of Fame and Museum of Surgical Science] and our aim is to raise a Trust Fund of two million dollars, so that we can perpetuate its existence . . .

“I have spent large sums of my own to create the College. At no time have I asked for or received a penny in reimbursement, although I was urged to accept at least the cost of transportation to and from regional meetings, hotel bills, entertainment, etc. I consistently declined . . . My entire collection of medical manuscripts, representing an investment of thousands of dollars, I have deeded to the College . . . Twenty percent of my time is devoted to my surgical practice and writing, and eighty percent to College activities . . . All the College knows the time, effort, disappointments and heartaches I have experienced during these past thirty years . . . Some sons of Machiavelli infiltrated our midst and confronted us with real danger. But we marched on . . . Were it not for the staunch support and encouragement I received from a galaxy of devoted friends here, in Europe, in South and Central America, and in other parts of the world, the task would have been an impossibility . . .”<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> *JICS*, 1955, Vol. XXIV, No.1, pp. 1–4.



At a moving ceremony during the Twentieth Anniversary Congress of the College in Geneva, Switzerland in 1955, Dr Thorek was presented with a Founder's plaque and a silver memento by the mayor of Geneva. His Excellency the President of Switzerland, M. Perreard, spoke on the occasion.

The Anniversary Congress was organized under the able leadership of Professor Dr Albert Jentzer, President of the Congress, assisted by Drs A. Nicolet and J.H. Oltramare. The official languages of the congress were English, French, German, Italian, and Spanish. Simultaneous interpretation into French and English was provided. The program covered 14 principal fields, and the presentations by surgeons from numerous European countries, as well as from Japan, Egypt, Brazil, Pakistan, Mexico, and Venezuela, were of the highest quality and timeliness. To make these valuable and significant scientific contributions available to a larger audience, all were published together by Editions Médecine et Hygiène of Geneva under the editorship of Professor Jentzer.

Mesdames Jentzer, Nicolet, Nissen, Oltramare, and others had organized many novel excursions and diversions which were greatly enjoyed by the surgeons and their wives.

#### **1955: Executive Director Vice-Admiral Ross T. McIntire appointed**

The workload of the Secretary General increased rapidly in proportion with the College's dynamic growth in many lands. Membership data had to be recorded and filed, invoices for corresponding fees and dues had to be generated, scientific contributions of the sections to the Journal increased in number, their collaboration in building a significant collection for the Museum was an on-going project, recording the activities of each and all in the bulletin was an endless task and, in addition to extensive correspondence, personal visits needed to be made to keep everyone connected and motivated.



Vice Admiral Ross T. McIntire (retired), appointed Executive Director, 1955. Dr McIntire was physician to the White House and personal physician to US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt from 1933 to 1945. He accompanied the President on his numerous inspection trips with the fleet at sea or to overseas bases and official journeys ashore. In 1938 he was appointed Surgeon General of the Navy. His special interest in rehabilitation contributed to the establishment of the Office of Rehabilitation in the Medical Department of the Navy while he was Surgeon General. He sat on the boards of several hospitals and received honorary degrees from six universities.

The appointment in 1955 of Vice-Admiral Ross T. McIntire (retired) as Executive Director clearly filled a great need. By all accounts it was a happy choice; his education and impressive experience suited the job requirements perfectly, and an engaging personality made him fit easily into the management team.

He brought to the College an extraordinary ability as an organizer, a wide acquaintance with leaders in medicine and related welfare work, sound judgement and clear thinking, a great ability to win cooperation and goodwill, and a generous dose of idealism. Dr Thorek and Dr McIntire would be working together productively and enthusiastically for the next five years, after which both would be claimed by death within a couple of months of each other.



### 1950–1955: US section progress

Scientific activities of the US section, in between the highly popular Annual Meetings, took place year-round and covered every part of the nation. The 51 Regents effectively stimulated scientific activities in their regions; local meetings were numerous, and would often have 200 or 300 attendants. Not only were local sections established, but specialty sections were created as well.

Throughout the years consistent efforts were made to set and maintain high standards of admission. Certification was based on:

“ . . . impartial determination of the personal qualifications, professional ability, and mastery of the art and science of surgery . . . There is therefore no question of age, sex, race, nationality, religious affiliation or political influence . . .

“All candidates for certification in the US section must be citizens of the United States and members of the American Medical Association and of the state and county medical societies of their respective localities. Their moral and ethical records must bear the closest possible scrutiny. Each must be a graduate of a medical school recognized by the Council of Medical Education and Hospitals of the American Medical Association.”<sup>38</sup>

Admission to Fellowship was obtained by passing an oral and written examination, from which older surgeons could, however, be exempt provided other conditions were fulfilled:

“Candidates for certification by examination must have completed an internship of not less than a year in a hospital approved by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals of the A.M.A. and must give evidence of surgical training of not less than three years in addition. Each candidate must submit a list of his scientific publications accompanied by reprints if possible. He must also submit a complete record of all surgical procedures performed by him for at least one year prior to his

application for Certified Fellowship. Finally, he must show that his practice has been limited to surgery or a surgical specialty for at least three years.”<sup>39</sup>

An example of a written examination in general surgery, held at the College headquarters in Chicago in 1954, consisted of eleven questions, of which the candidate was required to answer ten. One dealt with the use of isotopes in the diagnosis and therapy of surgical disease; one presented data on a case and asked for a diagnosis; one called for the signs and symptoms of postoperative hypopotassemia and the best prophylactic measures to be taken against it; and one required the candidate to “discuss anatomically (a) the foramen of Winslow, (b) the valves of Morgagni, (c) the posterior mediastinum and (d) sliding hernia.”

“Candidates for certification by merit [without the formality of a written examination], in addition to meeting the requirements aforementioned as applying to all applicants, are required to have practiced surgery as a specialty, with distinction, for ten or more years, and to have demonstrated beyond question their skill and fitness as surgeons. Admission by merit is an unusual if not a unique advantage offered by the International College of Surgeons, which, almost alone among organized professional groups of any kind, sets due and proper value upon wisdom gained by experience.”<sup>40</sup>

“ . . . There are surgeons whose sensitive and experienced hands know every smallest portion of the human body and yet have forgotten the anatomic details upon which their far more important knowledge was founded. It is almost bromidic to say that such a surgeon, when it comes to wise decisions and practical skill, can often overshadow the purely academic expert.”<sup>41</sup>

A large percentage of surgeons admitted to Fellowship in ICS were Fellows of the American

<sup>38</sup> *JICS*, 1951, Vol. XVI, No. 4, pp. 492, 495.

<sup>39</sup> *JICS*, 1951, Vol. XVI, No. 4, p. 495.

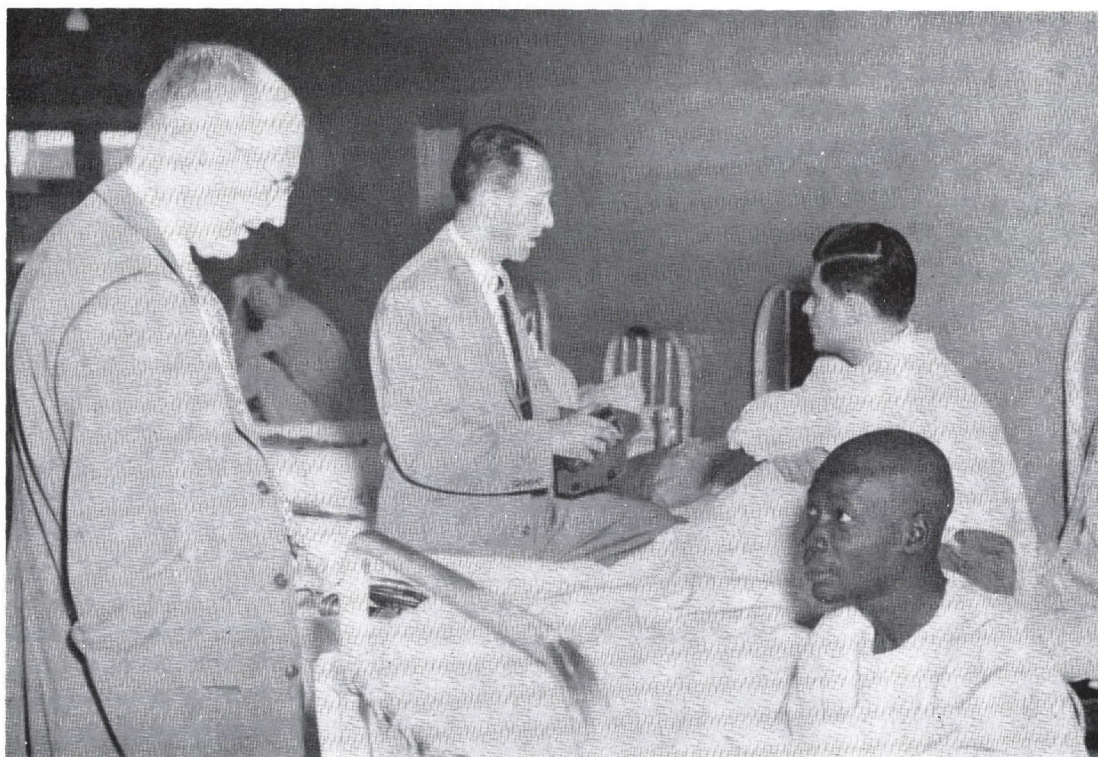
<sup>40</sup> *JICS*, 1951, Vol. XVI, No. 4, pp. 496, 492.

<sup>41</sup> Editorial, *JICS*, 1951, Vol. XVI, no. 4, p. 492.





Part of a class taking written examinations for admission to ICS fellowship, at ICS headquarters in Chicago.



Bedside examinations at Cook County Hospital, Chicago, for ICS fellowship.



College of Surgeons, Diplomates of the American Board of Surgery, or both, as shown in the following statistics:

1951: 80.19%  
1952: 80.55%  
1953: 83.02%  
1954: 84.52%.

ICS regularly arranged for postgraduate courses in conjunction with the Cook County Graduate School of Medicine in Chicago. The courses were given by instructors of distinction and authority in different topics. The courses would typically include lectures on general surgery, demonstrations of surgical technic and surgical anatomy, and operative clinics at Cook County Hospital. Sessions in surgical pathology and physiology, as well as supervised practice surgery on anesthetized animals, were made available to those who attended.

Several other sections, including Austria, Brazil, France, and Germany, also offered postgraduate courses and, at the House of Delegates meeting in Madrid in May 1952, an International Academic Committee for Postgraduate Courses was established, composed of surgeons from ten different countries. In 1955, at the twentieth Anniversary meeting in Geneva, representatives from 28 different countries made further plans to strengthen and correlate the postgraduate courses offered in Europe and the Middle East under the auspices of ICS.

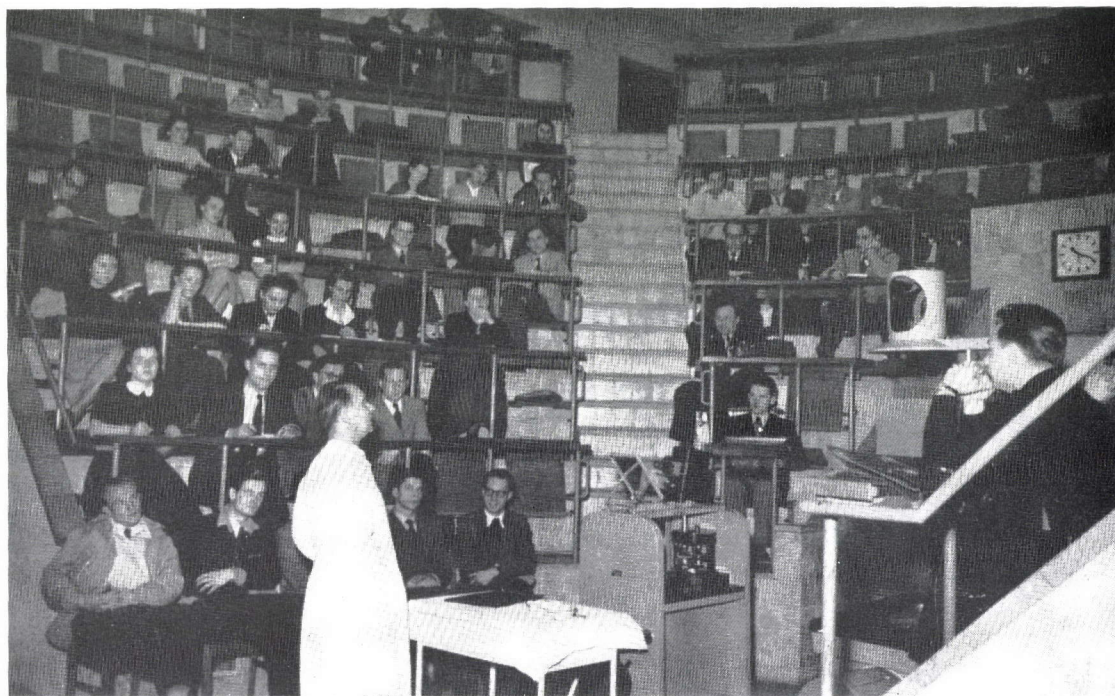
The sixteenth Annual Assembly of the US section, with the Canadian section an equal participant, was held at Palmer House in Chicago, September 10–13, 1951.

Scientific exhibits were arranged by a committee headed by Dr William Carpenter MacCarty Sr, of the Mayo Clinic. Dr Philip Thorek launched a new initiative – the première of the Film Forum. Dr Louis A. Buie of the Mayo Clinic served as



Preassembly postgraduate class, Chicago, 1952.





Session of postgraduate course held at the University Clinic of Hamburg-Eppendorf for applicants for ICS fellowship.



Première of Film Forum, grand ballroom, Palmer House, Chicago during the sixteenth Annual Congress of the US and Canadian sections, 1951.





Convocation ceremony of the sixteenth Annual Congress of the US and Canadian sections, September 1951, Chicago.

moderator. Each speaker exhibited and commented upon his film, after which there was a period for questions and discussion. These presentations were received with great enthusiasm. In light of the great interest in this feature, it was successfully repeated in following years.

Mr A. Lawrence Abel of London, England was the main speaker at the annual banquet, and spoke on "What is happening in Britain – Fact and Fiction".

The ceremonies of Convocation took place in the impressive Chicago Civic Opera House, with admission of close to a thousand members of the College of Surgeons. US Senator of Tennessee, Mr Estes Kefauver spoke on "The America of Tomorrow".

The following year's seventeenth Annual Congress of the US and Canadian sections was again held in Chicago. In addition to the general surgery sessions, there were a great number of sessions in surgical specialties, such as ophthalmology, otolaryngology, plastic surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, urology, orthopedic surgery, and occupational surgery. As already the norm, many speakers from other countries participated.

A special Forum on Antibiotics was attended by a capacity audience. A panel of scientific experts presented the latest developments in this field; in fact progress was being made so fast that surgeons

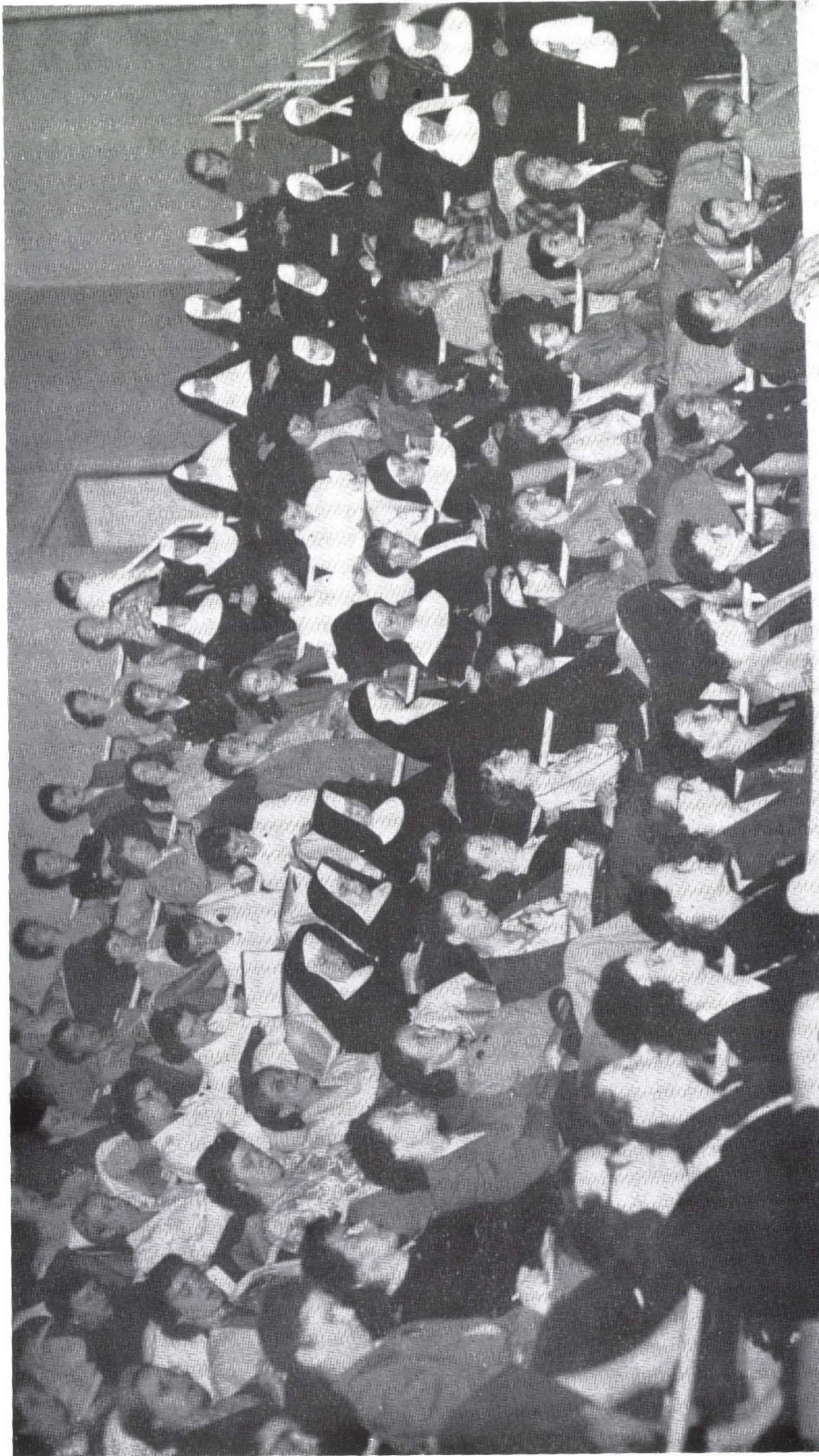
were hard pressed to keep up with the discoveries that they should be familiar with from the standpoint of practical application. The Film Forum, which had been such a success at the previous meeting, was repeated, and the scientific motion picture theater was in continuous operation every day. The film forum would be a popular session for years to come.

For the first time ICS sponsored a series of sessions for operating room nurses in co-operation with the Operating Room Nurses Section of the Illinois State Nurses Association. Close to 300 nurses from 23 states were in attendance. This was repeated the following year, at the US meeting in New York, and the number of nurse attendants more than doubled to over 700.

Dr Carl W. Walter of Boston, Senior Associate in Surgery, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Associate Clinical Professor of Surgery, Harvard University Medical School, and widely known authority on aseptic technique in the operating room, gave a demonstration on "The Design of a Modern Operating Room" in the large surgical amphitheater of the Cook County Hospital before an overflow audience.

During the traditional banquet, which was held in the Conrad Hilton Hotel, Mr Denis John Browne of London, England, spoke about





Operating room nurses packed the large surgical amphitheater for Dr Carl Walter's demonstration of "The design of the modern operating room."





Banquet during the seventeenth Annual Congress of the US and Canadian sections, September 4, 1952.









Seated left to right: Professor Raymond Darget, Bordeaux, France; Dr Max Thorek, Chicago; the Rt Hon. Lord Horder, London, England; Dr Karl A. Meyer, Chicago; Professor Bernhard Zondek, Jerusalem, Israel; Mr Denis John Browne, London, England. Standing left to right: Dr Ulysses G. Dailey, Chicago; Dr M.S. Thakker, Bombay, India; Dr M. Leopold Brodny, Boston; Dr J.M. de los Reyes, Los Angeles; Profesor Tokuji Ichikawa, Tokyo, Japan; Dr Arnold S. Jackson, Madison, Wisconsin; Dr Constant Pierre-Louis, Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

the dangers of mixing politics and medicine. Celebrated for his wit, broad learning and polished delivery, as well as for his skill as a surgeon, Mr Browne enthralled the largest banquet audience in the history of the International College of Surgeons.

### **Woman's Auxiliary**

On September 1, 1952, during the seventeenth annual congress of the US and Canadian sections, the first Board of the newly formed Woman's Auxiliary of the US and Canadian sections was installed. Mrs Walter C. Burket was elected its first President. Mrs Burket stated:

"Our aims are to further the work of the International College of Surgeons, to cultivate a spirit of friendliness, to

assist in the social activities at all meetings of the College, to aid in the furnishing and maintenance of the Home and Library of the College, and to promote surgical education and research."<sup>42</sup>

Wives of surgeons, their mothers, daughters, and sisters were eligible for membership.

Mrs Max Thorek, founder of the Auxiliary, would be Honorary President for life. This was but one of the many contributions that Mrs Max Thorek made to the benefit of the College. Directly and indirectly, but always without fanfare, she firmly supported her husband in his ambitions for the College. Little is written about Mrs Thorek, but thanks to Mrs Burket, we get a little glimpse of her, when, in 1972, 20 years

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<sup>42</sup> *JICS*, 1952, Vol. XVIII, no. 5, p. 781.



after the founding of the Auxiliary, Mrs Burket describes her as follows:

"Mrs. Max Thorek does not know I am writing a brief sketch about her. If she did, she would modestly decline to sanction these words. However, it seems to me that it is high time we heard something about the lovely lady who founded the Woman's Auxiliary of ICS . . . No one can doubt that Fim Thorek changed Max Thorek's life. But those who know her well realize that she has also exerted a profound effect on many lives. By recognizing their latent abilities and expressing her confidence in what they might achieve, she has helped men and women attain the self-awareness which has led to worthy accomplishments.

"Her patrician heritage shows in her delicate face and exquisite hands, but her aristocratic nature is even more apparent in her generosity, her instinctive graciousness, her joie de vivre, her appreciation of all that is beautiful, and her innate discrimination between what is genuine and what is specious. They are all marks of what the English call a 'Lady of quality'.

"Max Thorek tells of playing his violin at musicales held regularly in Fim's elegant home, during her girlhood. The interest in music, which her family nurtured in early life, has remained with her always. She has supported great music all her life. Week after week finds her at concerts.

"Her artistic ability has found expression in more than her beautiful home. She chose the handsome furnishings in the buildings owned by ICS, and has planned the decor in the various rooms with impeccable taste.

"Business ability and artistic talent are not generally combined in the same person, but Fim Thorek is a rare exception to the general rule. She can be credited with finding and advising the purchase of the valuable property owned by ICS. She is also the person who deserves credit for choosing and keeping some of the employees who have given years of loyal service to ICS.

"Her friends literally encircle the globe. She is in constant touch with notable men and women in many lands. Her deep interest in them has led to lasting friendships, which have enriched their lives and hers.

"Those who knew Max and Fim Thorek cannot doubt that he could never have accomplished so much, if she had not been by his side, to aid him in achieving every goal . . ."<sup>43</sup>

<sup>43</sup>*JICS*, 1972, Vol. 57, No. 8, p. 680.



Mrs Max Thorek (Fim).





First business meeting of Woman's Auxiliary, US and Canadian sections, 1953.



At the eighteenth annual congress of the US and Canadian sections in 1953, the first business meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary was held in the Perroquet Suite of the Waldorf-Astoria hotel, followed by a luncheon and fashion show. Some 700 women attended. In their first year the Woman's Auxiliary was able to contribute \$7,000 to scholarships.

### **1950–1960: New national sections**

New national sections were founded in Germany, Spain, France, Israel, Netherlands, Pakistan, El Salvador, Switzerland, Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Korea, China, Paraguay, and Greece.

#### ***Germany***

The German section was established on July 9, 1950. The officers were as follows:

- President: Professor Dr G.E. Konjetzny
- Vice-President: Professor Dr Arthur Hubner
- Secretary: Professor Dr Albert Lezius.

#### ***Spain***

ICS Fellows in Spain started functioning as a section in 1950, under the presidency of Professor Dr Soler Roig, with Professor Alfonso de la Fuente Chaos as their first Secretary. The young section would host a splendid International Congress in 1952.

#### ***France***

The French section was established with Professor Darget of Bordeaux as President. The formation took place during a visit in 1951 of key members of the College to surgeons in Paris. Participants included: Dr Malcolm T. MacEachern, retired Director of the American College of Surgeons; Dr Francisco Graña of Peru; Professor Martin Lagos of Madrid; Antonio Bobbio of Italy; Dr Henry Meyerding of Mayo Clinic, USA; Mr James T. Brailsford, England; Professor George Chapchal, the Netherlands. The young section hosted a pre-Congress meeting in Bordeaux for delegates attending the 1952 International Congress in



Mrs Walter C. Burket, first President, Woman's Auxiliary, US and Canadian sections, 1952.

Madrid. They designed a special insignia for their section.

#### ***Israel***

The Israeli section of ICS was organized at a meeting held in Jerusalem on February 28, 1951. Officers elected were:

- President: Dr Georg Wolfsohn
- Vice-President: Dr Daniel Fritz Peyser
- Secretary: Dr Ernst Lehmann
- Treasurer: Dr Ernest Wodak.

#### ***The Netherlands***

The Netherlands section was organized on October 21, 1951. The following were the elected officers:

- President: Professor Dr G. Chapchal of the University of Utrecht
- Secretary: Dr Jacob Glazenburg
- Treasurer: Dr von Gulick.





Professor Dr Georg E. Konjetzny – first President, German section.



First officers, Israel section. Standing: Dr Daniel F. Peyser, Vice-President (left); Dr Ernst Lehmann, Secretary; Seated: Dr Ernest Wodak, Treasurer (left); Dr Georg Wolfsohn, President.



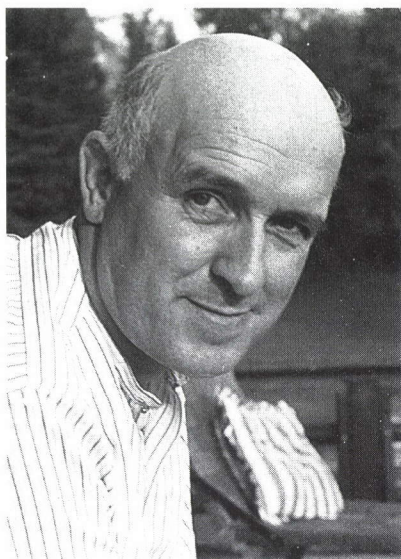
Professor Raymond Darget – first President, French section.



Dr George Chapchal – first President, the Netherlands section.



Officers and members of the El Salvador section. Left to right: Dr Dimas Junes Hartmann, assistant Secretary; Dr Narciso Draz-Buzan, Treasurer; Dr Jose Gonzalez-Guerrero; Dr Fernando Alvarado, Secretary; Dr Humberto Escapini, President; Dr Salvador Batista-Mena; Dr Victo M. Gonzales-Suvillage; and Dr Romulo Conlindres.



Professor André Nicolet – first President, Swiss section.

It received its charter at the May 1952 International Assembly at Madrid, Spain. The young section set to work immediately, organizing scientific and social events to host a delegation which came to the Netherlands following the International Assembly in Madrid. In 1953 they held a joint meeting with the French Section at the Royal Tropical Institute of Amsterdam, which attracted surgeons from Italy, Britain, and the USA.

#### ***Pakistan***

The Pakistan section was organized on January 19, 1952, and received its charter at the May 1952 International Assembly at Madrid, Spain. The officers elected were:

- Chairman: Lieutenant Colonel Aziz K.M. Khan
- Recording Secretary: Dr A.U. Kahn
- Secretary General: Dr Muhammad S. Qureshi.

#### ***El Salvador***

The El Salvador Section was welcomed into the family of ICS on November 21, 1953 when the International Board of Trustees approved the

granting of a charter to the section. Its first officers were:

- President: Dr Humberto Escapini
- Vice-President: Dr Mariano Samayoa
- Secretary: Dr Fernando Alvarado
- Assistant Secretary: Dr Dimas Funes-Hartmann
- Treasurer: Dr Narciso Diaz-Bazan
- Assistant Treasurer: Dr Antonio Pineda.

#### ***Switzerland***

The Swiss section was established on December 12, 1954, with the following officers:

- President: Dr André Nicolet
- Vice-President: Dr J.H. Oltramare
- Treasurer: Dr P. Martin
- Secretary: Professor Dr A. Jentzer.

Its first scientific session took place in Bern in June 1955. The meeting drew more than 100 Swiss surgeons. Professor Dr Leopold Schonbauer of Vienna and Professors Lucien Leger and Gaston Diekmann of Paris participated in the scientific work of the meeting. Surgical demonstrations were held at Tiefenau Hospital.

#### ***Japan***

The inaugural meeting of the Japanese Section of the College was held in Osaka in November 1954. The officers elected were:

- President: Dr H. Shioda
- Vice-President: Dr H. Iwanaga
- Secretary General: Professor Dr Komei Nakayama
- Administrative Committee: Professor Dr Komei Nakayama, Professor Dr Sakakibara, and Professor Dr Yanagi.

#### ***Hong Kong***

The Hong Kong Section of the College was established in October 1955, with Dr John Gray as the new section's Chairman.





Dr Hiroshige Shiota – first President, Japanese section.



Dr Nitya P. Vejjavisit – first President, Thailand section.

### ***Thailand***

On November 7, 1954, the inauguration of the Thailand section took place in Bangkok. Dr Max Thorek personally presented the charter of the Thailand section to Dr Nitya Pauvedya Vejjavisit, the new President and Director General of the Department of Medical Service of the Ministry of Public Health. The Minister of Health of Thailand, Lieutenant General P. Pamon Montis, gave the inaugural address.

### ***China***

ICS had a foothold in China since the organization of the Chinese section in Chungking in 1944. The Communist revolt on the mainland automatically dissolved the original group, many of whom went to Formosa (currently Taiwan). On March 28, 1955, Dr J. Heng Liu, one of the early members of the College and a member of the International Board of Trustees, headed a group of 15 eminent Chinese surgeons in a reorganization of the Chinese section. The following were elected:

- President: Dr Hsien-lin Chang, Professor of Surgery of the National Defense Medical Center

- Vice-President: Dr Tien-chen Kao
- Secretary–Treasurer: Dr S.K. Wang.

### ***Paraguay***

The Paraguay section of ICS came on board in July 1955. The following were elected:

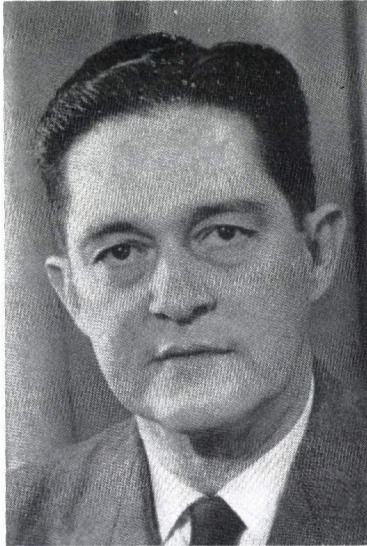
- President: Dr Juan S. Netto
- Vice-Presidents: Drs Manuel Riveros and Quirno Codas Thompson
- Secretary: Dr Pierpont Insfran
- Treasurer: Dr Rodolfo Monges.

### ***Greece***

An ICS Section was founded in Greece in 1955. The officers were:

- President: Profesor Nicholas Louros
- Vice-President: Dr J. Aramis
- Treasurer: Dr T. Perras
- General Secretary: Dr N. Christeas
- Other members of the Board of Directors: Drs C. Alivizatos, Theodore Demetriadis, and Z. Kairis.





Dr Juan Netto – first President, Paraguay section.

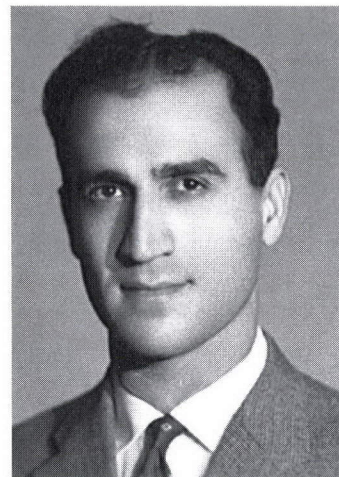


Professor Nicholas Louros – first President, Greek section.

### ***Iran***

The first National Congress of the Iran section of the College convened at the University of Teheran on April 21–24, 1956. It was Iran's first surgical congress in modern times. Members of the university staff presided over each session of the four-day meeting. Surgical films were shown daily. Officers of the section were:

- President: Dr Y. Adle
- President-Elect: Dr M.A. Sadr
- Vice-Presidents: General Director M. Zarrabi, Dr M. Pezechcan, and Dr G.H. Mossadegh
- Secretary: Dr Ezatollah Hazrati
- Treasurer: Dr N. Ameli.



Dr Ezatollah Hazrati – first Secretary, Iran section.

### ***Belgium***

Belgian surgeons met in Brussels on April 30, 1955 and organized a section of the College. A temporary council was selected and charged with securing government permission to organize and adopt a constitution and bylaws. This was secured a year later. In April 1957 the Section held its first scientific meeting in Liège, and the following year

it hosted the First European Federation Congress in Brussels. The officers were:

- President: Dr Leopold Lambert
- Vice-President: Dr Georges Van Keerbergen
- Secretary: Dr F.A. Sondervorst.





Left to right: Dr Georges Van Keerbergen, Vice-President, Belgian section; Dr J.H. Oltramare, first European federation Secretary; Dr Leopold Lambert, first President, Belgian section.

### ***Korea***

The Korean section was chartered in 1957, its first officers being from Seoul. Those elected were:

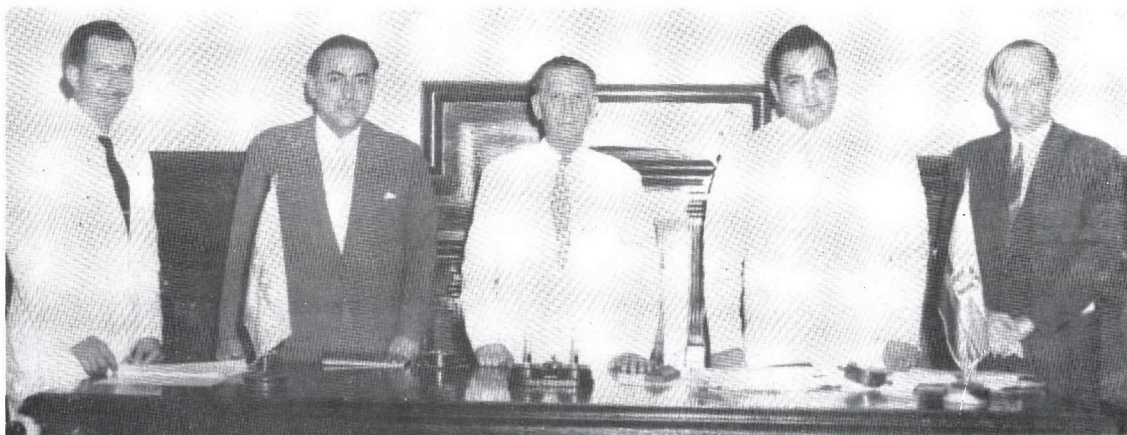
- President: Dr Koo Choong Chung
- Vice-President: Dr Byong Ho Chin
- Secretary: Dr Chu Kul Le
- Treasurer: Dr Don Sang Mok.

### ***Ecuador***

Dr José Ramírez Dueñas, of Guayaquil, Ecuador, a

Fellow of the College since 1952, together with Dr Eduardo Ortega Moreira, FICS (1954), organized a section of the College in Ecuador on October 28, 1958. A charter was issued by the International Executive Council on December 6, 1958. The officers were:

- President: Dr Teodoro Maldonado Carbo
- President-Elect: Dr Eduardo Ortega Moreira, Governor of the Province of Guayaquil



Officers of the Ecuador section. Left to right: Dr Gabriel Panchana C., Secretary; Dr Eduardo Ortega M., President-Elect; Dr Teodoro Maldonado C., President; Dr Jose Ramirez Dueñas, Vice-President; and Dr Francisco Rizzo V., Treasurer.



- Vice-President: Dr José Ramirez Dueña
- Treasurer: Dr Francisco Rizzo Velasco
- Secretary: Dr Gabriel Panchana Cucalon.

A formal inaugural assembly was held in Guayaquil, September 30 to October 4, 1959, with the participation of the deans of the Universities of Quito, Cuenca, and Guayaquil, the mayors of Guayaquil and Quito, and distinguished surgeons from the USA, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, and Cuba.

#### **1956: Professor Carlos Gama (Brazil) – ICS President**

At the meeting of the House of Delegates on September 9, 1956, at Chicago, Professor Dr Carlos Gama of Brazil assumed the presidency of the International College of Surgeons.

#### **1956: Masters in Surgery – Professor Rudolph Nissen and Professor Felix Mandl**

At the Convocation, held at the Chicago Civic Opera House, the highest distinction of the College, the degree of Master in Surgery, was conferred upon Professor Dr Rudolph Nissen of Switzerland and Professor Dr Felix Mandl of Austria, in recognition of their outstanding surgical accomplishments benefitting humanity. Since 1945 the honor had been bestowed on only five other surgeons: Dr William W. Babcock (USA), Dr Hans Finsterer (Austria), Dr Albert Berg (USA), Dr Arnold Jirasek (Czechoslovakia), and Dr G.E. Konjetzny (Germany).

Professor Nissen made surgical history by performing the first successful pneumonectomy. Dr Thorek said about him:

“Prof. Nissen possesses not only the skill, experience and knowledge, but even some intangible sixth sense to cope successfully with some of the most formidable problems that can arise in the surgical management of diseased lungs, a field in which he can hardly be surpassed. Surgeons from all parts of the civilized world travel to



Professor Carlos Gama (Brazil) – tenth ICS President, 1956. Professor Gama was head of the Department of Neurosurgery of Santa Casa de São Paulo, and Professor of Neurology at the University of Bahia. In addition, he held the position of Secretary of Health and Social Assistance of the State of São Paulo. Professor Gama was a founder fellow of the Paulista Association of Medicine and organizer of its neuropsychiatric section. His numerous honors and awards include honorary fellowship of the Academic Society of Medicine in Recife, and of the Medical Association of the Penido Burnier Institute of Campinas.

Switzerland for the privilege of observing Prof. Nissen at his work and of exchanging views with him . . .”<sup>44</sup>

Professor Mandl was the first surgeon to use paravertebral injection in the management of angina pectoris, the first to have extirpated a parathyroid tumor in the treatment of generalized osteitis fibrosa, the first to observe and report the regeneration of semilunar cartilage after extirpation, and the first to devise various methods for restoring and maintaining continence after rectal operations for the eradication

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<sup>44</sup> *JICS*, 1956, Vol. XXVI, No. 4, p. 21.





Master surgeon Professor Dr Rudolph Nissen (Switzerland).

of malignant disease. Instead of following the accepted procedure for alleviating intractable pain by means of lobotomy, he devised a technic for infiltrating the frontal lobe with successful results. Professor Mandl's ingenuity in the face of seemingly insurmountable surgical problems is rare.<sup>45</sup>

#### **1956: Report on section development**

Delegates from approximately 25 national sections were present at the House of Delegates Meeting, September 9, 1956, and gave progress reports on the development of their sections.

##### ***Brazil***

Brazil, with 1200 members, ranked second in size among the national sections of the College, after the USA. It had created 31 regional divisions throughout the country, which all held regular scientific meetings. A representative from each of these divisions was in attendance as observers at the 1956 House of Delegates meeting. A year later, October 5, 1957, the section took over the



Master surgeon Professor Dr Felix Mandl (Austria).

entire fifteenth floor of a handsome new building at the Rua Amaral Gurgel 429.

##### ***Mexico***

Mexico, the second section established in the College, was preparing in this year for the tenth International Scientific Congress of the College to be held in February 1957 in Mexico City, at the invitation of the Federal Government of Mexico.

##### ***Argentina***

The Argentina section regularly published a quarterly journal of abstracts, covering the work done by prominent Argentine surgeons. It was carrying out, with the Brazilian section, an exchange training program for scholarship recipients.

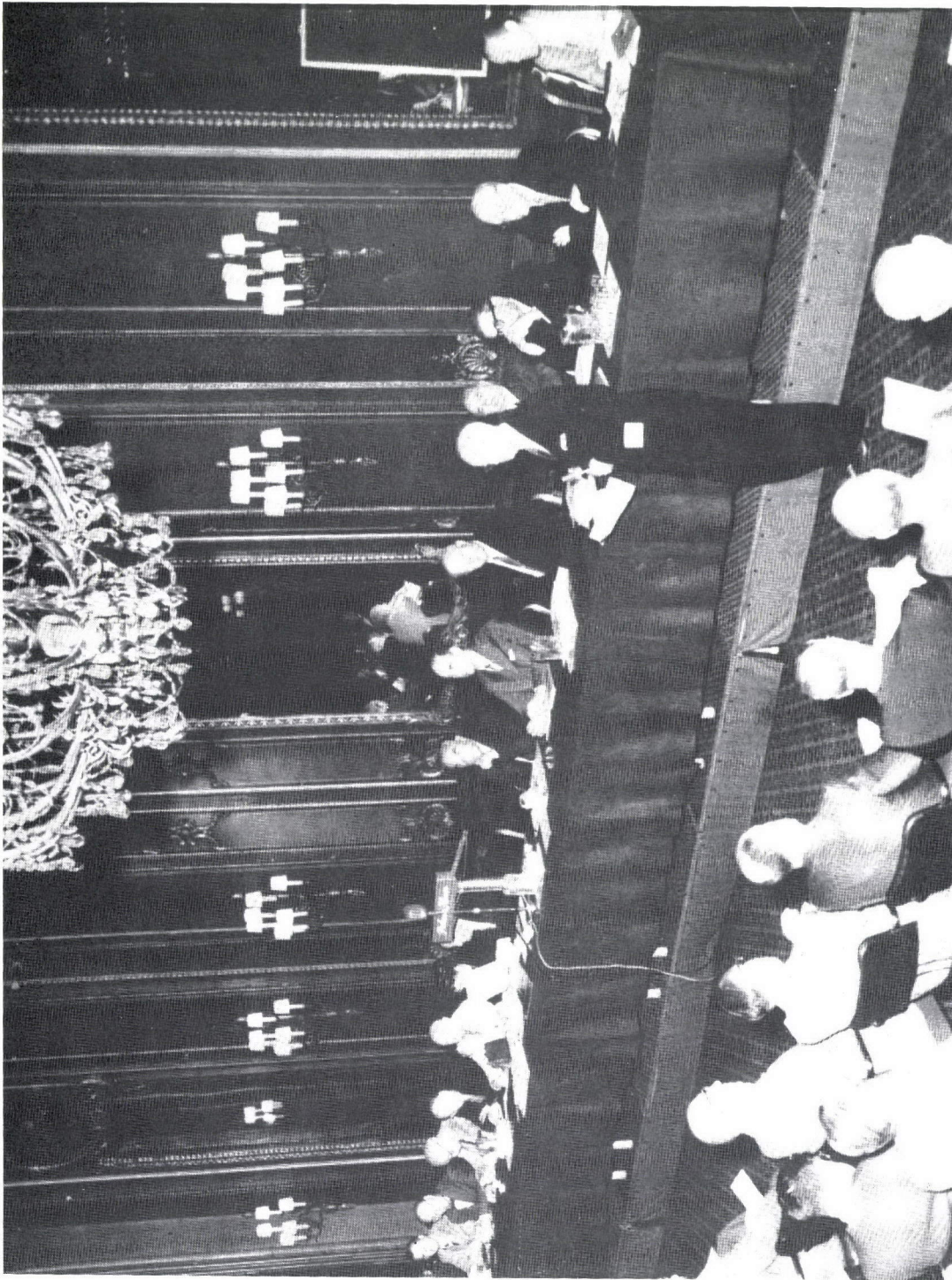
##### ***Other Latin American sections***

The sections in *Peru*, *Costa Rica*, and *El Salvador* held regular scientific and business meetings. A section was just recently established in *Paraguay*.

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<sup>45</sup> *JICS*, 1956, Vol. XXVI, No. 4, p. 21.





Dr Horace Turner, Executive Director, addressing the meeting of the International House of Delegates at Chicago, Illinois, September 1956. Left to right: Colonel K.G. Pandalai (India), Professor Dr Jorge Taiana (Argentina), Professor Dr Raymond Darget (France), Dr Raymond McNealy (USA), Dr Lyon H. Appleby (Canada), Dr Ross T. McIntire (USA), Mrs Veronica Haupers, secretary (USA), Dr Max Thorek (USA), Professor Dr Rudolph Nissen (Switzerland), Professor Dr Carlos Gama (Brazil), Dr Henry W. Meyerding (USA), Professor Dr Felix Mandl (Israel), Professor Dr Manuel Manzanilla (Mexico), Dr Clement L. Martin (USA), and Dr George Chapchal (the Netherlands).





Presentation of the Orden del Merito de Duarte, Sanchez y Mella, to Dr Max Brodny (far right) and Dr Gershom Thompson (second from right), presented by His Excellency Porfirio Neauna Baez, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Santo Domingo.

### ***Europe***

In Europe, the *Italian* section had increased its membership to approximately 300. The German-speaking sections were preparing to arrange for a joint meeting of the *German, Swiss, Dutch, and Austrian* sections to be held in Vienna. The Austrian section was particularly noted for the high scientific caliber of its meetings and its postgraduate courses. The German section, with 80 members, had a gynecologic division and a division of urology, both of which were very active, and had joined with the Dutch section in two fruitful scientific events in Munich and Amsterdam, and with the Greek section in Athens. The meetings of the *French* section drew participants from every region of France, neighboring countries, and speakers from overseas. Through the courtesy of Dr Pierre Jean Viala, a reception center, which offers hospitality to Fellows of the College, was inaugurated at the Clinique de l'Alma in Paris in early 1959. Visitors were welcomed to gather and relax at the center where they could make use of a magazine library, and secretarial and information service.

The sections of *Finland, Great Britain, Israel, and Turkey* reported high caliber scientific meetings. The *Swiss, Belgian, Iranian, and Greek* sections had recently been established, and were developing their activities at a rapid pace.

### ***Canada***

The Canadian section had grown from a charter membership of 110 in 1950 to 305 by 1956. Its scientific meetings were held in cooperation with the US section. The Canadian members of the Woman's Auxiliary joined efforts with their US counterparts in managing hospitality services at the meetings.

### ***Haiti***

The Haitian section took an active part in sponsoring the successful third medical Congress of the French-speaking Caribbean countries, held in Port-au-Prince in 1956, during which it organized three scientific sessions devoted to surgery.



### Asia

The *China* section had recently rekindled its activities. It had reorganized to form the *China-Formosa* section in 1955, when most of its members had left mainland China after the communist take-over, and moved to Formosa (presently Taiwan). The *Philippine* section held two meetings in conjunction with the meetings of the Philippine College of Surgeons. ICS Executive Director Dr Ross McIntire attended the meeting in 1955 and was impressed with the quality of the scientific program which included surgical demonstrations at several hospitals and the showing of surgical films. The membership of the *Japan* section was composed of professors and instructors of surgery from 15 medical schools and the presidents of 15 hospitals. The *Hong Kong* section was recently established.

The *Indian* section numbered 120 members at this time. Some of their scientific meetings were held in conjunction with the meetings of the Association of Surgeons of India. The *Pakistan* section marked its fifth anniversary in 1956. The young *Thai* section, with a membership of 50, held annual and mid-year meetings.

### 1956: Postgraduate program in the Dominican Republic

An ambitious program of postgraduate instruction for surgeons of the Dominican Republic, provided by ICS members, went into effect on August 20, 1956. The courses covered a 12-week period with the weeks of study staggered in such a way that it took approximately six months to complete the entire course. The program included courses in general surgery and in all the surgical specialties. The subject scheduled for the first week was thoracic surgery; instructors were Dr Samuel Alcott Thompson and Dr Victor C. DeLuccia, both of New York City. In addition to the lectures, demonstrations were given of lobectomy necessitated by tuberculosis or malignant disease of the lungs, and operations on patients with mitral stenosis. More than 300 doctors attended the opening session. None of the

surgical theaters was large enough to accommodate all of the surgeons who wanted to observe the operations. The visiting surgeons contributed their time to the project at no charge, and the Dominican Government allotted funds to pay their expenses. Other surgeons who gave their time and expertise to the program during the six-month program were Drs Gershom J. Thompson, M. Leopold Brodny (urology), Maxwell Maltz, Stanleigh Tausand (plastic surgery), Horace Ayers, Gilbert Douglas, John Mussio, Richard Gorbea (obstetrics and gynecology), James W. Watts, Harold C. Voris (neurologic surgery), Edward Compere, Anthony F. DePalma (orthopedics), Alexander Brunschwig, William W. Daniel (oncology), Raymond McNealy (general surgery), and Arnold Jackson (goiter surgery). All were honored by receiving the highest honor the Dominican Republic can bestow on citizens of other countries. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Porfirio Neauna Baez, presented the Order of Merit of Duarte, Sanchez y Mella in the grade of Commander to each of them.

### 1956: Soviet invasion of Hungary

The Soviet invasion of Hungary in 1956 sent a shockwave through the world; the College was kept informed about the situation via its members in neighboring Austria which was inundated and overwhelmed by refugees. On behalf of the College, Dr Thorek sent \$1,000 particularly to aid refugee doctors. Professors Schonbauer, Mandl, and Kline divided the money among 40 Hungarian refugee doctors.

The Colombian Section also sent \$1,000 to the Comité Pro-Hungria. Dr Antonio Ordoñez Plaja, Secretary of the section, wrote:

"We count it the greatest satisfaction to express in this form our sympathy and admiration for the people of Hungary in their courageous stand against oppression."<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> *JICS*, 1957, Vol. XXVII, No. 3, pp. 39-40.



The Swiss Section, inspired by Dr André Nicolet, had a relief team ready to leave Switzerland within 24 hours of the announcement of the fighting in Hungary. A bus had been made available to them without charge, and they had gathered a convoy of twenty trucks, loaded with medicaments and food supplies. Although they were working hand in hand with the International Red Cross, the team of surgeons was barred from legal entry into Hungary, but the medicaments and food supplies passed into Hungary through the recognized channels of the Red Cross organization.

It is interesting to note that a new phrase was added to the cover page of the College's Journal *International Surgery*, which might have been inspired by the political mood at the time. Starting with the September 1957 issue the Journal cover included the phrase: "*Instrument of*

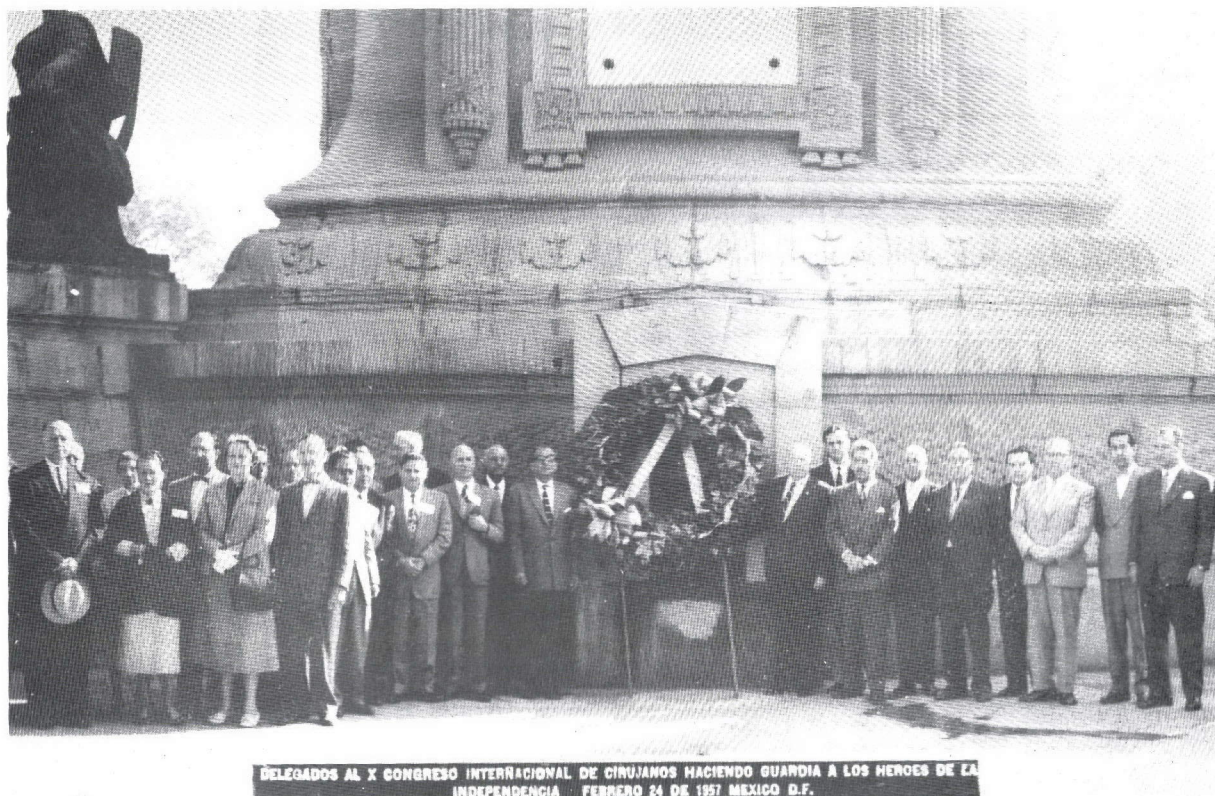
*the Free World*"; it would carry this phrase until March 1958, after which it no longer appeared.

### **1957: Biennial Congress, Mexico**

In 1957 the tenth International Congress was organized under the leadership of Professor Dr Manuel A. Manzanilla, and was held at the National University of Mexico, world famous for its splendid architecture, mosaics and murals.

As the first day of the Congress, February 24, was Mexico's Independence Day, the visiting surgeons, accompanied by a full Guard of Honor, proceeded to the Columna de la Independencia on the Paseo de la Reforma, to lay a wreath on the national monument to Mexico's heroes and independence.

The meeting was well attended by surgeons from many countries in Latin America, Europe,



ICS delegation placing wreath at monument to the heroes of independence, Mexico City, tenth International Congress, February 1957.



and a large delegation from the USA. All specialties were represented in the scientific program which included many outstanding presentations with up-to-the-minute content. A warm spirit of welcome and graciousness was abundantly evident throughout the many delightful social events that were arranged.

### **1957: Formation of Federations**

It was soon recognized that the rapid growth of the College required some organizational changes. To integrate all the existing and newly established national sections appropriately into the programs and activities of the College, the national sections were grouped into federations, and the International College of Surgeons was launched as a "World Federation of Surgeons and Surgical Specialists, Inc." The innovation was officially accepted and approved at a special meeting held in Reims, France, May 24, 1957.

The following federations were established: European, Asian, North American, and Central and South American.

Austria, Belgium, the British Commonwealth, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, and Turkey belonged to the European Federation, with Professor Dr John Henry Oltramare as its President.

The North American Federation was comprised of the USA and Canada, with Dr Curtice Rosser as its President.

Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti, Mexico, and Nicaragua formed the Central and South American Federation, with Professor Jorge A. Taiana of Argentina as its President.

China, Hong Kong, India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Thailand were in the Asiatic Federation, with Professor Komei Nakayama of Japan as its President.

Each federation was to develop meetings to supplement the biennial congresses and the yearly sessions of the national sections. This would assure a broader presentation of scientific

programs by world leaders in all branches of surgery.

### **1957: Dr Max Thorek, Commander of the Legion of Honor of France, and Commander of the Order of Merit of Italy**

On October 9, 1957, at Paris, France, ICS Founder, Dr Max Thorek, was honored with the degree of Commander of the Legion of Honor. In the presence of 250 members of the French section and their guests, the honor was presented to Dr Thorek by Dr Bernard Lafay, former Minister of Health, Deputy of Paris, Member of the Academy of Medicine, assisted by Professor Pierre Donzelot and Dr Raymond Debenedetti, Surgeon General of the Army of the Republic of France. Dr Lafay gave a moving address:

"... Dr. Thorek, you once wrote, 'Service of science is service for truth'. It is because of men like you that, despite all that might tear it to pieces, mankind continues its immemorial march towards Truth and Light . . . Let us congratulate you on the glory that is yours today, for it is good, it is just, that it should be thus . . ." <sup>47</sup>



Dr Lafay saluting Dr Max Thorek while General Debenedetti adjusts the "cravate" bearing the insignia of Commander of the French Legion of Honor.

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<sup>47</sup> *JICS*, 1957, Vol. XXVIII, No. 4, p. 14.



A year later, on September 10, 1958, Dr Thorek received another splendid honor – the republic of Italy conferred on him its highest honor by naming him a Commander of the Order of Merit. Dr Giacomo Profili, Consul General of Italy, read the citation of honor and presented to Dr Thorek the appropriate insignia of the order at a colorful ceremony held at the International Surgeons' Hall of Fame. Dr Profili said, among other things:

"... you enter the honored ranks of the Commanders of Italy's highest order for three reasons, each one of which could bear being singularly rewarded: the skill of your hands, the keenness of your brain and the generosity and unselfishness of your heart. . ." <sup>48</sup>

### **1958: Biennial Congress, Los Angeles**

The eleventh Biennial International Congress of ICS took place in Los Angeles, California, March 9–14, 1958, in conjunction with the North American Federation Congress (Canada, Mexico, US sections). Four thousand surgeons and guests from all parts of the world gathered for the five-day congress.

### **1958: Presentation of ICS Mace by Canadian Section**

During this congress, at the meeting of the House of Delegates, March 13, 1958, the Canadian section presented a magnificent mace as a gift to the International College of Surgeons. It showed four finely sculptured hands – a surgeon's hands being the model – cupped and holding a terrestrial globe. Banding the globe at the equator were the words: **Le Collège International de Chirugiens fondé à Genève par le Dr Max Thorek 1935**. The wristband bore the inscription: **Pro Omni Humanitate**. The first ring stated: **La Science n'a pas de Patrie**, and the second: **Presented by the Canadian section of the College 1958**. The design had been suggested by Dr Thorek. It had been



Dr Max Thorek (right) receiving insignia of Commander of the Order of Merit of the republic of Italy from Dr Profili. Dr Francis Lederer (middle) looks on.

sketched by Mr H. Norman Gallie, and executed in Montréal under the supervision of Dr Eugene F. Balangero.

Dr E.N.C. McAmmond, secretary of the Canadian section, spoke on their behalf:

"... A mace originally was a weapon of warfare and later a ceremonial implement. The first record we have of the mace is when it was carried by Philip V of France and Richard I of England . . . We look forward to the day when nations will turn their weapons into ploughshares and ferocity will become friendship, when democracy will triumph over tyranny and passion become peace. I am proud to have our president-elect present this symbol of peace to you." <sup>49</sup>

Following his words, Dr George Strean placed the mace in the hands of ICS President Professor Carlos Gama.

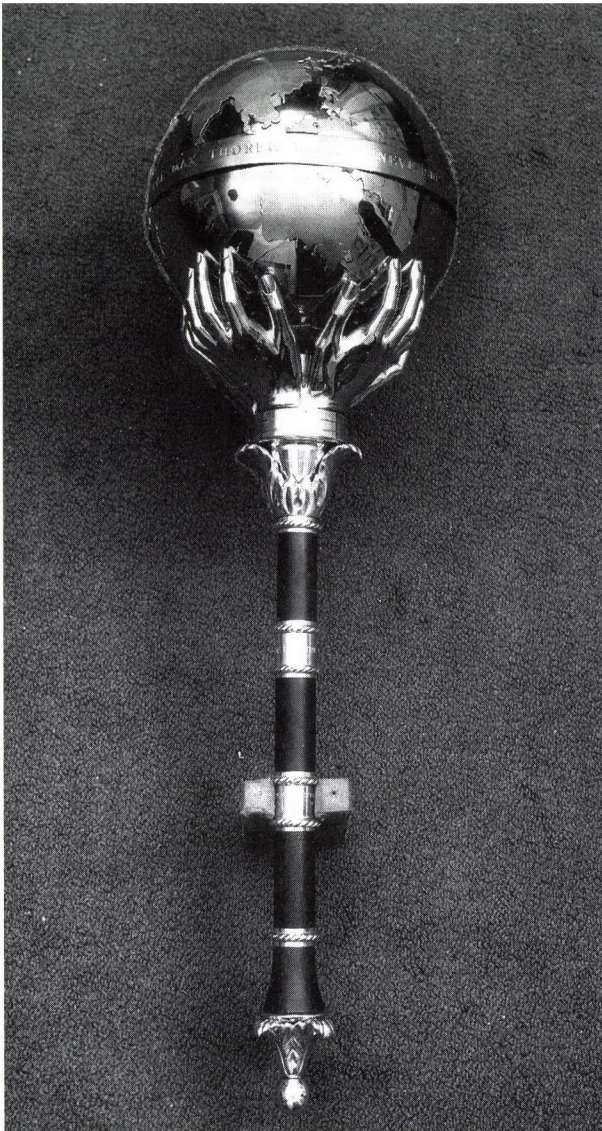
### **1958: Dr Henry W. Meyerding (USA) – ICS President**

On September 19, 1958, Dr Henry W. Meyerding (US) became the eleventh President of the

<sup>48</sup> *JICS*, 1958, Vol. 30, No. 3, p. 14.

<sup>49</sup> *JICS*, 1958, Vol. 29, No. 5, p. 11.





Mace, presented to ICS by the Canadian section, March 13, 1958.

International College of Surgeons, at a festive celebration at the College headquarters.

**1958: Death of ICS President-Elect, Professor Raffaele Paolucci, Italy**

The festive air at Dr Meyerding's assumption of the presidency was tempered by the grief felt over the sudden death, 14 days earlier, of ICS President-Elect, Professor Raffaele Paolucci of Italy. Professor Paolucci had been an influential and enthusiastic supporter of the College since its



Dr Henry W. Meyerding (USA) – eleventh ICS President, 1958. Dr Meyerding received the degree of master of science in orthopedic surgery in 1918, the first to be given by the Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research, Graduate School, University of Minnesota. He earned wide recognition with the permanent exhibit on bone tumors which he prepared for the Wellcome Museum of Science in London, England, in 1923. He was one of the founders of the International Society of Orthopedic Surgery and Traumatology at Paris, France, in 1929. He was instrumental in organizing the American Board of Orthopaedic Surgery in 1935, and was one of the first surgeons to become its diplomate. He was Professor at the University of Minnesota from 1937 to 1949, and on his retirement became Professor Emeritus.

earliest days, serving as a Vice-President in the 1940s, the organizer of the 1948 sixth Biennial Congress in Rome, and, at the time of his death, stood poised to preside over the twelfth biennial congress to be held in 1960 in Rome.

The vacant position of ICS President-Elect so created was filled by another great Italian surgeon, Professor Mario Dogliotti.





Death of Professor Raffaele Paolucci (Italy), ICS President-Elect, 1958. The international surgical community mourned a revered master surgeon and teacher at Professor Paolucci's death. In 1938, when he was appointed Director of the School of Surgery at the University of Rome, he was the first man in Italy to perform pulmonary exeresis, and the first man in Europe to operate successfully for esophageal atresia with esophagotracheal fistula. His work was remarkable for meticulous accuracy, complete avoidance of operative tissue trauma, and exceptionally rapid execution. As a young man in the First World War, Paolucci became a national hero when he and the naval engineer, Raffaele Rossetti, invented and attached a timebomb to the hull of the Austrian flagship, sinking it. In 1953 he was chosen senator in Italy's government and served in several other political positions as well.

### **1955–1960: Further development of ICS Museum of Surgical Science**

In the meantime, it was clear that the project to establish an international museum of surgical science had captured the imagination of Fellows around the world. The enthusiasm with which the various national sections took it upon themselves to provide exhibits to the Museum was impressive. Shipment upon shipment of artifacts, paintings, sculptures, and books arrived from all parts of the world, several of them funded by the respective governments – the sections of Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Austria, and Italy, among others.

The Museum started to take shape: There were murals depicting early surgical methods used in Colombia. A life-sized painting of Don Hipolito Unanue, founder of the Medical School of Lima, painted by Cuenca Munos, was a gift from the National University of San Marcos at Lima. Austria sent an impressive canvas, entitled "Professorencollegium of the School of Medicine, University of Vienna, at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century". The painting portrayed 38 surgical luminaries of that period and was painted by N. Pistorius, an eminent Viennese artist. Other contributions from Austria consisted of portraits of Albert, Billroth, Hochenegg, and von Eiselsberg by the same artist. A bas-relief of Maimonides and a framed copy of Maimonides' Prayers arrived from Israel. The Italian section contributed ancient surgical instruments, statues, paintings, and books, all funded by the Italian government. The Dutch section contributed an exhibit of the surgical history of the Netherlands between 1300 and 1900, a replica of van Leeuwenhoek's original microscope, old books, and a splendid reproduction of Rembrandt's painting "The Anatomy Lesson of Professor Tulp", donated by Dr Jacob Glazenburg. A portrait of the great Edward Jenner of England, painted in 1801 by famous English painter John Russel, was presented to the Museum by Dr and Mrs Walter F. Charteris. Dr Lyon H. Appleby gave two bistouries which Dr Jenner had used as scarification knives. The Japanese section sent five original paintings depicting the development of surgery in Japan, a gift of the Japanese government. Dr Max Thorek donated to the Museum the medical and surgical historical manuscripts in his collection, which included letters and documents of Edward Jenner, Florence Nightingale, Thomas Guy, Laennec, Langenback, Bergmann, Billroth, Malpighi, Rush, Wistar, and others. Dr Joseph F. Montague of New York City gave his extensive proctologic library and collection of old and modern rectal instruments to the Museum. Murals presenting a panorama of Spanish surgery, painted by F. Escriva, were contributed by the Spanish section. The French exhibit included



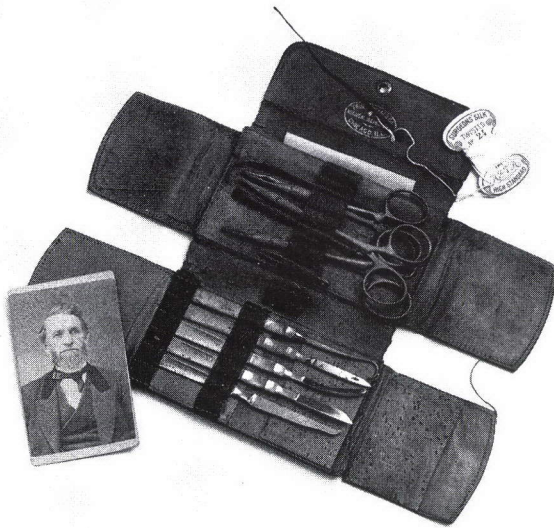


Mural of the first successful cesarean section in Latin America, performed by Dr Jose Ignacio Quevedo in 1844, in Medellin, Colombia.



From Peru, three trepanned skulls from 2000 BC.





Physician's pocket instrument kit from 1874 (USA).

models of horse-drawn ambulances and mobile hospitals used during the Napoleonic wars and bullet-riddled skulls found at Waterloo.

With the coming together of the collection, and, through the displays, depiction of the story of the development of surgery worldwide, excitement about the history of surgery grew and blossomed into yet another initiative – the establishment of a School of the History of Surgery and Related Sciences. On October 23, 1956, Dr Leo M. Zimmerman, Professor of Surgery and Chairman of the Department of Surgery of the Chicago Medical School, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Society of Medical History of Chicago, inaugurated a lecture program on the history of surgery, which would continue for many years. He presented the program's first lecture, entitled "The beginning of surgery and The Edwin Smith Papyrus". The lecture was appropriately given in the Hall of the Immortals, with its lifesized statues of the world's surgical giants; more than 150 people were in attendance.

The following month Dr Ilze Veith, Professor of the History of Medicine, University of Chicago spoke on "Surgeons and the Rise of Anatomy". The third program was presented by Dr Lloyd G. Stevenson, Professor of the History of Medicine,



Cupping instruments used in blood letting.

McGill University, who talked about "British Anatomists and Surgeons". Dr Morris Fishbein, Professor of Medicine, University of Illinois College of Medicine, whose lecture was entitled "Barber Surgeons and the Liberation of Surgery", gave the fourth lecture. Numerous other outstanding speakers would add to the story of the history of surgery through this lecture program in the years that followed.

A social hour was customarily part of the lectures, and the audience was treated to sumptuous refreshments prepared by Mrs Helen Isherwood. Frank and Helen Isherwood served the College in many capacities for 40 years, from 1947 on. They safeguarded the property, watching over it from their apartment located behind the buildings. Their pride in the two mansions was manifest in their devoted care in helping to maintain them; their loyalty to Dr and Mrs Max Thorek and to other College leaders was greatly appreciated.





Mrs Isherwood prepared delicious dinners, luncheons, and refreshments at College functions. Left to right: Dr Leopold Brodny, curator of the Museum in the 1970s; Mr Frank Isherwood; Mrs Helen Isherwood; Dr Herbert Pollack, Curator of the Museum in the 1960s.

The Hall of Fame again became a center of celebration when it commemorated, on September 10, 1957, the 300th anniversary of the death of William Harvey, who discovered the circulation of the blood. Speakers from Japan, Austria, Peru, and the USA paid tribute to the great scientist, whose discovery, applied all over the earth, is a symbol of science that transcends national boundaries and belongs to the world.

Dr William M. Crawford, of Texas, a personal emissary of the Harvey Society of London, accompanied by Mr Robert White Mason, Consul General of Great Britain, placed a floral heart at the foot of the statue of Harvey. The arterial blood of the heart was symbolized by red flowers, the venous by blue. A second wreath, from the International College of Surgeons, expressed the homage of the world of surgery.

A cable had come from Mr A. Dickson Wright, MS, Fellow and President of the Royal College of Surgeons, President of the Harvey Society, which read:

"Harvey Society of London deeply sensible of fine tribute you pay our hero stop May his motu cordis become for you

a motu spiritus as it has for us stop Abundant proof exists that Harvey was at heart a surgeon." <sup>50</sup>

A month later, in London, Dr Thorek presented a check in the amount of US\$1,000 to Mr Dickson Wright, as a contribution of the



Dr Max Thorek presenting to Mr Dickson Wright a contribution from the ICS toward the restoration of William Harvey's burial place.

<sup>50</sup> *JICS*, 1957, Vol. XXVIII, No.3, p 9.



International College of Surgeons toward the restoration of Harvey's burial place.

Visitors from the USA and abroad began to find their way to the Museum – medical professionals and lay people alike. The Museum was honored by a visit from Chicago mayor Richard J. Daley, who was given a guided tour by Dr Max Thorek.

On September 12, 1959, the moment had come for the formal dedication of the Museum, and in particular the French, Dutch, Mexican, and Spanish exhibits, which at that time were complete. Consuls of the respective countries were in attendance, as well as national and international ICS officers.

**December 8, 1959: Death of Executive Director,  
Dr Ross McIntire**

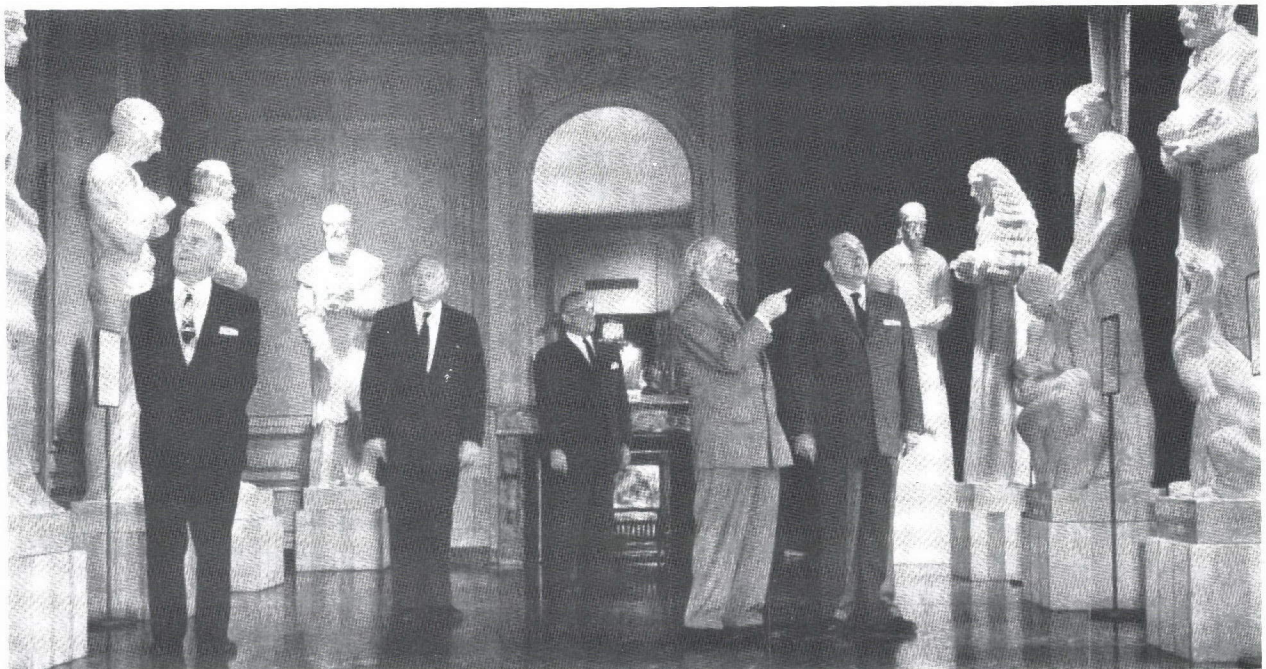
**January 23, 1960: Death of ICS Founder, Dr Max  
Thorek**

The twenty-fourth Annual Congress of the North American Federation, held in Chicago,

September 13–17, 1959 was another in a series of grandiose international gatherings. Outstanding among the scientific presentations were those by scientists and medical professionals associated with the research laboratories of the US military forces and federal government, who discussed such far-reaching scientific topics as extra-atmospheric existence, neutron toxicity, and acute radiation. ICS Executive Director, Vice Admiral Dr Ross McIntire appeared in a picture taken that evening with the eminent group. At the banquet, founder and secretary general, Dr Max Thorek, with his customary grace and wit, introduced those seated at the speakers' table and other guests of distinction.

Sadly, however, for both Dr Thorek and Dr McIntire the twenty-fourth Annual Congress would be their last meeting. Three months later Dr Thorek would write in the ICS bulletin:

"It is my unbearably painful duty to announce that Ross T. McIntire, the distinguished and beloved Executive Director of the International College of Surgeons, died



Left to right: Dr Herman N. Bundesen, President, Board of Health, Chicago; Dr Ross T. McIntire, Executive Director ICS; Dr John B. O'Donoghue, Clinical Professor of Surgery, Loyola University School of Medicine; Dr Max Thorek, Secretary General, ICS; His Honor Richard J. Daley, Mayor of the city of Chicago.





US Navy officers and speakers at the twenty-fourth North American federation congress, Chicago, September 1959. Left to right: Captain Charles F. Gell, special assistant for medical services, office of naval research; Captain David Minard, naval medical research institute; Vice-Admiral Ross T. McIntire (retired), ICS Executive Director; Professor Dr Dietrich E. Beischer, Head, Bio-physical Laboratory, School of Aviation Medicine; Rear-Admiral Bartholomew W. Hogan, Surgeon General, US Navy; Captain Clifford P. Phoebus, Director, Astronautical Division, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; Lieutenant Commander Dr John H. Ebersole, Medical Officer, USS Seawolf.



Banquet at the twenty-fourth North American federation congress, Palmer House, Chicago, September 1959.



suddenly on the morning of Tuesday, December 8, 1959. . .  
We at the College are plunged in mourning . . .”<sup>51</sup>

Among the messages of condolence was one from Mrs Eleanor Roosevelt who wrote:

“I was saddened by the death of Dr Ross T. McIntire. He was a devoted friend and a kind doctor to my husband, and he commanded the respect and admiration of all of us . . .”<sup>52</sup>

Not quite two months after McIntire’s death, on January 25, 1960, Dr Max Thorek died, just six weeks before the date that would have marked his eightieth birthday. The Founder of the International College of Surgeons who, as its Secretary General, had successfully nurtured the organization through its first 25 years, was mourned in all the continents of the world, and memorial services were held for him in many lands.

But, as he himself had said on the occasion of McIntire’s death:

“ . . . days of mourning, by all precepts of wisdom, must be limited. We rise, take into our own hands the unfinished task and once again give direction to our lives. . .”<sup>53</sup>

And this is what was done. His son, Dr Philip Thorek, who had served for many years as Associate Editor for the *Journal* and the *Bulletin*, agreed to become Editor-in-Chief. Dr Horace E. Turner, a member of the International Board of Governors, who had served with distinction as chairman of various committees over many years, became International Secretary General, and Rear Admiral Walter F. James was selected to fill the position of Executive Director.

A year later, Dr Philip Thorek could appropriately say:

“ . . . Be it said, if only in justice to our two fallen leaders, that they had built the house so well that it stood, and



In Bangkok, Thailand, a Buddhist memorial service was held for Dr Max Thorek by the Thailand section. Dr Thorek’s picture is displayed on the altar.

stood fast, even when the support their presence gave to it suddenly fell away. Also, be it said, in equal justice to our living leadership, that the officers and governing bodies of the College rallied instantaneously and established a firm chain of command. Fortunately there was at headquarters an able, well-trained and devoted corps of College personnel which was able to carry on the business of the College and to implement new directives, integrating them into the framework of the old . . .”<sup>54</sup>

<sup>51</sup> *JICS*, 1959, Vol. 32, No. 6, p. 6.

<sup>52</sup> *JICS*, 1960, Vol. 33, No. 1, p. 12.

<sup>53</sup> *JICS*, 1959, Vol. 32, No. 6, p. 6.

<sup>54</sup> *JICS*, 1961, Vol. 35, No. 1, p. 5.





Dr Philip Thorek, son of founder Max Thorek, Editor of the ICS Journal.



Dr Horace E. Turner, ICS Secretary General.

#### **1960: Biennial Congress, Rome**

The General Assembly of the twelfth Biennial Congress in Rome, Italy, May 15–18, 1960 was solemnly dedicated to the memory of Dr Max Thorek. Italy was a fitting place for such a tribute, as Italy's great surgical leaders had firmly stood by Dr Thorek from the earliest days. His friendships with Professors Raffaele Bastianelli, Raffaele Paolucci, and Giuseppe Bendandi had been a source of strength and joy for him. The Congress also marked the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the College.

Thousands of surgeons from around the world attended the high caliber scientific event, which consisted of 14 all-day sessions on surgical specialties, in addition to the general assembly. Professor Pietro Valdoni was President of the Congress, and Professor Giuseppe Bendandi its Secretary General. Simultaneous translation was provided in French, English, Italian, Spanish, and German. This was the second time the Italian section had hosted an ICS Biennial Congress – the first had been held in 1948, also in Rome.

#### **1960: Professor Mario Dogliotti (Italy) – twelfth ICS President**

Professor Mario Dogliotti of Italy assumed the presidency of the College a few months after-



Dr Walter F. James, ICS Executive Director.



wards, in September 1960. He was the College's twelfth International President. He had replaced Professor Paolucci when the latter died during his term as President-Elect. Professor Dogliotti had been a staunch believer in the College from its early days and had contributed to its development in many different functions, including the position of Vice-President.



Professor Mario Dogliotti (Italy) – twelfth ICS President, 1960. Professor Dogliotti was Director of the Clinic of General Surgery at the University of Torino, Italy. He was an honorary Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and a *Comandatore nell'Ordine del Merito della Repubblica Italiana*. In 1966 Professor Dogliotti became the eighth surgeon in the 31-year history of the College to receive the Master in Surgery degree in recognition of his many important scientific contributions, which included several Dogliotti methods to surgery, such as segmental peridural anesthesia; subarachnoid alcohol block of posterior nerve roots; transorbital ventriculography; valvotomy to the annulus; vascular anastomosis by suture, with plastic reconstruction of the mitral ring, for mitral insufficiency; improvement of partially paralyzed nerves; methods of blocking and severing of the trigeminal nerve; drainage of the biliary tract by intrahepatic duct gastrostomy; and use of the artificial heart–lung in the first case of bloodless cardiac operation on humans.

### **1961–1962: First ICS Membership Directory published**

With the growth of the membership, the task to keep everyone connected became even more important. The College's scientific journal *International Surgery* and its news bulletins were useful in filling that need. The College's first membership directory for 1961–1962 also added to the sense of belonging among the members.

### **World-wide travel under ICS auspices**

Personal contact, so essential for an organization's well-being, was facilitated by the scientific meetings, the pre- and post-Congress tours to the different sections in the region, and the clinical tours organized by the College. Groups of Fellows traveled together, visiting hospitals and clinics wherever they went, welcomed and guided by Fellows from other sections. The travelers sought to acquaint themselves with specific problems and achievements of each country, and shared in programs, conferences, and discussions with their hosts. Minds met in understanding, hands clasped in fellowship. Surgical centers of renown were no longer limited to Europe; master surgeons could be found on every continent. The global network of the International College of Surgeons, solidly established as it was by this time, was eminently successful in promoting a worldwide process of cross-fertilization of surgical knowledge, ideas, and skills. The College proved to be a unifying force in world surgery, perhaps because it solidified the professional exchange with a fraternal spirit fostered by relaxing social events and sightseeing trips. Although frequent correspondence provided an indispensable service in communication, there was no surer way of bringing men in surgery together than through personal contact, visits to each others' hospitals, universities, and homes. The interaction enriched the minds with knowledge and warmed the hearts with friendship.



It was exciting for the traveling surgeon to see unusual pathologies and surgical approaches in the different countries:

" . . . Dr. Ralph Cloward showed us his remarkable documentation on rachidian surgery . . . we had the privilege of watching Prof. Shigeru Sakakibara, the master of cardiac surgery in Japan, perform his two thousand five hundredth open heart operation . . . a great number of hydatid cysts, very common in Turkey, are operated on according to the technique of the French surgeon Lagrot, which includes filling the cavity of the cyst with epiploon . . . Prof. Louros of Greece performed a Wertheim operation, following the technique he personally created, which consists of freeing pelvic cellular ganglionic tissue by passing around the external iliac vessels . . . Prof. Komei Nakayama of Japan performed four total gastrectomies and one radical mastectomy in a total of three hours. He is world famous for the speed and precision with which he performs major abdominal surgery . . ." <sup>55</sup>

In 1961, the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association (AMA) singled out ICS around-the-world clinic tours as an excellent example of promoting understanding and good will, and of advancing the exchange of ideas to the benefit of surgeons of all nations. The reference committee of the AMA recommended that the ICS program be studied and evaluated with a view to guiding the development of an effective international health program.<sup>56</sup>

### **Research and scholarship grants**

With the number of national sections growing, requests for scholarships multiplied proportionately. Over the years, hundreds of young surgeons were supported in their efforts to pursue advanced surgical studies, aided by the College's scholarship program. A typical annual list of

scholarship recipients would look as follows:

"Dr. H.K. Nath, a native of India, is working under Dr. Paul S. Russell at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He is assigned to the cardiovascular laboratory to further his studies.

"Dr. Henderson Almeida of Brazil was granted a six month scholarship to further his studies in neuro-ophthalmology at the Eye Research Institute, Presbyterian Medical Center, San Francisco.

"Dr. Jorge Galante of Buenos Aires, Argentina, is studying under Dr. Carl Hirsch, University of Goteborg, Sweden, specialist in orthopedic surgery on a six-month scholarship.

"Dr. Jacques Hussussian of Alexandria, Egypt received a six month scholarship to further his study of orthopedic surgery at the Veterans Administration Research Hospital, Chicago.

"Dr. Ricardo F. Ribeiro of Brazil is studying orthopedic surgery at Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, under Dr. Edward L. Compere.

"Dr. Siavosh Khonsari of Iran completed a course in basic surgical sciences at the Royal College of Surgeons in England, and has a one-year scholarship to enable him to continue his studies in general surgery at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal, Canada.

"Dr. G.L. Mouzas of Greece received a one-year scholarship to observe techniques in the transplantation of organs at the University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dr. Sombat Sanpakit of Thailand has a one-year scholarship to continue his orthopedic surgery training at Chicago Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago.

"Dr. Rodolfo E. Alvarado of Costa Rica has received a one-year scholarship to specialize in peripheral vascular surgery under Dr. Paul S. Russell at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

"Dr. Gordon H. Bashant of the United States is studying under Prof. Dr. R. Zenker, head of the department of surgery at Germany's University of Munich, on a one-year scholarship.

"Dr. Kenneth O. Fetrow of the United States will study hand surgery under Mr. R. Guy Pulvertaft of Derby, England and Prof. Erik Moberg of Göteborg, Sweden.

"Dr. Juan Jaramillo Antillon of Costa Rica received training in gastroenterologic surgery at the Mexican Institute of Social Security, Mexico City.

<sup>55</sup> *JICS*, 1961, Vol. 35, no. 3, p. 20.

<sup>56</sup> *JICS*, 1962, Vol. 37, No. 2, p. 7.



“Dr. Hector A. Yllanes of Argentina studied orthopedic surgery at Northwestern University Medical School, Chicago, under Dr. Edward L. Compere.”

The US section in addition established the Max Thorek Student Loan Fund, which made loans available to worthy American students who wished to specialize in surgery. It was planned and successfully carried out as a revolving fund, with the loans to be repaid by the recipients within a reasonable amount of time, thus making the funds available again for subsequent loans. In early 1961 the fund had collected approximately \$20,000; it kept growing throughout the years and currently has a total fund balance of approximately \$200,000.

#### **Woman's Auxiliary to the US section**

Substantial contributions to the Research and Scholarship Fund were regularly made by the Woman's Auxiliary to the US section, which was also dedicated to the support of the Hall of Fame and Museum. Records show that in the seven years between 1956 and 1963, for example, the Auxiliary donated a total of \$85,850 to the research and scholarship fund and the Hall of Fame. The Auxiliary's income came from membership dues and contributions made to a memorial fund.

The members of the Woman's Auxiliary to the US section routinely functioned as gracious hostesses at the hospitality center of US section meetings, making everybody feel welcome. They staffed the registration and information desks, and organized fashion shows, luncheons, and sightseeing tours for surgeons' wives during the scientific meetings.

#### **1962: Biennial Congress, New York City**

The thirteenth Biennial Congress was held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City, September 9–13, 1962, in conjunction with the twenty-seventh annual North American Federation Congress.

Dr Max M. Simon was chairman of the Program Committee, with Professor Henry P. Leis, Jr as his executive co-chairman. Dr Arnold S. Jackson, Dr Peter Rosi, and Dr Leopold Brodny were co-chairmen. Each morning a general assembly was held, preceded by motion pictures relevant in substance to the papers that were to follow. There were specialty sessions, joint sessions for groups with related disciplines, surgical seminars for junior candidates, and a program for surgical nurses.

Numerous speakers from abroad gave the congress its international perspective. A presentation by Dr Nanna C. Svartz of Sweden, and the participation of Professor Lorenz Boehler of Vienna and Dr Waltman Walters of Rochester, Minnesota received special mention.

It is noteworthy that the 1962 Biennial Congress in New York would be the last one held in the USA for several decades. Perhaps this was indicative of the increasing number and vitality of the other national sections, many of which now had adequate membership and the strong leadership necessary for taking on the responsibilities of a Biennial Congress. Also, the US section might not have felt a strong desire to host another Biennial in those years, because its annual meetings and the North American Federation meetings hosted by the section had, on most occasions, taken on an international character and dimension anyway. A particularly outstanding meeting was the twenty-eighth annual meeting and North American federation congress held in Los Angeles in April 1963, where comedian Bob Hope lightened up a heavy scientific schedule, when he served with his incomparable wit as master of ceremonies during the banquet. Mr Hope was invested as an Honorary Member of ICS in 1968 at the Fifth Western regional meeting of the US section, held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

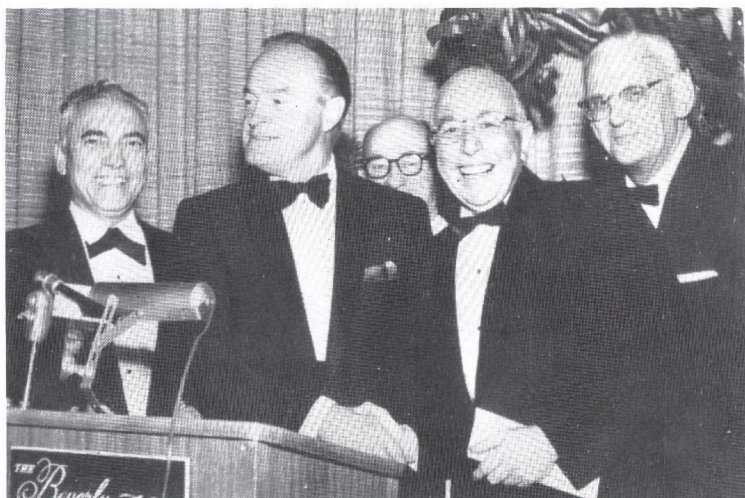
#### **1962: Dr Lyon H. Appleby (Canada) – ICS President**

On September 13, 1962, at the convocation ceremony of the New York Biennial Congress,





Convocation, thirteenth Biennial Congress, New York City, September 13, 1962.



When Bob Hope meets the surgeons, he does the cutting up. Left to right: Dr Angel de los Reyes, Mr Robert Hope, Dr Lyon Appleby, Dr Philip Thorek, and Dr Adolph Kutzmann.





Dr Lyon H. Appleby (Canada) – thirteenth ICS President, 1962. Dr Appleby was associate Professor of Clinical Surgery at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Chief of the surgical staff at St Paul's Hospital, and President of Appleby & Associates. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada, and the American College of Surgeons. He was an honorary fellow of the American Proctologic Society. His contributions to the literature were numerous, including titles that became classics in the science of surgery.

Italian President Mario Dogliotti handed over the presidential gavel to Dr Lyon H. Appleby of Canada.

#### **1964: Biennial Congress in Vienna**

The fourteenth Biennial Congress, held in Vienna, Austria, May 11–16, 1964, continued the ICS tradition of bringing together representative leaders in surgery from all the world's great centers of research as well as from hospitals noted for their advanced methods of treatment. The congress audience, approximately 1500 in number, also hailed from all the continents, and included approximately 500 from the USA, 130 from Japan, and different size groups from 10 Latin American countries, India, the Philippines, Taiwan, Nigeria, Syria, the United Arab Emirates, Austria, and many other European countries. Sadly missed was Dr Leopold Schoenbauer,

staunch supporter of the College since its first days, and former president of the Austrian section. He had been named Honorary Chairman of the fourteenth Biennial Congress, but died in September 1963.

#### **1964: Professor Komei Nakayama (Japan) – ICS President**

Befitting its global structure, a national section on another continent was given the opportunity to put its mark on the College. Professor Komei Nakayama of Japan became its fourteenth President in September 1964. The Japanese section had been active and highly respected since its inception in 1954. A stop in Japan was always considered one of the highlights of the surgical tours visiting the Far East.



Professor Komei Nakayama (Japan) – fourteenth ICS President, 1964. Professor Nakayama is Professor Emeritus of the School of Medicine at Chiba University. He was world famous for the speed and precision with which he operated. An innovator of techniques and inventor of instruments, he published widely on general and specialized surgery, and attracted a steady stream of observers to his operating rooms in Chiba. His Majesty Emperor Hirohito of Japan honored Professor Nakayama by investing him with the First Class Decoration (Kun Itto) on November 9, 1982 at the Imperial Palace. Professor Nakayama is the only awardee from the medical/scientific field to receive this decoration, which is the highest in the land.





Opening ceremony of the fourteenth biennial congress in Vienna, Austria, May 1964. Seated by himself in the front, Dr Adolf Scharf, President of the Republic of Austria.

### **1964: A fundraising event**

Another way to raise funds for the College programs had a successful trial on September 10, 1964, when more than 450 guests attended a \$100-a-plate dinner honoring four Surgeons-of-the-Century, namely, Mr A. Lawrence Abel of England, Dr A. Mario Dogliotti of Italy, Dr Li Shu-Fan of Hong Kong, and Dr Komei Nakayama of Japan.

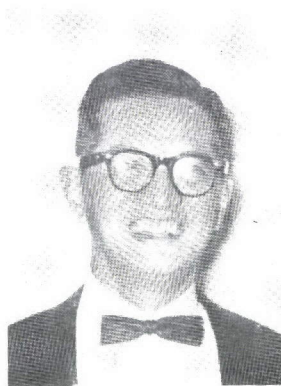
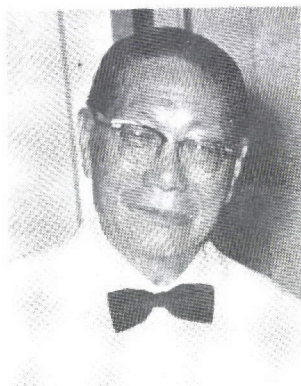
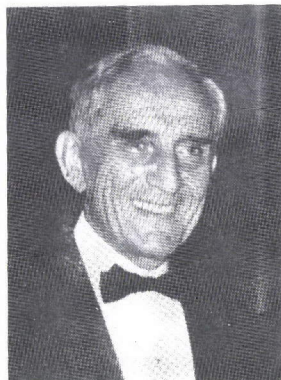
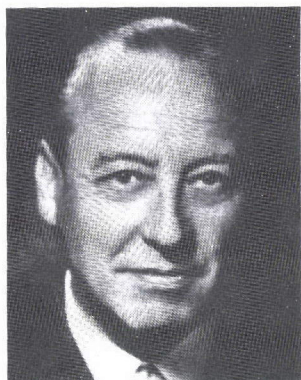
### **Traveling exhibits of the ICS Museum**

In the meantime the Museum collection was steadily growing, to the point that it was necessary to appoint professional staff to manage it and develop its full potential. Dr Friedrich Sternthal was an invaluable member of the staff. He was an

erudite person, commanding numerous languages, both ancient and modern. He set out to organize and catalogue the collection, until his death in 1964.

Mr H.J. Jaro was Director of Exhibits at the Museum. Under his guidance an exhibit was developed, entitled "The Hospital of the Future", which traveled to Antwerp, Belgium in 1961 where it was displayed at the famous architectural museum, the Nationaal Bouwcentrum. It had earlier been shown in Winnipeg, Canada and, following the Antwerp showing, it would travel to Essen and Munich in Germany, Vienna, and London. More than a thousand visitors attended the opening of the exhibit, among them representatives of the diplomatic corps and distinguished members of the medical and architectural professions.





Four Surgeons-of-Century benefit. Top left: Mr A. Lawrence Abel, England: Senior Surgeon, the Princess Beatrice Hospital, and the Gordon Hospital; President, Metropolitan Counties branch, British Medical Association. Top right: Professor A. Mario Dogliotti, Italy: Director of surgical clinic and Professor of Surgery, University of Turin; past President, Italian Society of Surgery. Bottom left: Dr Li Shu-Fan, Hong Kong: Founder and Chairman, Board of Governors, The Li Shu-Fan Medical Foundation; Member, Court of the University of Hong Kong. Bottom right: Professor Komei Nakayama, Japan: Professor of Surgery, Chiba University; Councillor, Japanese Surgical Society, Japanese Angio-Cardiological Society.

The "X-Ray Exhibit" of the ICS Museum was loaned for display at the Palmer House in Chicago, where the Radiological Society of North America held their annual meeting in 1961. The exhibit included early fluoroscopic screens, Crookes tubes, tube stands, some of them dating back to 1896, gas tubes, early books and publications dealing with roentgenology, photographs and autographs of pioneers in the field of radiation, and other interesting items. Dr Herbert C. Pollack, chairman of the Hall of Fame art committee, had acquired the collection over several years.

Another Hall of Fame exhibit was displayed at the 1962 annual meeting of the American Medical Association. Three glass cases included Inca trephining instruments and a skull reputed to be 3,000 years old. These contrasted sharply with a set of elaborate Austrian trephining instruments for military use and a simple utilitarian military surgeon's kit employed during the American Civil War. Also displayed was a death mask of Napoleon which had been presented by Mrs Thorek to the Hall of Fame, with autographed manuscripts by Napoleon's military surgeon, Baron Larrey, originator of the ambulance service, and by his favorite physician, Baron Corvisart.

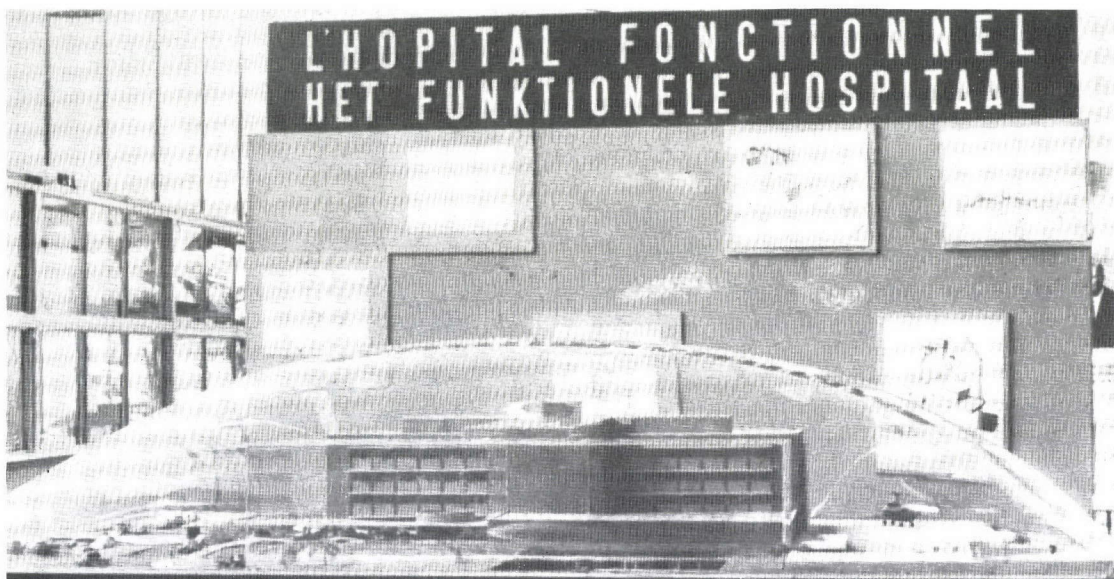
Chicago's world-famous Museum of Science and Industry also borrowed a display from the College's Museum to complete an exhibit entitled "Healthorama". The items loaned included the earliest known gastroscope, devised by Mikulicz in 1881. He used a glowing platinum wire, cooled by a water jacket, as a light source, and was able to view the stomach lining.

### **More donations to the ICS Museum**

Contributions continued to be received; in September 1964 Dr Alfred A. Strauss of Chicago donated to the ICS museum a beautiful custom-made carpet showing the design of two kidneys and a receptacle. The carpet was eminently suited for the beginning of a urology room. Another magnificent carpet, woven in Hong Kong, was presented at that time by distinguished Hong Kong surgeon, Dr Li Shu-Fan.

On November 30, 1966 the dedication of a singular exhibit, generously donated by Mr and Mrs Maurice E. Miller of Ithaca, New York, and Mr and Mrs Lee Alport of Elmwood Park, Illinois, was dedicated with a gala celebration at the Hall of Fame. The Miller's donation consisted of an entire pharmacy and its contents, dating back to circa 1873, which had originally been the Sackett and Taber drugstore of Addison, New York. The Alports donated the Dr Uriah C. Jones





ICS Museum's Hospital of the Future Exhibit in Antwerp, Belgium.



Early American apothecary as it looked in the 1980s.



Early American apothecary as it looked in the 1980s.

Apothecary from Breda, Iowa. The two apothecaries were transferred to Chicago practically intact, including authentic fixtures, merchandise, equipment, and prescription records.

The costs of installation were underwritten by Mr Charles R. Walgreen, Jr and Mr Anthony W. Ormiston, both members of the Board of Director of the Hall of Fame.

The dedication took place in conjunction with a reception given the same evening honoring



the Chicago Board of Health. The distinguished audience included the Honorable Richard J. Daley, Mayor of Chicago.

### **1968: Benefactor members recognized**

Another ceremony was held at the Museum, before one of the lectures, on November 19, 1968, when the US section bestowed the status of Benefactor Member of four Chicago community leaders on November 19, 1968: W. Clement Stone, Charles R. Walgreen, Jr, Anthony W. Ormiston, and Alvin Edelman. They were the first to receive this title. A reception buffet was given in their honor. ICS President Dr Edward Compere presented the benefactors with a bronze plaque and a medallion, and Dr Horace Turner read the curriculum vitae for each.

Mr Walgreen has remained a life-long friend and supporter of the ICS museum; he recently

established an endowment fund for it making a generous contribution of \$250,000.

Mr Alvin Edelman has also been constant in his dedication to the College, serving as its legal counsel since 1956, a task he performs conscientiously to this day.



ICS benefactors, from left to right: Mr. Anthony O. Ormiston, Mr W. Clement Stone, Mr Charles R. Walgreen, Jr, Mr Alvin Edelman.

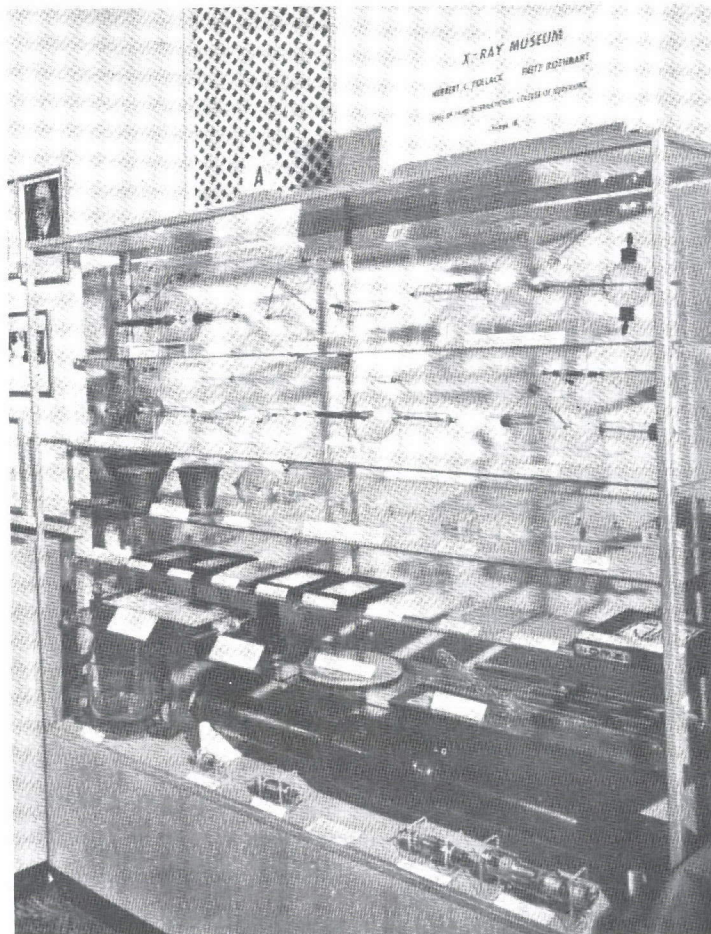


Exhibit of X-rays.





Left to right: Dr Alfred Strauss, Dr Li Shu-Fan, and Dr Morris Fishbein are in the audience at the dedication ceremonies of the College's International Museum of Surgical Science in Chicago.



Press conference with science writers about the "Hospital of the Future" exhibit. Second from left: Professor John H. Oltramare (Switzerland), European federation Secretary; middle: Mr H.J. Jaro, Director of exhibits of ICS Museum.



### **1960–1970: New national sections**

Many new sections were instrumental in expanding the ICS worldwide network in this decade: Great Britain, Chile, Nigeria, Nepal, Portugal, Czechoslovakia, Malta, Jamaica, Poland, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, and Malaysia.

#### ***Britain***

The British section came into being on September 8, 1962 when it received its charter at the House of Delegates meeting in New York. Mr Patrick W. Clarkson, and Sir Denis Browne were co-Presidents of the new section.

#### ***Chile***

The Chilean section came on board on January 6, 1964. The elected officers were:

- President: Dr Luis Figueroa Geise
- President-Elect: Dr Hector Cruz P.
- Vice-Presidents: Dr Carlos Avendano A.
- Secretary: Dr Emilio Villarroel G.
- Treasurer: Dr Abraham Schwartz K.
- Directors: Doctors Augusto Araya E., Roberto Vargas Z., and Jose Bisquertt T.

#### ***Nigeria***

The Nigerian section was established in 1965; the elected officers were:

- President: Dr A.O. Wilkey
- President-Elect and Vice-President: Dr O.K. Ogan
- Treasurer: Professor E. Latunde Odeku
- Secretary: Dr F.A.O. Udekwu.

#### ***Nepal***

The Nepal section was also founded in 1965, on September 12.

#### ***Portugal***

A Portuguese section was established on May 20, 1966. At that time a group of ICS Fellows, headed by Professor Dr K.E. Kallio, Secretary of the European Federation, visited Lisbon and made contact with Dr Antonio Gentil Martins and other distinguished Portuguese surgeons. Dr Gentil Martins stated that his father, Professor Francisco Gentil, no longer living, had been the first Portuguese Fellow of the College, and that he had tried, unsuccessfully, to start an ICS section during his time.



Left: Mr Patrick W. Clarkson, Co-President of British section; middle: Sir Denis Browne, Co-President of British section; right: Mr W.M. Dennison, Secretary of British section.

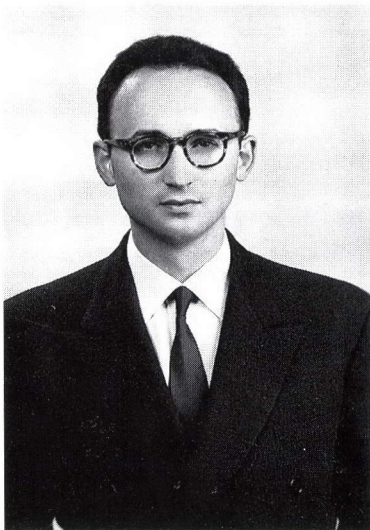




Left to right: Professor E. Latunde Odeku, first Treasurer, Nigerian section; Dr E. Nogogha Okeke; Dr F.A.O. Udekwu, first Secretary, Nigerian section.



Dr Emerich Polak, first President of the Czechoslovakia section.



Dr Antonio Gentil Martins, one of the first officers of the Portuguese section.

#### ***Czechoslovakia***

The Czechoslovakian section of the College was officially inaugurated on May 30, 1967 with the granting of a charter. A scientific meeting was held on that day, with many foreign surgeons attending who had traveled from the European Federation Congress in Spain to Czechoslovakia. These included Professor Dr Kalle E. Kallio of Finland, European Federation Secretary, and Dr Peter A. Rosi, of the USA. The first officers of the new section were:

- President: Dr Emerich Polak
- Secretary: Dr Antonin Kostelecky
- Treasurer: Professor Dr J. Padovec.

The first officers of the new section were:

- President: Professor Dr Antonio Mendes Ferreira
- Vice-President: Dr Antonio de Vasconcelos Marques
- Secretary: Dr Antonio Gentil Martins
- Treasurer: Dr Joaquim Paiva Chaves.

#### ***Malta***

The Malta section was accepted into the College two weeks later, on June 12, 1967, during a scientific meeting held at the Medical School of the Royal University of Malta, St Luke's Hospital, Guardamangia. Dr Peter Rosi, who led the postgraduate tour following the European Federation Congress in Madrid, was present with





Dr Vincent Tabone, first President, Malta section.

44 other surgeons. Presiding at the charter granting ceremony was the Honourable Dr Vincent Tabone, Minister of Labour, Employment and Welfare of Malta. Officers elected were:

- President: the Honourable Dr Vincent Tabone
- President-Elect: Dr P.J. Damato
- Vice-President: Dr S. Muscat
- Treasurer: Dr A.E. Bartolo
- Executive Secretary: Dr W.A. Sultana.

### *Jamaica*

On January 22, 1969 a group of ICS Fellows under the direction of Dr Manuel E. Lichtenstein, Coordinator of Medical Activities, disembarked at Kingston, Jamaica, during the fourth surgical cruise to the Caribbean in January 1969, to attend a scientific meeting at the University of the West Indies Hospital and Medical School, and to participate in a ceremony establishing the Jamaican section of ICS. Officers elected were:

- President: Dr K. Wilson James
- President-Elect and Vice-President: Dr Samuel Street
- Secretary–Treasurer: Dr Leslie Williams
- Council members: Dr U. Pathak and Dr H. Hastings.

### *Uruguay*

A section was also founded in Uruguay in 1969.

### *Poland*

The Polish section was started in 1969 with Professor Dr Kazimierz Czyzewski as first



Left to right: Dr S. Street, Vice-President, Jamaican section; Dr Manuel Lichtenstein, ICS coordinator of medical activities; Dr H. Eldemire, Minister of Health of Jamaica; Dr K.W. James, first President, Jamaican section; Sir Harry Annamunthodo, Professor of Surgery, University of West Indies.



President, and Professor Dr Henryk Kus as Secretary.

### **Malaysia**

A group of eight surgeons took the initiative to establish a section in Malaysia. They held the inaugural meeting of the Malaysian section of the College on April 18, 1969, and in November of that year the new section received its charter from the office of the International Executive Secretary. The following officers were elected:

- President: Dr M. Balasegaram
- Vice-President: Dr Chee Choong Seng
- Auditor: Dr Andrew Koh
- Secretary–Treasurer: Dr Roy Selby.

### **1966: Biennial Congress, Mexico**

The 1966 Mexican Biennial Congress had an attractive travel format for participants. Pre-Congress sessions were held from September 28 to 30, 1966 in Cuernavaca, Oaxaca, Merida, and Puebla; the main Congress took place in Mexico City from October 1 to 4; and a post-congress was held in Guadalajara from October 4 to 8. The congress was held under the presidency of Dr Guillermo de Velasco Polo. It was the third time the Mexican section had hosted a Biennial



Professor M. Balasegaram, first President, Malaysian section.

congress; the first one being held in 1948 and the second in 1957; a fourth one was to be held in 1980.

Sessions of abdominal and general surgery, anesthesiology, colon and rectal surgery, and obstetrics and gynecology were held in Cuernavaca. Oaxaca was the site of the combined meetings of orthopedics, neurosurgery, plastic surgery, and vascular surgery. The meetings of ophthalmology, otorhinolaryngology, and cardiovascular and thoracic surgery took place in Puebla. Approximately 80 urologists attended the urology meeting in Merida.

### **January 8, 1967: Death of ICS President, Sir Denis Browne**

The international presidency would have gone back to Europe for the years 1967 and 1968, if the unexpected death of ICS President, Sir Denis Browne (England) had not occurred early in his presidency. Sir Denis died on January 9, 1967, after serving nine days in office.

### **1967: Dr Edward L. Compere – ICS President**

The vacancy in the presidency was filled by the President-Elect, Dr Edward L. Compere of the USA, who would remain in office for the next four years. Dr Compere had previously served the College in a variety of national and international positions.

### **1966: Resignation of Dr Horace Turner as International Executive Secretary**

### **1968: Vacancy filled by Dr Aldo Parentela**

For seven years after Dr Thorek's death in early 1960, during the presidencies of Professors Dogliotti, Appleby and Nakayama, Dr Horace E. Turner had shouldered the responsibilities of International Executive Secretary. Unselfishly, he spent many hours away from his active practice of orthopedic surgery, carrying out the myriad duties of the office. His solid guidance of College affairs through the difficult readjustment period





Sir Denis Browne (England) had only served nine days as the fifteenth President of ICS when he died on January 9, 1967. Born and raised in Australia, Sir Denis served as regimental medical officer with the Australian Medical Corps in France and Gallipoli, during the First World War in 1914. With the cessation of the war, he decided to concentrate on surgery for children in England, and for many years stood quite alone in that specialty. During the Second World War he ran the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital in London, England, when it served as a casualty clearing station for civilians who became the victims of air attack from the German Luftwaffe. Sir Denis published a great number of works covering not only pediatric surgery, but also thoracic, abdominal, genitourinary, proctology, otorhinolaryngology, orthopedics, and plastic surgery. Among the many honors and awards he received was the Arris and Gale lectureship of the Royal College of Surgeons, 1934–54; he was Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons for 1947, 1949, 1950, and 1951; he was a Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur, and Knight Commander Victorian Order.

following the death of the founder was very influential in keeping the College on an even keel. At the end of 1966 he resigned.

President Compere and Dr Peter Rosi carried out the duties of International Executive Secretary until the position was filled in mid-1968 by Dr Aldo Parentela of Rome, Italy, who served the College for the next two years. Dr Parentela, a 1951 cum laude graduate of the University of Rome Medical School, had been Associate Professor of Clinical Surgery at the University of Perugia since 1960. He was also Editor-in-Chief of the Italian medical journal, *Gazzetta Internazionale di Medicina e Chirurgia*. He was an active member of the Italian section of the College, and also held several international ICS positions.



Dr Edward L. Compere (USA) – sixteenth ICS President, 1967. Among the many appointments and staff positions Dr Compere filled were: Professor and Chairman of the Department of Orthopedic Surgery at the Northwestern University Medical School in Chicago; Chairman, Department of Orthopedics at the Chicago Wesley Memorial Hospital; and, for 10 years Chief of the Division of Orthopedic Surgery at the Children's Memorial Hospital. He wrote numerous scientific papers and chapters devoted to orthopedics, and is the author (with Dr Sam W. Banks and Dr Clinton L. Compere) of *The Pictorial Handbook of Fracture Treatment*, which was translated into several languages.

Dr Parentela was to focus his efforts on enhancing the College's global role and image, in particular through seeking admission to official relationships with certain bodies of the United Nations, joining the ranks of other non-governmental organizations which had such ties. It seemed appropriate for the College to apply for admission to these bodies, because the College's aim of raising the standards of surgery throughout the world, for the benefit of humankind, addressed a need that was in keeping with the humanitarian agenda of the UN organizations. The College worked to contribute its surgical expertise to specific programs undertaken by





Dr Aldo Parentela, ICS Executive Secretary.

these UN bodies. On June 25, 1970 the College was admitted into consultative status, category II, with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations (ECOSOC), and with the United Nations' Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF). In 1975, the then ICS President, Professor Paride Stefanini, and International Secretary General, Dr Virgil T. DeVault, were successful in their efforts when the College was admitted into official relationships with the World Health Organization (WHO).

#### **1968: Biennial Congress, Tokyo**

The sixteenth Biennial Congress, held in Tokyo, Japan, October 6–11, 1968, was the first Biennial Congress held in the Far East. Professor Komei Nakayama was Secretary General of the Congress.

#### **1970: Biennial Congress, Paris**

Paris, France, was the site of the seventeenth International Biennial Congress of the College, April 19–25, 1970, organized under the presidency of Professor J. Francillon. The opening ceremony was held in the prestigious Sorbonne University followed by cocktails in the Sorbonne reception rooms. The scientific program included what were, then, "avant-garde subjects", such as heart surgery, techniques for the replacement of

myocardial vascularization processes using the internal mammary artery, grafting of limbs, bone banks, and prostheses for the replacement of bone segments. Interesting operations could be observed in some of the large hospitals. Following the Congress, the surgeons could attend meetings in Dijon, Lyon, Strasbourg, Montpellier, Nice, Marseilles, Toulon, Bordeaux, and Tours, and get acquainted with the diversity of France's provinces.

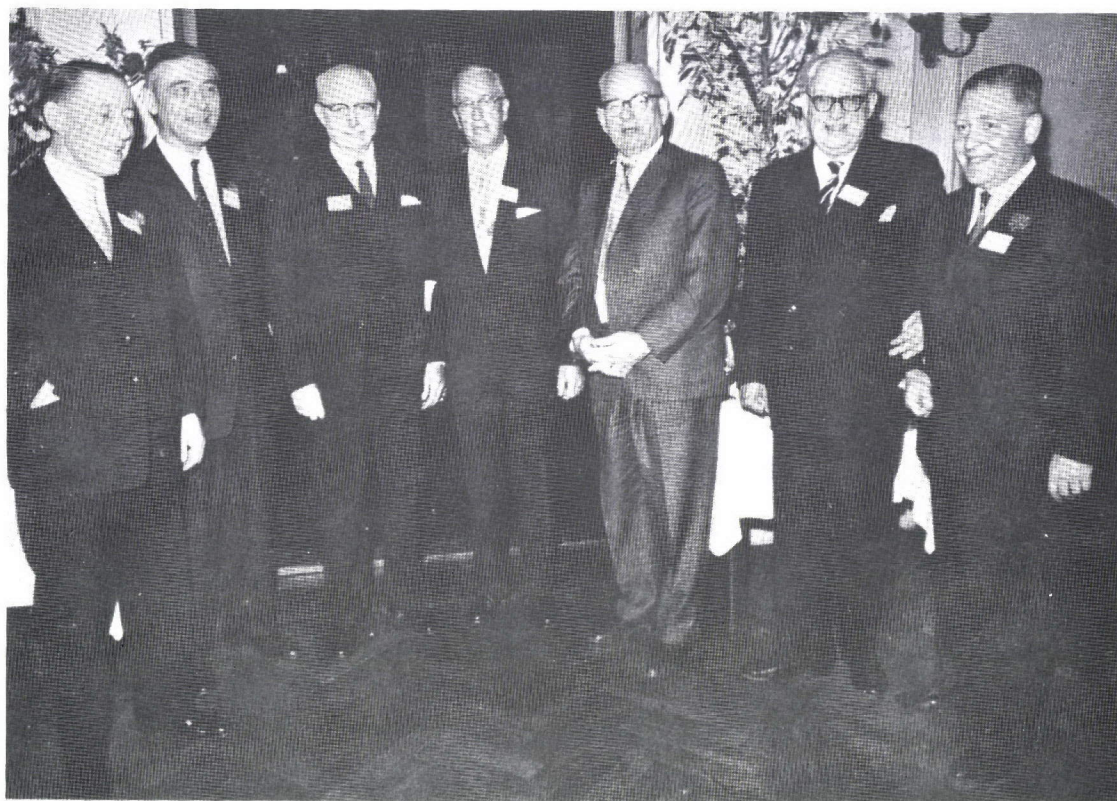
#### **North American, Latin and Central American and Caribbean, and European federations**

The federations had formally been established in 1957, but the North American federation had, for all practical purposes, already been in existence before being given this name. The US and Canadian sections had always had a close relationship, and the latter usually participated actively in the US section's annual meetings; these often had a truly international character. This is probably the reason why the numerical designation of the North American federation congresses was considered to have started in 1936, and explains how the twenty-third North American federation congress could take place in 1958, with the numbering continuing for consecutive meetings.

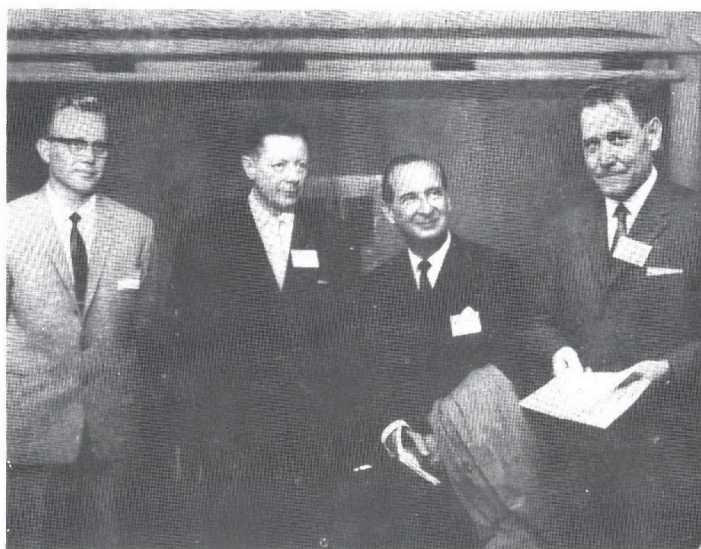
In the late 1960s, the Central and Latin American and Caribbean federation joined with the sections on the North American continent to celebrate the Western Hemisphere congresses. The first of these was held in Hawaii in 1968, the second in Montréal in 1969, then in Las Vegas in 1970, Panama City in 1971, and Nassau in 1972.

The European federation held its first meeting in 1958 in Brussels, Belgium. It coincided with the Brussels World Fair, and the formal opening session was held in the great Hall of the Exposition of Brussels. It was followed by the 1962 congress in Amsterdam in the Netherlands, with Dr R. Ruding as President, and Dr J. Glazenburg as Secretary. Surgeons from 14 European countries attended, as well as a group of 130 surgeons from the USA and Canada, who were taking part in a month-long European tour that





Second European Federation Congress, 1962, Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Left to right: Dr P. Leguit, Treasurer, Netherlands section and of the Congress; Dr R. Ruding, President of the section and the Congress; Dr Horace E. Turner, ICS Secretary General; Dr Arnold S. Jackson, assistant Secretary General; Professor A.W. Fischer, President, German section; Professor J.H. Oltramare, European federation Secretary; and Dr J. Glazenburg, Secretary, the Netherlands section and the Congress.



Third European Federation Congress, 1963, Helsinki, Finland. Left to right: Congress officials, Associate Professor Usko Nieminen, Secretary; Professor Paavo Vara, President; Professor Urpo Siirala, President of the Finnish section; and Professor Olavi Perasalo, scientific committee Chairman.



included one-day clinical meetings in London, Munich, Rome, Nice, Ajaccio, and Geneva. The mayor of Amsterdam opened the proceedings, and the Minister of Health and Welfare of the Netherlands delivered an address. All sessions were held at the Royal Tropical Institute.

The third European federation congress was held in Helsinki, Finland, June 16–19, 1965, hosted by the small but very dynamic Finnish section; Professor Paavo Vara was President, Associate Professor Usko Nieminen, Secretary

General, and Professor Olavi Perasalo scientific committee president of the congress. Hundreds of participants from 20 countries enjoyed the opening ceremony, which had an air of elegance and dignity as a string quartet played music of Sibelius and Mozart.

Madrid and London followed in 1967 and 1969 respectively.

The next 25 years would see further expansion, growth, and a willingness to adjust to the challenges of a changing world.







# Chapter 4

## Maturity, consolidation, and vision

### The 1970s, the 1980s, the present, and the future

The successful development of the International College of Surgeons was evident. Getting the organization off the ground and running had been a labor of great dedication, sacrifices, and persistence in the face of challenges. Equally well, the hundreds of devoted Fellows who had

participated in the formative phase and the vast expansion of the organization had experienced great joys, excitement, and satisfaction with all that was accomplished. The next test would be to perpetuate that which had been built.

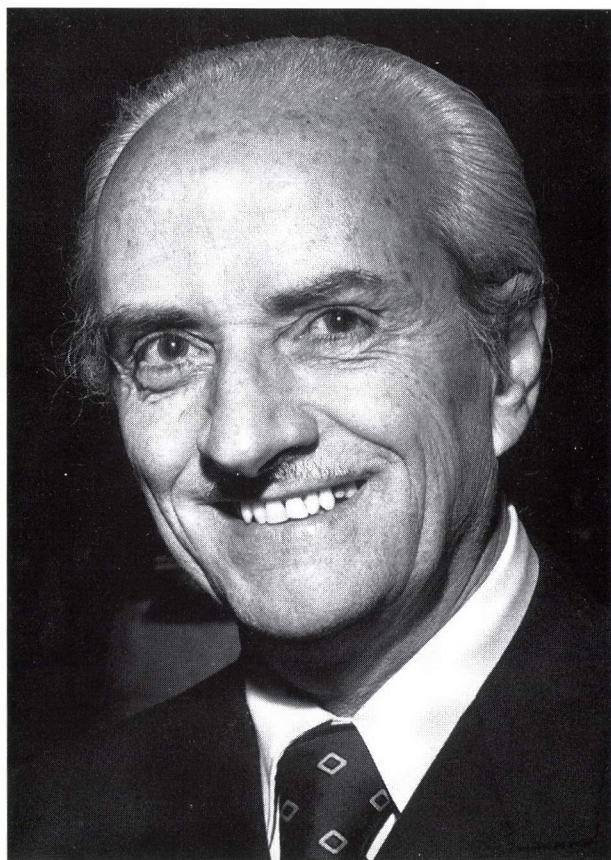
The Presidents who led the College through the next 25 years (from 1970 to the present) each put their own distinctive mark on the College's progress. Hailing from many different nations, they brought a rich diversity of perspectives to the thought processes of the leadership teams over which they presided.

#### 1970–1986: ICS Presidents

##### *Professor Esteban Rocca, Peru (1971–72)*

Professor Rocca has done pioneer work in neurosurgery in Peru. He regularly pursued advanced training in other countries, such as Argentina, the USA, Sweden, France, and Germany, but his principal ambition has been to promote the teaching and practice of neurosurgery in his own country. He established the Department of Neurosurgery in the Hospital Obrero of Peru, and also founded the Department of Neurosurgery at the University.

Politically active as well, Professor Rocca served his country in several governmental positions, including as Senator of the Republic from 1985 to 1990.



Professor Esteban D. Rocca (Peru) – seventeenth ICS President, 1971–72.



He has received numerous high awards and honors, from the Senate of the Republic, the Faculty of Medicine San Fernando, the National University of San Marcos, and other prestigious institutions.

In addition to his written contributions to the scientific literature, Professor Rocca has traveled extensively presenting papers at congresses all around the world, leading round table sessions, and moderating panel discussions.

***Professor Paride Stefanini, Italy (1973–74)***

Professor Paride Stefanini became ICS President on January 1, 1973. He was Professor at the Surgical Clinic of the University of Rome. He had authored approximately 150 works, with major emphasis on hepatobiliary and pancreatic pathology, surgery of the large intestine, and vascular surgery. He was deeply involved with work on kidney transplantation. He was President of the Italian Society of Surgery, the International Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons, and the Society of Organ Transplants.

Professor Stefanini's many awards included the prestigious "Cavaliere di Gran Croce dell'Ordine della Repubblica Italiana". Professor Stefanini's innovative work, not only in launching the

surgical teams project of ICS, but guiding it for many years thereafter, made a significant contribution to the College's mission of disseminating the art and science of surgery around the world.

***Professor Nicholas C. Louros, Greece (1975–76)***

Professor Nicholas C. Louros became President of the College on January 1, 1975. Professor Louros was the founder and medical Chief of the State and University Maternity Hospital "Alexandra" in Athens. Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Athens, Professor Louros was appointed Honorary Surgeon to the Royal Family of Greece in 1955. He served as President of numerous medical societies and was an honorary member of obstetrical and gynecological societies in Italy, France, Germany, England, Brazil, and the USA.



Professor Paride Stefanini (Italy) – eighteenth ICS President, 1973–74.



Professor Nicholas C. Louros (Greece) – nineteenth ICS President, 1975–76.



When he became a Fellow of ICS, Professor Louros took an active role in College events through the presentation of papers at Congresses, the organization of meetings and seminars, and as a Hall of Fame speaker. Before taking the helm as International President of ICS, Professor Louros held many leadership positions in the College, culminating in the ICS presidency. In a eulogy, delivered by Professor Jacques Reynier at the meeting of the International Board of Governors in Madrid, Spain in 1986, Reynier reminded everyone that Professor Louros was one of the most highly respected surgeons in Europe, attracting devoted audiences at the Sorbonne in Paris. France had lost a friend, surgeons a master, and the College a model surgeon, he said.

***Professor Henry P. Leis, Jr, USA (1977–78)***

Professor Leis is Professor Emeritus of Surgery, Emeritus Chief of the Breast Service at New York Medical College, and Clinical Professor of Surgery and Honorary Director of the Breast Center at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine. He is a consultant in breast surgery and liaison officer for the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer at the Grand Strand General Hospital in Myrtle Beach, S. Carolina. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the National Consortium of Breast Centers and a consultant in breast diseases for the S. Carolina Palmetto Project, Commun-I-Care, treating indigent and uninsured patients without charge. He is considered to be one of the pioneers in the changing aspects of breast cancer prevention, early detection, and appropriate therapy.

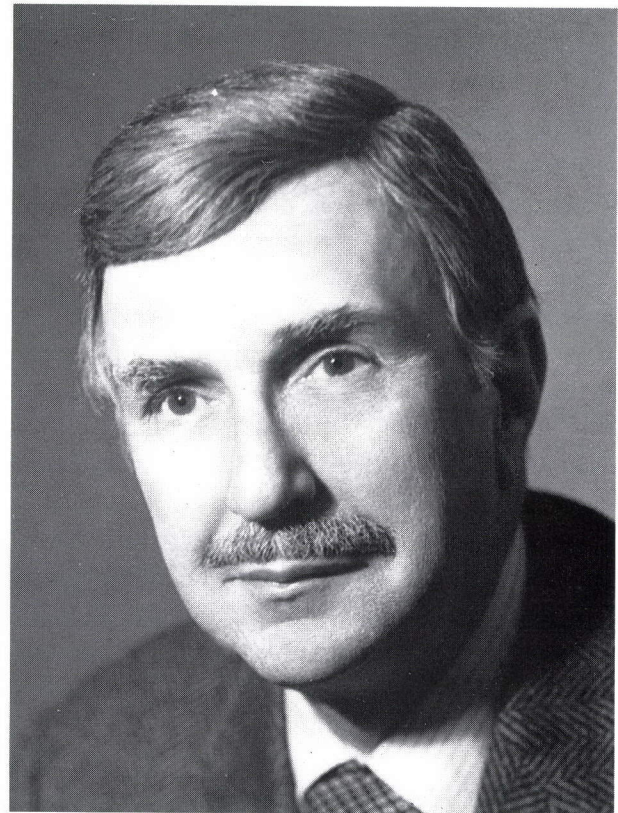
Professor Leis is a specialist in surgical oncology of the breast and the author of eight textbooks, contributor to 31 books, and author of 329 articles in leading medical journals dealing with diseases of the breast. In 1992 he was named as one of the 24 best breast cancer surgeons in America, based on interviews with more than 350 departmental chairmen in major medical centers nationwide. He serves on the editorial board of several journals including honorary editor of *International Surgery*. His numerous

lectures and panel participations have attracted medical audiences in the USA and in other countries throughout the world.

***Professor Claude Romieu, France (1979–80)***

Professor Romieu was Clinical Professor of Oncology at the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Montpellier. He was Director and Chief Surgeon of the Centre Regional de Lutte contre le Cancer of Montpellier (Regional Cancer Center). Professor Romieu was one of the first to view oncology as a multidisciplinary science, including surgery, radiotherapy, medical treatment, parenteral nutrition, and fundamental research. Under his direction the scope of work of the medicosurgical group of Montpellier's Regional Cancer Center was significantly diversified.

A man of letters as well as of science, Professor Romieu presided over the Academy of Science and Letters of Montpellier in 1974, and was an active member of several other erudite associations. He



Professor Henry P. Leis, Jr (USA) – twentieth ICS President, 1977–78.





Professor Claude Romieu (France) – twenty-first ICS President, 1979–80.

was also active in Rotary International and held the position of governor in its leadership.

Professor Romieu was awarded the French Republic's highest honor, when he received the Order of "Officier de la Legion d'Honneur de France" in 1980.

***Professor Kenji Honda, Japan (1981–82)***

Professor Kenji Honda, presently retired, was Chairman and Professor of the Department of Surgery of Fukushima Medical College, and played an active role in a great number of medical societies; he served as president of the Japanese Society for Acute Medicine, the Japanese Society of Tropical Medicine, the Japanese Association for Thoracic Surgery, and the Japanese Society of Gastroenterological Surgery. His most important research work was done in the field of artificial blood and he contributed to the scientific literature with more than 400 papers. Particularly dedicated to stimulate young surgeons in their quest for learning, Professor Honda has frequently made sizeable donations to the College's Research and Scholarship program.

***Dr Malcolm C. Todd, USA (1983–84)***

Dr Todd is Emeritus Professor of the University of California at Irvine.



Professor Kenji Honda (Japan) – twenty-second ICS President, 1981–82.

He served as the 129th president of the American Medical Association (AMA) and was their delegate on the historic visit to the People's Republic of China in 1974. He also visited, in an official capacity, the Trust Territory of Micronesia for the US State Department, and in 1975 he visited the former Soviet Union as a guest of the USSR Minister of Health.

Dr Todd was a US delegate to the World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland, in 1970, 1971, and 1972, appointed by US president Richard Nixon. He is past president of the California Medical Association.

After retiring from active practice in 1988, Dr Todd continues working as a consultant in the health field. He is a trustee of Morehouse College of Medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, and a member on the Board of the ICS International Museum of Surgical Science. He is a founding director of Harbor Bank in Long Beach, California and Director of Spectral Diagnostics, Inc. in Toronto, Canada.





Dr Malcolm C. Todd (USA) – twenty-third ICS President, 1983–84.



Professor José Hilario (Brazil) – twenty-fourth ICS President, 1985–86.

***Professor José Hilario, Brazil (1985–86)***

Professor Hilario is Emeritus Professor of Surgery of the University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

After graduating from the National Faculty of Medicine in Rio de Janeiro, Professor Hilario pursued advanced training in Sweden, England, France, Canada, and the USA, sponsored by the National Research Council.

From 1964 to 1989 he was Professor of Surgery and Chief of the Surgical Department of the Hospital of the University of Rio de Janeiro. He was a visiting professor and lecturer at several universities in the USA.

In 1974 he served as President of the Gastroenterology Interamerican Association.

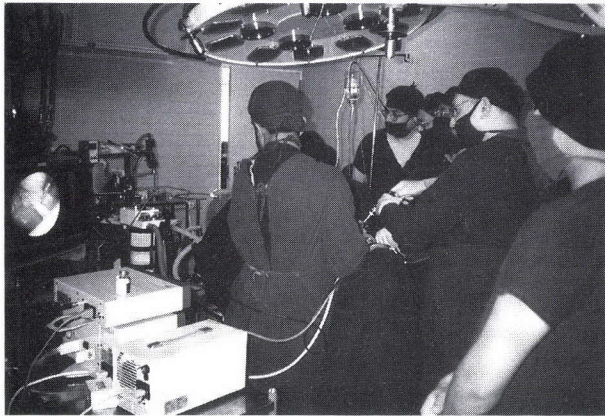
As President of the ICS he was instrumental in strengthening the democratic governance policy of the College, by promoting constitutional amendments which now provide that a Fellow cannot be elected to more than one position, that a president cannot be elected to another position after completing his term of office, and that each federation must be represented in the Nominating Committee.

**1974: Surgical teams and the World Health Organization**

One of the ways in which the International College of Surgeons had, since its inception, pursued its aim to raise the level of surgery throughout the world, was by providing scholarship and research grants to worthy young surgeons, with emphasis on those living in developing countries. However, when a report of WHO stated that only 50% of grant recipients from developing countries returned to their homeland, the College searched for a way to counteract that unfortunate trend, referred to as the “brain drain”.

Spearheaded by Professor Paride Stefanini, ICS subsequently instituted the surgical teams’ project, under the auspices of the WHO. ICS had been actively cooperating with the WHO for some years, and was admitted into official relations with the WHO on February 12, 1975. Under the surgical teams’ plan the College sent out teaching teams of highly qualified surgeons with extensive surgical and teaching experience to bring advanced education and training to countries which would





An Indian surgical team teaches in Nepal. Closed circuit television enables more than a hundred Nepalese senior surgeons and surgeons in training to watch Professor Tehemton Udwadia demonstrate an operative procedure.

benefit from a periodic surgical update. Besides preventing the “brain drain”, this approach dealt directly, and on the spot, with local pathology, resulting in improved quality of education. More surgeons had access to the knowledge which the team had to share, and so the overall return on teaching investment was multiplied.

In addition, the visiting team members would invariably state that they themselves had learned much about unusual pathologies, and different concepts and surgical approaches, particular to local culture and circumstances. Dr Paul Spray (USA), who went with Dr William J. Blackwell (USA) on the first surgical team to Nairobi, Kenya, in 1973, stated:

“While this is called a teaching program, perhaps a more accurate description would be one of ‘knowledge sharing’.”

Dr Blackwell then said:

“Dr. Spray and I enjoyed our service in Africa as it gave us the opportunity to expand the students’ and other faculty members’ knowledge of western surgical conditions and techniques of treatment and in turn, we derived many worthwhile concepts from their teachings.”<sup>57</sup>

This sentiment would be repeated in different

words by other team members in the following years.

In 1974 Professor Walter Hess (Switzerland) visited the Faculty of Medicine, University of Khartoum, Sudan, in the framework of the surgical teams’ project. Professor Abdelaal A. Osman, Head of the Department of Surgery, wrote afterwards:

“Prof. Hess has cast an eminent shadow of ICS on the surgical profession in Khartoum. We hope to have some other visitors of his caliber in the near future.”

Professor Fabrizio Benedetti-Valentini (Italy), Dr Plinio Rossi (Italy), and Professor Esteban Rocca (Peru) composed a team that went to Costa Rica in 1975. Professor Benedetti’s detailed account of his teaching schedule gives a good indication of the fruitful interaction that took place with the host surgeons:

“... At 8:00 I lectured on ‘El tratamiento quirurgico de la insuficiencia vascular celicommesenterica’. The auditorium was filled. Discussion following the talk did not end until noon . . . On Friday at 7:30 I gave a lecture on ‘Hipertension renovascular’ which particularly focused on the techniques of renal artery repair and long-term results – specially requested by the vascular surgeons, internists and cardiologist. The discussion lasted all morning . . .

<sup>57</sup> *International Surgery*, 1975, Vol. 60, No. 3, p. 186.



The audience was deeply impressed by the techniques of evaluation of the renovascular patients developed in our school and asked a great number of questions on technical details and criteria of assessment . . . ”

Over the next two decades the surgical teams’ project expanded substantially, and an average of three teams per year were sent out to countries all over the world – Bolivia, Brazil, People’s Republic of China, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Kenya, Kuwait, Malawi, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Sudan, Turkey, and Uganda.

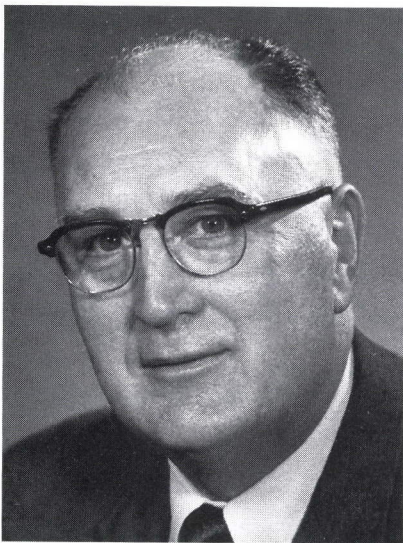
One of the most productive undertakings in the scope of this surgical teams was a 10-year relationship established between the Dutch and the Indonesian sections. The driving force on the Indonesian side was Dr R. Sjamsuhidajat, and his counterpart in the Netherlands was Dr Herbert Siebbeles. Every year, for 10 years, the Dutch section sent a team of six to eight surgeons to Indonesia, representing the specialties requested by the section. For about two months the visiting surgeons would spread out and travel to hospitals in the big cities and in remote locations. The continuity of the visits gave opportunity for

evaluation of the productiveness of the teaching, definition of needs, formulation of plans for next year’s program, and refining of the organization of the visit – all these helped to enhance the usefulness of each subsequent visit.

Professor Stefanini, who represented the College at the May 1979 Assembly of the World Health Organization in Geneva, reported that overall the WHO appreciated the good work the College was doing with its surgical teams, and that they would look favorably on an expansion of the project, with more emphasis on primary and secondary surgery. Dr H. Mahler, Director General of the WHO, honored ICS with his presence at the opening ceremony of the College’s 1980 twenty-second Biennial Congress in Mexico City. In his address he said that surgery has an important role to play in primary health care and in the service supporting it. He challenged the international surgical community to prepare training modules for essential surgical procedures in first-line referral hospitals easily accessible to people in need.

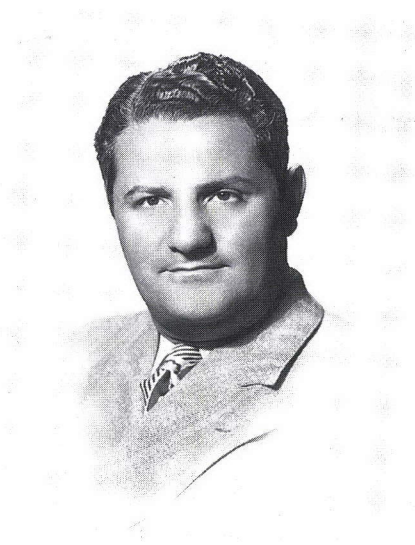
#### **At ICS headquarters**

In the meantime the customary programs, meetings, and services were continuing successfully. The headquarters staff were now under the direction of Dr Virgil T. DeVault, who was appointed International Executive Secretary in early 1971 to fill the vacancy created when Dr Parentela left in October of the previous year. He would hold that position until 1978, at which time Dr Luis Graña would take over. Dr DeVault had served as Chief Surgeon of the Anglo-American Hospital in Lima, Peru from 1937 to 1950, was medical director of the US Foreign Service and Department of State from 1950 to 1964, and served as the Director of the Department of International Health of the American Medical Association for five years. He worked in close co-operation with international Presidents Stefanini and Rocca in further developing relations with the WHO and the United Nations.



Dr Virgil T. DeVault – ICS Secretary General.





Dr Jerome Moses.



Mrs Arilla S. DeVault – first President, International Woman's Auxiliary.

Another person who was frequently seen at ICS headquarters – over many years he came twice weekly – was Dr Jerome Moses, Surgeon at the Thorek Hospital in Chicago. Active with the College since its beginning, fulfilling the responsibilities of a variety of positions on the national and international level, he could always be relied on to lend a helping hand. Dr Moses and his wife, Jeanette – a dedicated Auxiliary officer to this day – frequently hosted visiting officers from overseas and made them feel welcome at their ICS home.

#### **1972: International Woman's Auxiliary established**

At the Rome Congress in 1972, an official meeting took place for the purpose of founding the International Woman's Auxiliary. Since 1952, the women of the USA and Canada, inspired by Mrs Max Thorek, had actively participated in the life of the College, in the framework of a national Woman's Auxiliary. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs Arilla DeVault, surgeons' spouses in Peru and Argentina later followed suit, as well as those in India. As the College developed, Mrs

DeVault saw that it would be beneficial to tie the various existing and potential national auxiliaries together to stimulate cooperation and growth. Subsequently, she and a group of close supporters set out to establish the International Woman's Auxiliary. Their efforts came to fruition in Rome where the group's first constitution and bylaws were presented to the assembly. Mrs Arilla DeVault was elected President pro-tem.

On November 7, 1972, at the Fifth Western Hemisphere Congress in San Diego, California, the International Woman's Auxiliary of ICS became a legally established organization with duly elected officers. Mrs Arilla S. DeVault became its first President; eleven countries were represented on its first board of directors: Argentina, Canada, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Peru, Spain, Switzerland, and the USA.

#### **Congresses of the Asian, Pacific, and African federations**

The North American, European, and Western Hemisphere congresses were soon followed by congresses in Asia, the Pacific, and Africa.



### ***Asian federations***

The first Asian federation congress took place in Gifu, Japan, on October 12, 1967 in conjunction with the fourteenth Annual Congress of the Japanese section. Professor Dr Dennosuke Jinnai of Japan was Asian federation secretary. Representatives from other sections in the federation came from Thailand, Korea, and Formosa (Taiwan).

The second Asian federation congress was held in Taipei, Taiwan, 1969 and the third took place in Isfahan, Iran, October 1970. Dr E. Hazrati, secretary of the section was also Secretary General of the congress. The scientific sessions were opened by the president of the section, Dr N. Ameli, and with speeches by the President of the University of Isfahan and Dean of the Medical School, Dr Gh. Motamedi, and the Minister of Health, Dr M. Shagholi. The participants had the honor of meeting the Shah of Iran and the Empress, who were staying in the same hotel.

### ***Pacific federations***

The Pacific federation became active in 1975 when it hosted its first meeting in conjunction with the sixth Asian federation congress in Manila, Philippines. This arrangement of joint meetings was so satisfactory that it became a tradition, with the sites alternating between the Asian and Pacific regions.

Atami, Japan, was the site for the second Joint Congress of the Asian and Pacific Federations, held in December 1977. An excellent scientific program included a memorial lecture given by Dr Charles Hufnagel (USA) on "Surgical treatment of complications of coronary occlusion and intra-aortic balloon pumping".

The Indonesian section hosted the third joint Congress of the Asian and Pacific federations in Denpasar, Bali in June 1979, arranged by Dr Soelarto Reksoprodjo (Congress Chairman), and Dr Chehab Hilmy (Congress Secretary) and



Organizers of the first Joint Congress of the Asian and Pacific Federations. Left to right: Dr Luis D. Martínez, Dr Fermin M. de Leon, Dr Manuel N. Borja, Dr Irineo M. Palma, Dr Jesús C. Tomacruz, and Dr Ernesto Palanca.



the organizing committee. An excellent scientific program was complemented by the enjoyment of the island's beauty and folkloric artistry. The Japanese section was particularly well represented by a large delegation, headed by past international President Professor Nakayama.

### ***African federations***

The first of the African federation congresses was held in Cairo, Egypt, May 1976. It was opened by His Excellency Dr Fouad Moheiddin, Minister of Health.

The second time the African federation met was in 1979 in Dar El-Salaam, Tanzania, in conjunction with the Association of Surgeons of East Africa. Professor Refaat Kamel, then African federation secretary, reported that the congress was well attended by surgeons from all over East Africa, and had also attracted attendants from other parts of Africa, Europe, Asia, and the USA. It was organized under the patronage of the President of Tanzania, who graced the official dinner with his presence.

Cairo, Egypt was again selected for an African federation congress in January 1981, which was the third one for the federation.

### **1977: Continuing medical education accreditation**

In 1977 the US section of the College was gratified to be granted full accreditation privileges by the American Medical Association (AMA) for Continuing Medical Education (CME) Category I credits. The positive evaluation report of the section's programs mentioned that the small group courses, which were specifically oriented to clinical teaching, and the practical anatomic and surgical dissection classes combined to produce excellent educational experiences; that the rural courses brought much needed opportunities for small communities of medical practitioners to benefit from more intimate clinical instruction and association with leading exponents in

particular surgical fields as motivated by local requests and planning, and that all courses were taped and audio tapes and appropriate 35 mm slides were available for purchase and so reinforced the various programs.<sup>58</sup>

The US section of the College has successfully continued to offer excellent learning programs, and has consequently been permitted, to this day, to grant AMA Category I CME credits for attendance to designated courses presented at its meetings.

Many courses presented at the College's international meetings also meet the requirements for CME credits, which is a significant service the College provides the US surgeon

### **1972–1992: Biennial Congresses**

#### ***1972: Rome, Italy***

The eighteenth Biennial Congress was held in Rome, Italy, May 1972. Nearly 2,000 surgeons, residents, interns, and spouses gathered for the opening ceremony which was graced by the presence of President of the Italian Republic, His Excellency Giovanni Leone. Official congress host was Professor Paride Stefanini who served as chairman of the scientific program committee and the organizing committee. Professor Pietro Valdoni was Honorary President of the congress.

The entire Rome Opera House had been reserved for the congress members who enjoyed the performance of Giuseppe Verdi's opera "Giovanna d'Arco" with Giulia Samoyloff. Another unique experience was a private hour-long mass, celebrated by Pope Paul VI in the Sistine Chapel. At the conclusion the Pope came down into the audience personally to greet many congress members.

#### ***1974: Lima, Peru***

Professor Esteban D. Rocca was the president of the Peruvian Organizing Committee for the 1974

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<sup>58</sup> *International Surgery*, 1977, Vol. 62, No. 10, p 573.



Biennial Congress in Lima. The success of the congress was aptly described as follows:

"The postgraduate courses were filled. The sessions, symposia and panels were filled. The exhibit halls and hotel lobbies were buzzing with multilingual conversation of the more than 2500 registrants to the XIXth Biennial Congress in Lima . . . Each section chairman was a Lima surgeon. Prof. Rocca suggested that they invite their guest speakers to their homes for dinner. They did! What hospitality! . . ." <sup>59</sup>

#### ***1976: Athens, Greece***

Chairman of the Organizing Committee for the twentieth Biennial Congress, held in Athens, was Professor Nicholas C. Louros. Outstanding speakers covered a vast spectrum of topics, attracting registrants from around the world. Participants were warmly welcomed by their Greek hosts who had organized a delightful social program, sharing their marvelous city for a few days with their guests from many different lands.

#### ***1978: Jerusalem, Israel***

Professor Arie Durst was the chairman of the twenty-first Biennial Congress held in Jerusalem. The historical city was a fascinating setting for the high level scientific gathering which brought together participants from around the world.

#### ***1980: Mexico City, Mexico***

For the fourth time in the history of the College, the Mexican section hosted a Biennial Congress when they welcomed attendants from around the world to the twenty-second Biennial Congress in Mexico City in 1980. Great lustre was added to the opening ceremony by the presence of Lic. José Lopez Portillo, President of the United States of Mexico, who personally opened the Congress. The scientific program covered four great themes:

surgical iatrogenia; great traumatisms; micro-surgery; and critical care medicine and surgery. The social program offered all attendants the opportunity to get a glimpse of Mexican archeology, fine arts, folklore, and cuisine. The closing dinner dance, held in a small, elegant palace, ended with a splendid fireworks display with magnificent pinwheels of color spelling out "Biennial 1982 India, 1984 Philippines" to start Fellows thinking about the Biennial Congresses ahead. The organizing committee, under chairman Dr Manuel Lopez Portillo, were gratefully recognized for their successful efforts.

#### ***1982: New Delhi, India***

The President of India, Shri Neelam Sanjiva Reddy inaugurated the twenty-third Biennial Congress of ICS on 17 February 1982 in New Delhi. The President's first words were sad ones:

"I cannot help referring at the outset to the sad death only three days ago of Dr. Atm Prakash, who should have been here today with us as chairman of the Biennial Congress. The unfortunate event has robbed this occasion of its joy." <sup>60</sup>

Those words expressed the grief felt by all who knew Dr Prakash and who had been looking forward to joining him at this Congress. Highly respected in India and throughout the world as a true surgical ambassador, Dr Prakash was also held in high esteem in ICS, where he served in important national and international positions. At the New Delhi Congress he and Dr José Hilario of Brazil had both been selected by the Nominating Committee of ICS as candidates for the highest position in the College – International President.

It was an emotional moment when the posthumously awarded Honorary Fellowship for Professor Prakash was received by his sons during the opening ceremony of the Congress. However, the Indian section organizing committee, under

<sup>59</sup> *International Surgery*, 1974, Vol. 59, No. 5, pp. 313–314.

<sup>60</sup> *International News*, Spring 1982.





Prime Minister Smt Indira Gandhi greeting International Secretary General Dr Luis Graña. Dr and Mrs Malcolm Todd stand in the background.

the Congress's Secretary-General, Dr Arjun D. Sehgal, did a splendid job of carrying on with the business of the Congress. One of the highlights of the social program was a reception given by Prime Minister Smt Indira Gandhi in the beautiful gardens of her residence. Mrs Gandhi knew Dr Prakash and his family well, and personally visited the family to share their grief.

#### ***1984: Manila, the Philippines***

Attracted by a splendid scientific program, participants from 33 different nations attended the twentieth-fourth Biennial Congress held in Manila, the Philippines, December 1984. Among the noted speakers were: Professor Ivo Pitanguy of Brazil, who presented several papers on reconstructive surgery; Dr Roy Calne (England) who spoke about kidney, liver, and pancreas transplants; and Dr Denton Cooley (USA) who gave a major lecture on heart transplant surgery. Noted Hong Kong surgeon, Dr Tans Sri G.B. Ong, presided over the Li Shu Fan Memorial Lecture on treatment of cancer of the esophagus. The José Rizal memorial lecture was given by the



Mrs Imelda Marcos graced the dinner dance with her appearance. She is flanked by Dr Malcolm Todd (left) and Dr Ernesto Palanca (right).

noted Filipino, Dr Felipe Tolentino, on laser applications in ophthalmology.

His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin gave a thought-provoking convocation. First Lady Imelda Marcos delivered the closing remarks, and graced the dinner dance with her appearance. Dr Ernesto Palanca, Chairman of the organizing committee, and Dr Constante Firme, Secretary, were warmly congratulated on the success of the congress.

#### ***1985: Fiftieth Anniversary***

In May, 1985, the fiftieth Anniversary of the founding of the International College of Surgeons was celebrated in Geneva, Switzerland, in conjunction with the European Federation Congress. A highlight of the occasion was the participation of Mme Rose Jentzer, widow of Professor Albert Jentzer, one of Max Thorek's earliest and most active supporters in Europe, who had handled the formalities of incorporation of ICS in Geneva, Switzerland in 1935. Mme Jentzer charmed everyone with her recollections of how the official documents of incorporation were signed in the Jentzer parlor 50 years before.





Mme Rose Jentzer, and officials of the Canton of Geneva, Switzerland, during the reception honoring the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of the ICS.

***1986: Madrid, Spain***

Madrid was the site for the twenty-fifth Biennial Congress held in June 1986, which attracted approximately 1300 surgeons from around the world. Hosted by Professor Felipe de la Cruz Caro, Chairman of the organizing committee, the scientific sessions were held at the magnificent Palacio de Congresos y Exposiciones, and included simultaneous translation into French, Spanish, and English. An extensive cultural and social program allowed the visitors to explore some of Spain's magnificent old architecture. A joyous outdoor gala was held in the beautiful Cecilio Rodriguez Gardens of Madrid, enlivened by flamenco musicians, many of whom were students or surgical residents of the University of Madrid.

***1988: Milan, Italy***

The July 1988 Biennial congress in Milan, Italy attracted more than 12,000 attendants from 88 countries, an unprecedented feat in the history of the College. Led by Professor Walter Montorsi, Congress Chairman, the organizing committee presented a week-long intensive program which provided the latest experience and thinking in all the specialties and subspecialties of surgery; the program was aptly entitled "First World Post Graduate Course in Surgery". Lecturers and session chairmen were chosen from leaders of their fields in all countries, providing a truly worldwide spectrum. The Proceedings of the

congress were printed in three volumes and distributed gratis to 8,000 participants. An evening at "La Scala" was the highlight of a lavish social program, which included generous buffets served nightly at theaters and palazzi around Milan, where cultural and social functions took place.

***1990: São Paulo, Brazil***

An outstanding educational forum, composed of speakers from around the world, was presented at the September 1990 Biennial Congress in São Paulo, Brazil, which attracted over 3,000 attendants from 51 different countries. Professor Wilson M. Pollara, Chairman of the Congress, and his organizing committee, had in addition counterbalanced the scientific part with a joyful extravaganza of music and dance, enjoyed by all. A specially made video, highlighting ICS, its Museum of Surgical Science, and the fascinating country of Brazil, displayed on a huge screen at the opening ceremony, was received with acclaim. Many participants continued on to Rio de Janeiro to participate in a postgraduate program, organized by Professor José Hilario and Dr Carlos Mayr, held at the facilities of the Brazilian College of Surgeons.

***1992: Cairo, Egypt***

The ICS World Congress of Surgery was held in Cairo, Egypt in November 1992. A speakers'





Organizers and hosts of the São Paulo Biennial Congress. Back row, left to right: Dr Eleazar Chaib, Dr Nelson García de Moraes Forjaz Jr; second row: Dr José Eduardo Monteiro da Cunha; third row, left to right: Dr David Rosenberg, Dr Artur Parada; front row: Professor Wilson Modesto Pollara, Chairman.

forum of many internationally renowned surgeons attracted approximately 1500 participants from 48 different countries to share the latest information in surgery. Professor Abdel Hay Mashhour, President of the Congress, Professor Refaat Kamel, Chairman of the organizing committee, Professor Abd El Meguid Sadek, Chairman of the scientific committee, and their colleagues, were warmly congratulated on the excellence of the scientific program and the enjoyable social programs and wonderful hospitality.

A festive gala dinner was the setting for the closing ceremony and the ceremonial transfer of the ICS world presidency from outgoing President John Lumley to incoming President Refaat Kamel. The press came out in full force to broadcast the proud news to the Egyptian people

that one of their own surgeons was chosen to become the twenty-eighth ICS International President. Egypt's Prime Minister, His Excellency Dr Muhamed Atef Sedki, honored the College by meeting with ICS dignitaries.

#### ***1994: London, UK***

The twenty-ninth Biennial Congress is to be held in London, England, November 13–16, at the Queen Elizabeth II Congress Centre, situated in the heart of London. Presided over by Professor John S.P. Lumley, the theme of the Congress is global standards of surgical excellence. Symposia will bring together recognized authorities in all major specialties from around the world for critical examination of the implications of contemporary scientific thought and techno-





November 1992, Cairo, Egypt: Egyptian Prime Minister, His Excellency Dr Muhamed Atef Sedki, receives ICS delegation. Left to right: Professor Pedro A. Rubio (USA), North American Federation Secretary; Professor Refaat Kamel (Egypt), President-Elect; Professor Maged Zayed (Egypt); Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Muhamed Atef Sedki; Professor John S.P. Lumley (England), President; Professor Tehemton E. Udawadia (India), immediate past President.

logical advances, as well as consideration of practical solutions for patient management. The role of surgical training within the context of worldwide scientific progress and political change will be given significant emphasis.

Congressionists should have plenty of opportunity to mingle and relax at a welcome party after the Opening Ceremony, a concert, and a gala dinner, while numerous tours will be available to facilitate visits to London's famous sights.

#### **New national sections: 1970–1994**

The College expanded its geographical reach to include new national sections in Iceland, South Africa, Ethiopia, Sudan, Yugoslavia, East Africa, Dominican Republic, Indonesia, Australia, Kuwait,

Russia, Bulgaria, Singapore, Bangladesh, and Lithuania.

#### *Iceland*

The Iceland section came on board in 1970, with the following Fellows as its first officers:

- President: Dr Frosti Sigurjonsson
- President-Elect: Dr Pall Gislason
- Vice-President: Dr Oli Kr. Gudmundsson
- Secretary: Dr John G. Hallgrimsson
- Treasurer: Dr Hannes Finnbogason.

#### *South Africa*

South African Fellows also started a section in 1970, with Professor François Daubenton as its first President.



*Ethiopia*

The Ethiopian section was formed in 1971. The elected officers were:

- President: Dr Taye Makuria
- President-Elect: Dr Sam Ross
- Secretary–Treasurer: Dr Elizabeth Duncan.

Dr Makuria was also secretary of the African federation at that time.

*Sudan*

The charter meeting of the Sudan section took place on January 19, 1972. Elected were:

- President: Mr Ibrahim M. el Moghraby
- President-Elect: Mr Ahmed Abdel Aziz
- Vice-President: Mr Osman Awadalla
- Treasurer: Mr Mohamed Ahmed Hassan
- Secretary: Mr Abdel Aal Abdalla
- Additional members on the council: Mr Zaki el Din Ahmed and Mr Abdel Rahim Mohamed Ahmed.

*Yugoslavia*

The Yugoslavian section joined the College's ranks on May 25, 1972, when it received its charter at the meeting of the International Board of Governors in Rome, Italy. The following officers were elected:

- President: Dr Stojan Gala
- President-Elect: Dr Slavko Vikic
- Vice-President: Dr Mladen Stulhofer
- Secretary: Dr Franjo Zdravic
- Treasurer: Dr Janko Drzecnik.

*East Africa*

Fellows in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanzania joined together in the East African section, which was established on March 23, 1974 at the Biennial Congress in Lima, Peru. Its first President was Mr M.W. Warambo and Mr G.E. Nevill was its first Secretary–Treasurer.

*Dominican Republic*

A national section was established in the

Dominican Republic in 1975. Its first officers were:

- President: Dr Ruben Andujar
- President-Elect: Dr José Gil
- Vice-President: Dr Manuel Morillo
- Secretary: Dr Francisco Garcia-Pereyra
- Treasurer: Dr Zoilo Fernandez.

*Indonesia*

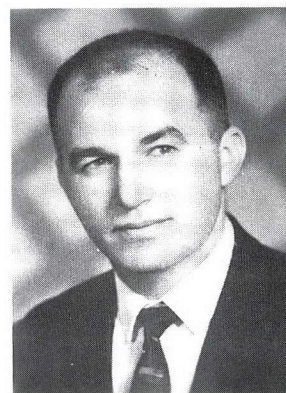
The Indonesian section received its charter on May 22, 1976 at the meeting of the International Board of Governors in Athens, Greece. Its first elected officers were:

- President: Dr Soelarto Reksoprodjo
- President-Elect and Secretary: Dr Chehab Rukni Hilmy
- Vice-President: Dr Ichwan P. Radjabin
- Treasurer: Dr Subroto Sapardan
- Chairman, Credentials Committee: Dr Moenadjat Wiratmadja
- Regent: Dr Ade Kalsid.

*Kuwait*

On June 25, 1977 a charter was granted to the Kuwait section at the meeting of the International Executive Council in Milan, Italy. Its elected officers were:

- President: Dr Sadad Sabri
- President-Elect: Associate Professor Hassan Al Awadi



Dr Sadad Sabri – first President of the Kuwait section.



- Vice-President: Dr Nail Al Naqeeb
- Secretary-General: Dr Ahmad Naim
- Scientific Secretary: Dr Fahmy Abdelkader
- Assistant Secretary: Dr Ismail Sallam
- Treasurer: Dr Rifaiat Hassanien.

#### *Egypt*

The Egyptian section was established by Professor Mahmoud Badr and Professor Refaat Kamel in 1973, but was reorganized in 1979. The following section officers were elected:

- President: Professor Mohey El Kharadly, Dean of the Medical Research Council of Alexandria
- President-Elect: Professor Hamed Arnaout, Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University
- Vice-President Professor Abdel Hay Mashhour, Rector, Tanta University
- Secretary General: Professor Refaat Kamel, Professor at Ein Shams University, Cairo.

#### *Lebanon*

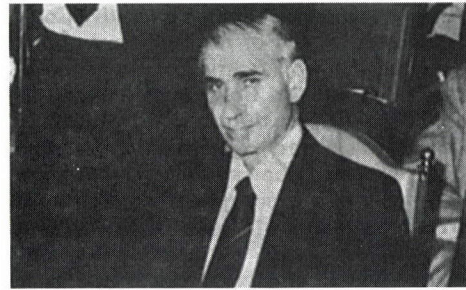
As a result of the untiring efforts of Dr Atef Zakaria of Lebanon, who shuttled back and forth between Chicago and Beirut over several years, an official charter was issued to the revitalized Lebanese section of the College on May 29, 1983 by the International Executive Council at its meeting in West Berlin. The officers of the reorganized Lebanese section were:

- President: Dr Nazih Salam
- Vice-President: Dr Atef Zakaria
- Treasurer: Dr Robert Daou
- Secretary: Dr Nouhad Hamade.

Unfortunately, a new political turmoil broke out in this country some time after this, making the revitalization of the section short-lived.

#### *Australia*

The Australian section of the College was inaugurated in 1985, and the following were elected as officers:



Dr Anthony Rumore, founder of the Australian section.

- President: Professor Earl R. Owen
- President-Elect: Dr Hari B. Kapila
- Secretary: Dr Anthony Rumore
- Treasurer: Dr Kevin Byrne.

Dr Anthony Rumore also deserved credit for being the moving force behind the founding of the section. Many of the 53 Australian Fellows were long-time members of ICS, but the enormous distances in that country had made it difficult to establish the necessary connections among them for organization of a section. The vitality of the Australian section is confirmed by their bid to host the thirty-second Biennial Congress of the College in Sydney in the year 2000.

#### *Portugal*

The Portuguese section was officially reorganized on November 23, 1985, when the following new officers were elected:

- President: Dr Carlos Alves Pereira
- Vice-President: Dr Jorge Borges de Almeida
- Secretary: Dr Jorge dos Santos Bessa
- Treasurer: Dr Maria Angelica Roberto de Almeida.

Professor Elias Damiao Pires, a member of the College since 1966, when it was first founded, gave able and strong direction to the reorganization in his function as Chairman of the organizing committee.



*Soviet section (now called the Russian section)*

In May 1990, after almost two years of communications, efforts to establish a Soviet section met with success during a visit to Moscow by Professor Tehemton E. Udwardia and Professor John S.P. Lumley, ICS President and President-Elect, respectively, at that time. On September 7, 1990, a charter was officially granted to the Soviet section by the international Board of Governors at the Biennial Congress in São Paulo, Brazil. The following officers were elected:

- President: Professor Boris Konstantinov, Director of the National Research Center of Surgery of Moscow
- President-Elect: Professor A. Chernousov
- Secretary: Dr G.P. Ambatiello.

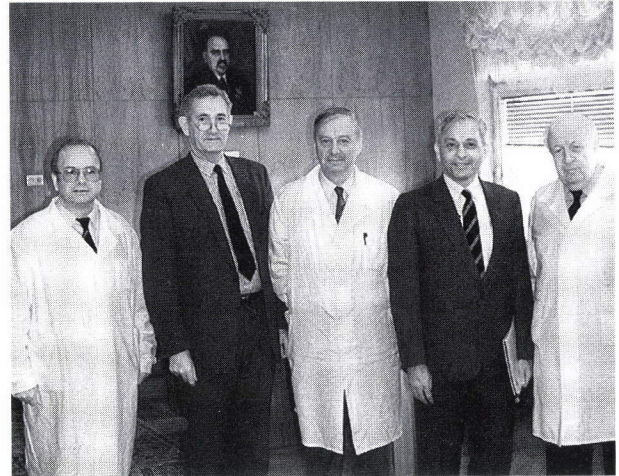
The good plans of the officers to promote growth of the section and participation in the activities of the College were challenged when, only a year later, major political changes took place in this part of the world, making it impossible for the young section to develop significantly. The College is confident that what is now called the "Russian section" will become a dynamic part of ICS, in due course.

*Bulgaria*

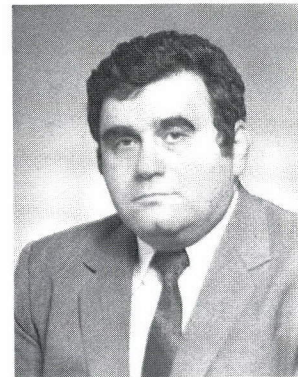
Professor Stanislav Baev of Bulgaria took the initiative to approach ICS to explore the possibilities of joining. He wrote:

"We are looking forward to having closer professional and friendly relations with you, to work together in the one and same field – beloved by us all – the field of surgery."

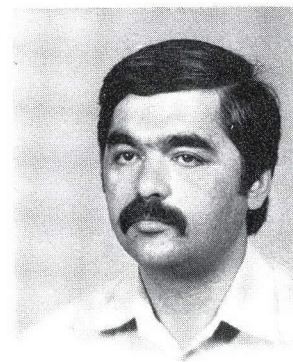
He was warmly welcomed at the 1990 Biennial congress in São Paulo, Brazil, where, on September 9, 1990, Professor Baev personally received the charter for the new Bulgarian section of the College, of which he became the first President. Professor Stephen Vassilev, who had also worked very hard to establish the section, became its first Secretary. Under this capable leadership the section grew fast and was able to host an excellent



Left to right: Professor A. Chernousov, Professor John S.P. Lumley, Professor Boris Konstantinov, Professor Tehemton E. Udwardia, Professor Boris Petrovsky.



Professor Stanislav Baev – first President, Bulgarian section.



Dr Stephen Vassilev – first Secretary, Bulgarian section.

European federation congress in September 1993.





Singapore section officers. Front row (left to right): Dr Peter H.C. Lim, Hon. Secretary; Professor Earl Owen, guest, ICS Pacific Federation Secretary (1989–92); Professor Christopher Chen, President; Dr Tanny Chan, second Vice-President. Back row (left to right): Dr Peter C.T. Chew, Member, Executive Committee; Dr A.L. Lim, Member, Executive Committee; Dr Allan Y.H. Ng, first Vice-President; Dr Chang Wi Yee, Hon. Treasurer; Dr S.L. Iswaran, Member, Executive Committee. Absent was Dr Sng Soo Pheow, Member of the Executive Committee.

### *Singapore*

Although there were a good number of ICS Fellows in Singapore for many years, it was not until November 1991 that a national section was officially established. The impetus came from Dr Peter Lim Huat Chye, Head of the Division of Urology, Toa Payoh Hospital, who also became the section's first Honorary Secretary. Professor Christopher Chen, Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Kandang Kerbau Hospital was elected its first President.

The ICS Singapore section made its first major impact on the local medical fraternity when it joined the Academy of Medicine (Singapore) in organizing the Singapore–Malaysia Congress of Medicine, in August 1992. Professor John Lumley, ICS President (1991–92), and Professor Earl Owen, Pacific Federation Secretary (1989–92),

were the official representatives of the ICS parent body, lecturing at the congress which was attended by 650 participants.

### *Bangladesh*

Through the contacts of Dr Yongyudh Vajaradul of Thailand, member of the ICS Executive Council (1991–92), a large group of surgeons in Bangladesh became interested in joining the ICS and forming a section. Professor Ruhul Haque of Dhaka, who became the section's first honorary secretary, wrote a letter to this effect, to which 27 surgeons affixed their signature.

In September 1992 a charter group meeting was held, combining business meetings and a scientific program, with Dr Arjun D. Sehgal, Asian federation secretary (1991–92) as special guest. By October 1992 the charter group had





Left to right: Dr Arjun D. Seghal, Asian Federation secretary (1991-92); Bangladesh section officers: Professor M. Kabiruddin Ahmed, President; Professor Ruhul Haque, Secretary; Professor Shafiquel Hoque, Treasurer.



President of the reorganized Canadian section, Marvin L. Kwitko, MD.



President-Elect of the reorganized Canadian section, Demetrius E.M. Litwin, MD.



increased from 27 to 105 members. Professor M. Kabiruddin Ahmed, the section's President, Professor A.F.M. Ruhul Haque, Secretary, and Professor Shafiqul Hoque, Treasurer, personally received the section's official charter at the meeting of the International Executive Council in Cairo, Egypt, November 1992.

#### *Canada*

The Canadian section of the College was officially re-established at the ICS Board of Governors meeting in November 1992, Cairo, Egypt. This exciting development was achieved through the initiatives of Dr Marvin L. Kwitko, Montréal, and Dr Demetrius E.M. Litwin, Saskatoon, President and President-Elect, respectively, of the Canadian section, and Professor Pedro A. Rubio, North American Federation Secretary. The Canadian

section was initially founded in 1950 and, for many decades, played a dynamic role in the life of the College. Many of its Fellows held high positions in the ICS leadership. Dr Leon H. Appleby was ICS World President (1963–64).

#### *Lithuania*

The Lithuanian section joined the ICS ranks in 1994. Its first President is Professor A. Marcinkevicius and its Secretary Dr G. Barauskas.

#### *Other new sections*

At present, sections are in the process of being founded in Romania, Libya, Macedonia, and Albania.

### **1987 to the present: ICS Presidents**

#### ***Professor Giuseppe Pezzuoli, Italy (1987–88)***

Professor Pezzuoli began his university career in Milan where he became Professor of Surgery in 1961. He was then appointed, in succession, as head of the departments of surgery at the universities of Cagliari, Modena, Padua; he returned to Milan in 1979 as Director of the Institute of Clinical Surgery and the Postgraduate School of Surgery at the University of Milan. At present he is Professor of Surgery at the Institute.

Professor Pezzuoli has been an active member of the National Health Council over the years. He was President of the Italian Society of Surgery for two years. He has received recognition awards from l'Association Française de Chirurgie, la Sociedad Spagnola de Cirugia, and the Czechoslovak Society of Surgery.

He has served the International College of Surgeons for many years, as President of the Italian section, Secretary of the European Federation, and International President.

Professor Pezzuoli is the author of over 350 papers on the major aspects of general, thoracic, and vascular surgery, published in national and international journals.



Professor Giuseppe Pezzuoli (Italy) – twenty-fifth ICS President, 1987–88.



His surgical experience covers more than 30,000 operations involving all the major fields of general surgery. Following in the Italian tradition, Professor Pezzuoli has created a flourishing school of surgery. Today many of his “pupils” occupy key posts in university teaching hospitals and in state hospitals.

In recent years he has devoted himself to reconstructive surgery of the trachea and liver transplantation. In 1989 he coordinated the lung transplant program of the University of Milan. The first successful lung transplantations carried out in Italy were performed by Professor Pezzuoli and his lung transplant team.

Professor Giuseppe Pezzuoli has held the position of Editor-in-Chief of the ICS Journal since May 1979, when it was generally agreed that the Journal needed a radical change to become competitive. Assisted by his Co-Editors, Drs Rocco Maruotti and Piero Zannini, whom he gratefully acknowledges as indispensable, Professor Pezzuoli is warmly recognized for publishing a Journal that successfully promotes the spread of scientific knowledge, and makes an effective contribution towards raising the standard of surgical care on an international level.

For the purpose of this book, Professor Pezzuoli was kind enough to read through old issues of the Journal, going back to the very first one, and to write down his observations to give us a sense of the Journal’s development.

### **International Surgery – a historical overview** **Professor Giuseppe Pezzuoli, Editor-in-Chief**

The first issue of the journal of the International College of Surgeons was published in July 1938, just three years after the founding of the College. It began as a quarterly publication, published by the US section.

Dr Max Thorek was its first Editor-in-Chief, a position he held for 22 years – until his death in January 1960. Among his first contributors he counted Rudolph Nissen of Switzerland and Hamilton Bailey of England. The group was joined by Felix Mandl of Austria in 1939. Over the

course of the years, many outstanding surgeons from around the world would lend their support to the Journal as authors, editorial board members, summary editors, or guest editors.

Over the almost six decades of its existence, the Journal has been guided by the following Editors-in-Chief:

Dr Max Thorek	July 1938 to January 1960
Dr Philip Thorek	February 1960 to December 1965
Dr Warner F. Bowers	January 1966 to June 1967
Mr Walter Banke (Director of Publications)	July 1967 to December 1969
Dr Edward L. Compere	January 1970 to August 1971
Dr Morris Friedell	September 1971 to September 1977
Dr Donald Miller	October 1977 to April 1979
Professor Giuseppe Pezzuoli	May 1979 to the present

The first two issues of the Journal appeared under the name *Transactions of the International College of Surgeons*, which was changed to *The Journal of the International College of Surgeons* in January 1939. It retained this name up to 1966 when it adopted its definitive title *International Surgery*.

From 1939 on the Journal was published bi-monthly under the auspices of a Publication Committee. It was with justifiable pride that Dr Max Thorek announced, in 1950, that the Journal was to become a monthly publication, which it remained for more than 20 years. Thorek had been Editor for 12 years at that point, and must have been well aware of the increased workload involved. But he was described as one who thinks while others sleep. From 1974 to 1978 the yearly number of issues was reduced from 12 to 10, and after that to six. As a result of increasing costs of publication and postage, the latter being a particularly large expense in international distribution, four issues have been published per year since 1981.

Most of the first issue, dated July 1938, was devoted to editorials explaining why the College was founded, and defining its purposes and aims. There were six original articles and a certain



number of book reviews. The first articles were mainly from the USA, Canada, and the UK. Soon, however, the scientific content of the Journal became prominent. Reports on College activities and personalities were gradually included.

In October 1940 the first guest editor, Fred H. Albee, brought out a number devoted to orthopedic surgery. Then, in June 1941, André Crotti acted as guest editor of an issue primarily dealing with thyroid surgery. By this time the specialties normally included in the Journal covered the fields of thoracic, abdominal, neurologic, and gynecologic surgery.

The 1940s were the bleak years of the Second World War, which exacted a sad toll in terms of human life. Yet it is also an undeniable fact that wars have also been synonymous with technological progress, and medical science is to be included here. So perhaps it is not so surprising to find that in no less than three years after the outbreak of the war the Journal carried reviews of books such as: *After-effects of Brain Injuries in War*; *Urology in War*; and even *War Gasses*. In the same year, 1942, we can find an editorial devoted to "Blood vessel surgery in war". Original papers which appeared that year included "War epidemics, "Some surgical problems of present war", Wound healing – hypoproteinemia', and "Surgical treatment of facial wounds".

In 1943, promptly enough, we find "Experiences at the Naval Hospital, Pearl Harbor, during and after the Japanese air raid of December, 1941". After which, in 1944, together with numerous articles devoted to various aspects of war surgery and war wounds, it is a relief to read the Editorial entitled "Post-war international cooperation".

Language, in the past, posed a serious problem because the knowledge of English was not so widespread and many members considered the use of English to be a form of discrimination. Even in more recent years the question has frequently arisen. An international organization such as ICS, counting members from more than 100 countries, faces the problem of communication between people of many native languages.

Foreign tongues were one of the first hurdles in

communications for Max Thorek, and he faced up to this immediately. In the first issue of *Transactions*, foreign books were reviewed for the benefit of English-speaking readers. The next step was to communicate directly with foreign readers, and naturally enough his Spanish-speaking readers were foremost in his mind. Already in 1942 there were original articles in Spanish and by 1945 the "Seccion en Espanol" was a regular feature of the Journal. In 1951 Max Thorek, under the amusing title "Summing up the summaries" announced that each article "now carries, in addition to its English summary, a resumé in French, German, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese", and this practice was continued up to 1975.

Approaching this subject in an interesting editorial in 1966, then editor Warner F. Bowers wrote:

"Naturally, each country is proud of its own language and members want what they feel is suitable recognition. How can this be accomplished and yet remain on a common sense economic level? Some have suggested that each paper be published in several languages in each issue of the journal. It does not take much insight to realize that this is hopelessly visionary. Besides what languages would be chosen? In the past it has been the policy to publish a paper in German, French or Spanish. One or two, or even twice that number each year, is only a gesture without great meaning. Publication of a paper in a 'foreign' language immediately reduces the number of readers by an astronomical percentage. Some authors who have had a paper published in German state that they receive more requests for translation than they do for reprints!

"Another solution has been to publish summaries in several 'foreign' languages, but this leads to a strange situation where men write in to say that the summary does not say the same things as the article. This means only that such persons have read the article in English, or they could not make this statement; and, if this is indeed the case, the foreign summary was not needed."

Bowers concluded logically enough:

"Realizing also that nothing short of complete publication of every paper in each language would satisfy all, what is



the proper course to follow? How about papers in English with summaries in Interlingua?"

Now the controversy is over. The improvement in the teaching of English, improved communication and population mobility have bestowed upon the English language the status of the unique language of science. And in fact the last foreign summaries appeared in the *Journal* in 1974.

But to get back to the first Editor; Thorek was also interested in how his contributors wrote. In 1949, in an editorial entitled "Words, words, words", he concludes that "A little study of the basic principles of good writing would enable contributors to present their facts in compact, readable and significant form; to include what is necessary . . . and to leave out the rest."

This is a recurring theme in the *Journal*, almost a preoccupation. Professor Nicholas C. Louros, ICS President at the time, returned to the argument in 1974 when he wrote about "The requirements of written scientific expression". He took up the leit-motif and quoted Winston Churchill who, on being handed a diplomatic report, once remarked: "The length of this report protects it from being read."

The current Editor, since he outlined his views in his editorial in 1979 and stated that "the quality of the articles sent to the journal will set the standard of the journal itself", has written no more on the subject. However, by adhering to extremely strict criteria for the acceptance of articles, he has put into practice what has been a recurrent exhortation since the times of Max Thorek.

On several occasions Max Thorek also expressed his views on the editorial policy of the *Journal*. In his brilliant prose he addressed those surgeons who wrote unnecessarily detailed reviews of the literature, condemned long drawn-out introductions, and, above all, the serving up of rehashed material from other authors' works. In 1949 Dr Thorek wrote that, not only on reviewing articles for publication but on actually reading much published material, he was often reminded of a

little boy who was asked to review a juvenile book about penguins. "This book," wrote the truthful child, "tells me more about penguins than I care to know."

What Max Thorek underlined was that "authors themselves would profit by condensation, because the time of waiting for publication would be immensely shortened." The conclusion of this particular editorial reads:

"That dread disease, cacoethes, has long been recognized as incurable, but the prognosis can be improved so far as interest and value are concerned."

In February 1960, obviously motivated by a high sense of duty, Dr Philip Thorek took over as Editor on the death of his father. The first editorial he wrote dealt with a subject dear to this heart, one on which he was highly qualified to write. In April 1962, on behalf of ICS, "one of whose basic principles is the widest possible distribution of new ideas, techniques and discoveries" in the field of motion picture and television programs, he congratulated the American Medical Association on their work in that field. Dr Philip Thorek had spearheaded the Film Forum feature at College meetings, which immediately became popular. He himself had gained well-deserved recognition for many of the surgical films he had produced, several of which earned prestigious awards.

Dr Philip Thorek furthermore continued a practice, which had been introduced by his father in 1956, which was to subdivide articles in the Contents according to the subject treated: abdominal and general surgery, cardiovascular surgery, ophthalmologic surgery, and so on. This called for meticulous editorial preparation. It is significant to note that it was discontinued after Dr Philip Thorek left the position at the end of 1965, to be re-introduced for only two years in 1972 when the *Journal* came under the editorship of Dr Morris Friedell.

While Mr Walter Banke was directing the *Journal* an interesting editorial feature was introduced entitled "International Panel Reports".



Questions on a particular subject were submitted to an international surgical panel whose answers were published. The Moderator in the second of these editorial features was the subsequent editor, Dr Edward L. Compere.

Under the guidance of Dr Morris Friedell, the publisher was changed, the new editorial team introduced innovations in the editorial sections and manuscript classifications, and a new format and cover design were presented. Dr Friedell followed Max Thorek's example in inviting guest editors to participate, and organized issues devoted to vascular surgery, orthopedics, obstetrics and gynecology, and ultrasound.

Upon taking office in October 1977, Dr Donald Miller outlined his policy and went on to state:

"In pursuit of his sanity, the new Editor, inundated by hundreds of acquisitions – manuscripts, letters, reviews, suggestions, critiques – if he is to survive his position, must rely on the collective experience of his panel of editorial experts as well as on his own particular expertise."

The "hundreds of acquisitions" were still a problem when Dr Miller left the editorship only a year and a half later. Thanks to hard work, loyal collaborators, and a strict acceptance policy, the present Editor was able to bring matters under control, when he took over the editorship in May 1979.

In his efforts to improve the Journal, the current Editor established a highly efficient editorial office, and enforced the following criteria over the last 15 years, all with the gratifying result of seeing the Journal take a well-respected place in the international surgical community. The editorial policy which was implemented, requires articles to conform to the uniform style approved by the International Steering Committee of Medical Editors, and that articles should comply with both the Recommendations of the Declaration of Helsinki, as regards the ethics of clinical investigations on humans, and the Guiding Principles in the Care and Use of Animals approved by the Council of the American Physiological Society.

All articles are assessed by experts of international standing on the basis of the significance and originality of content and results. Furthermore, priority is customarily given to controlled prospective studies and to those with a suitable statistical layout. Clinical reports in the form of case reports are published only if they are of didactic or scientific relevance. Special emphasis is placed on new surgical techniques. *International Surgery* is indexed in all the most important indexing systems, including *Index Medicus*, *Current Contents*, *Excerpta Medica*, and *Asca Topics*.

As this history of the International College of Surgeons goes to press, we are drawing close to the year 2000 – a new era. Already we can see technology galloping ahead, with new developments in all fields.

In the last two decades surgery has advanced at a dizzying speed. This progress has not been confined to improving and perfecting established techniques, but has almost been revolutionary in the development of fields such as transplantation and videoendoscopic surgery.

Our Journal will continue to present the works of surgeons from all over the world, open to innovations, yet maintaining a balanced and critical sense of proportion.

***Professor Tehemton E. Udawadia, Bombay, India  
(1989–90)***

Professor Udawadia is Honorary Professor of Surgery at Grant Medical College, Bombay, and Honorary Surgeon at J.J. Hospital, B.D. Petit Parsee General Hospital and P.D. Hinduja National Hospital, Bombay. He is also Honorary Consultant Surgeon at Breach Candy Hospital, Bombay.

His numerous academic distinctions include: Hunterian Professor, Royal College of Surgeons of England, 1984–85; Prakash Memorial Oration, Karachi, 1985; Surgikos Lecturer, Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, 1988; Pandalai Oration, Association of Surgeons of India, 1988; Sir James Ross Lecturer, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Bombay, 1991; and Past President, Association of Surgeons of India.



Professor Udwardia is the author of a book entitled *Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy*, and a contributing author in 12 books on surgery. He has presented more than 140 papers in national and international conferences, and published 40 articles in leading journals.

He is a Founder Member of the Indian Society of Paediatric Surgery, the Research Society of J.J. Group of Hospitals, the Colo-Rectal Surgery Section of the Association of Surgeons of India, the Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy of India, and the Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary Surgery, International Gastro-Surgical Club.

He is recognized for his pioneering efforts in the field of endoscopic surgery in the developing countries, and is past President of the Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy in India, and Founder President of the Indian Association of Gastrointestinal Endo Surgeons.

As ICS President he took close and firm control of the management of the organization, providing clear directives to staff and his executive team.

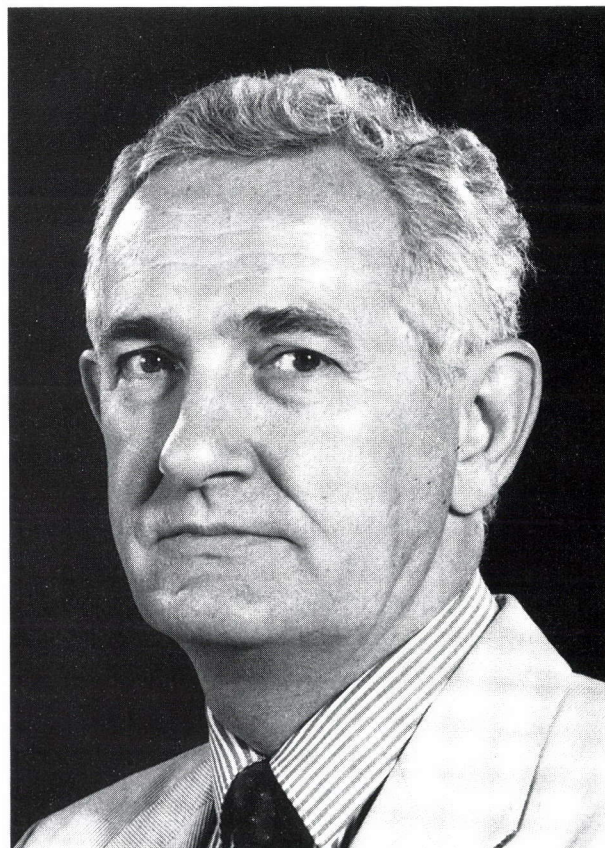
***Professor John S.P. Lumley, England (1991–92)***

Professor Lumley is Professor of Vascular Surgery at the University of London, Honorary Consultant Surgeon to St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and Civilian Consultant in Vascular Surgery to the British Navy.

During his presidency, Professor Lumley led the College in a critical evaluation of its activities, facilitating the redefinition of its role in world surgery. One of his particular interests has been the provision of an immediate medical response to international disaster. In the UK, this has already led to the setting up of the Diploma of the Medical Care of Catastrophies, awarded by the Society of Apothecaries of London.



Professor Tehemton E. Udwardia (India) – twenty-sixth ICS President, 1989–90.



Professor John S.P. Lumley (England) – twenty-seventh ICS President, 1991–92.



His 14 textbooks include works on anatomy, clinical examination, and general and vascular surgery, reflecting his long-standing interest in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education.

His awards include Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons of England; his surgical films have won him the gold BLAT and American Golden Camera awards. Professor Lumley is an accomplished conductor, his orchestra and choir having performed before Pope John Paul II as well as in concert halls across Europe.

***Professor Refaat Kamel, Egypt (1993–94)***

Professor Refaat Kamel (Egypt) is Professor of Surgery at Ain Shams University, a position he has held since 1972. He specializes in hepatobiliary-pancreatic surgery and is founder and principal investigator of the Liver Research Unit of Ain Shams University. He also founded the Egyptian Society of Hepatology and is its Secretary General. His work on the spleen has gained him recognition in many textbooks. Tropical surgery is

also a special interest, as his work in this field is also recognized in many textbooks of surgery, medicine, and gynecology. Professor Kamel has presented guest lectures at numerous universities and medical institutions around the world. He was chosen to present the Ibrahimian Lecture in Egypt, which is that country's highest award, and has presented numerous other memorial lectures. He has published more than 100 papers, and has supervised and examined nearly 500 theses for Master and Doctorate degrees in surgery. He has been awarded several gold medals and honour shields, including the Gold Medal for Excellency First Grade presented to him by the President of the Republic of Egypt in 1986.

***Professor Pedro A. Rubio, USA, President-Elect***

Professor Rubio will be President for the term 1995–96. Professor Rubio currently holds the following appointments: Chairman Emeritus, Department of Surgery, Medical Center Hospital, Houston; Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Texas Medical School, Houston, Texas; Professor of Surgery, Vascular Surgery, and Angiology (postgraduate level), Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico City; Director of Education and Course Director for laparoscopic cholecystectomy, advanced laparoscopy, and thoracoscopy training, Laser Training Institute, Houston, Texas.

Professor Rubio is certified by the American Board of Surgery, and four other American Boards. He is also certified by el Consejo Mexicano de Cirugía General, and two other Mexican Boards.

He holds the following degrees: Bachelor of Science, Doctor of Medicine and Surgery, Master of Science in Surgical Technology, and Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Technology.

A pioneer in laparoscopic laser cholecystectomy, Professor Rubio has developed several procedures in advanced laparoscopic and thoracoscopic surgery. He has written approximately 250 scientific papers, eight medical textbook chapters, and two full-length surgical atlases. He has also produced three award-winning scientific



Professor Refaat Kamel (Egypt) – twenty-eighth ICS President, 1993–94.





Professor Pedro A. Rubio (USA), currently President-Elect, will be the twenty-ninth ICS President for the term 1995–96.

films, designed 18 commercially available cardiovascular surgical instruments, and participated in more than 30 research projects.

Professor Rubio is bringing extensive knowledge of ICS to his forthcoming International presidency. He has gained insight in College matters in his various positions of leadership in the US section, including the section's presidency, as well as through many years of active participation in major decision-making and projects as a member of the international executive team.

#### **1989 to the present: a unique team – Professors Udwardia, Lumley, Kamel, and Rubio**

It is a fortunate course of events for the College, that four ICS Presidents, closely linked together in mutual respect, friendship, and ambition for the College, have succeeded each other since 1989. Their unique collaboration and unanimity of purpose and vision have ensured a remarkably long period of clearly focused direction, which

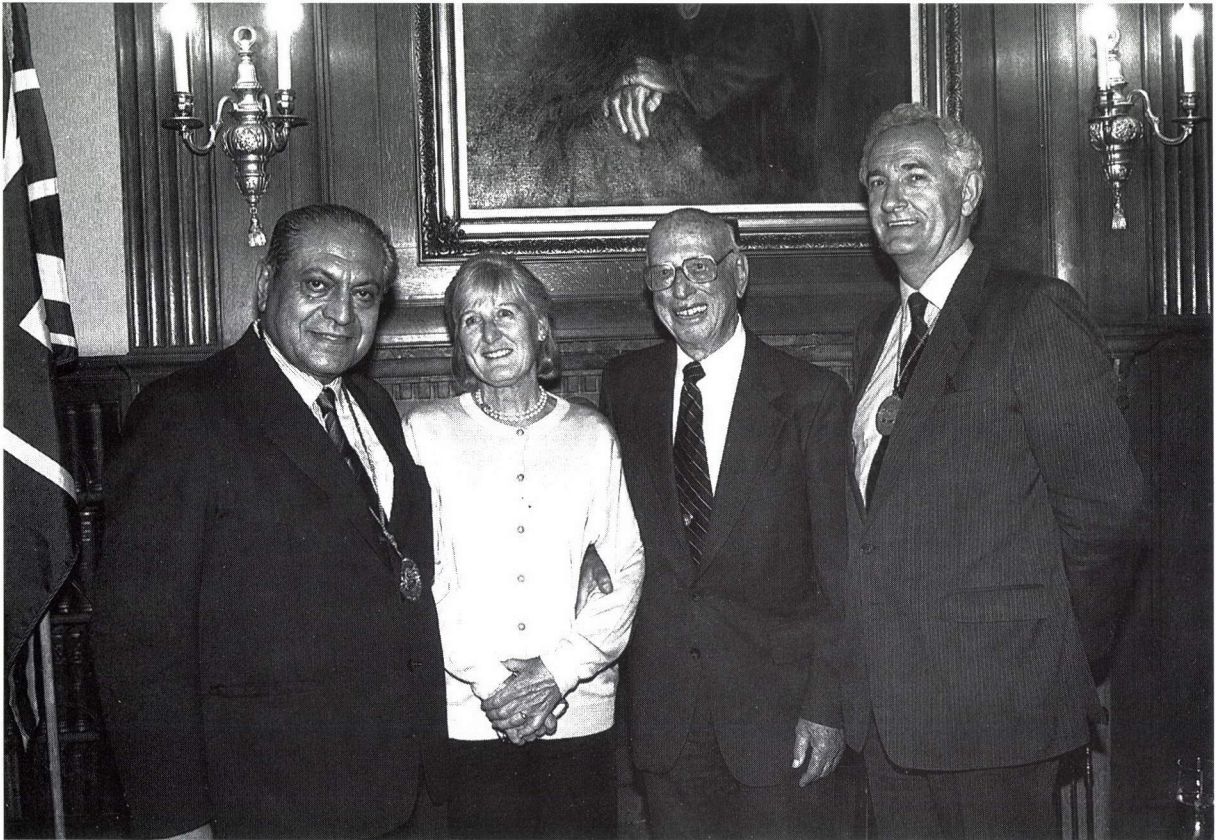
has greatly enhanced the fruitfulness of all efforts and initiatives carried out in that period. What was started during one presidency could continue, expand, or come to fruition during consecutive presidencies. All indications are that this era of outstanding collaborative leadership will last for many years to come. The future looks bright.

Professor Tehemton E. Udwardia of India took the helm of the International College of Surgeons in 1989, Professor John S.P. Lumley of England in 1991, Professor Refaat Kamel of Egypt in 1993, and Professor Pedro A. Rubio of USA, currently President-Elect, will start his term in 1995.

#### **Streamlining management**

With Professor Udwardia's assumption of the presidency on January 1, 1989, a new era began in the governance of the College. A generation younger than many of his predecessors in that post, Udwardia took upon himself not only the customary role of guiding his team of elected officers in matters of policy and planning, but he also felt that it was his responsibility to take full control of the day-to-day management of the College. In an international organization such as ICS, with its elected officers separated from each other and the headquarters staff in Chicago by thousands of miles, this had been impossible in the past. But the combination of fax machine and sophisticated telephone service had changed that, and the president immediately seized this opportunity offered by modern communications technology. All correspondence, proposals, drafts, and other documents of importance were duly transmitted to him and, once a week, he discussed pertinent matters by telephone with the Executive Director at headquarters, mapping out strategies, sorting out options, searching for solutions, and giving directions on how to proceed week by week. The speed and efficiency of the system indeed empowered the president and the officers to take the reins of the College fully into their own hands – to be policy makers and managers at the same time. It also meant the addition of a tremendous workload on the president, which





Left to right: ICS President Professor Refaat Kamel (1993–94); ICS Executive Director Elisabeth R. Braam (1989–93); ICS Honorary Member Mr Charles R. Walgreen Jr; immediate past President Professor John S.P. Lumley (1993–94).

Udwadia took in stride, as did Presidents Lumley and Kamel after him, and which Professor Rubio had already put in practice as US section president.

Another important factor in these developments was the return of Elisabeth Braam to the College as Executive Director, on the retirement of Dr Fernando C. Ottati in January 1989. Braam had been with the College for many years, but left for a period of time to become Executive Director of the Midwest region (USA) of the international environmental group Greenpeace. She understood the workings of the College and appreciated its world potential. Raised in the Netherlands, but now living in the USA, and with extensive foreign language skills, she was sensitive to the diverse cultural backgrounds of the College's international membership. She promoted and facilitated communications among the officers around the world, enabling them to

function efficiently and productively as a team. When Braam left the College in 1993, due to family reasons, she was succeeded by J. Thomas Viall.

The hands-on approach enabled Professor Udwadia to streamline the headquarters staff and significantly improve support services and use of financial resources. One of the most visible effects was that the ICS Museum of Surgical Science was re-energized by hiring, for the first time in decades, a salaried Museum Director, a position funded jointly by the parent body and the US section. Professor Udwadia found Professor Rubio, then US section President, enthusiastically supportive in this initiative.

#### **Real estate development**

Although the College's financial situation was stable, in great part resulting from the traditional generosity of its officers to work without com-



pensation and with limited reimbursement of expenses, the lack of adequate funds to develop the full potential of this unique worldwide surgical network was obvious and, at times, frustrating. Similar to other international organizations, the dues revenue from less privileged countries was hardly adequate to cover basic administrative costs, and worldwide communications by mail, telephone, and travel were costly, but necessary – conditions that could not be changed.

Confronting their many dreams on the one hand, and the lack of adequate funds on the other, Professor Udwardia and his international team, together with Professor Rubio and his US section team, planned to generate substantial funds by entering, in 1989, into an advantageous agreement with a developer to build a 41 story condominium tower on the back portion of the College's property. The two stately buildings having been the College's "home" for nearly 50 years, the officers had ensured that the contract stipulated that the elegant front portions of the existing buildings would be retained, as well as the attractive interior. The non-distinctive coach houses and some back rooms would be demolished, for which ICS would be compensated by additional space in the new tower. With the proposed condominium tower matching the original buildings' architectural features and grandeur, the entire structure would do justice to its distinguished surroundings. However, the necessary demolition and building permits were denied by the City of Chicago, which held that the buildings were architectural landmarks to be preserved in their entirety for the benefit of the public at large. Many believe, however, that the City has been unduly influenced in its decision by nearby property owners, who fear that the value of their properties might be adversely affected if the proposed condominium tower were built. The developer, at his expense, instigated court action challenging the City's decision; Professor Lumley and Professor Rubio, respectively represented the International Parent Body and the US section, testified in court on several occasions,

presenting the College's views. This being a slow process, the matter is still pending.

### **Brainstorming**

With the management polished into a smooth-running operation under the immediate control of the President and his team, the meetings of the International Executive Committee and Council were freed from dealing with mundane matters. During his two-year term as International President (1991–1992), Professor Lumley seized the opportunity to change the executive meetings into brainstorming exercises with a focus on new ways and ideas to enhance and adjust the role of the College in the world of surgery. The hours thus dedicated by the leadership to realistic long-range planning bore fruit – priorities were identified, options were assessed, steps were taken to explore new avenues. Lumley particularly challenged the six federation secretaries to actively participate in the brainstorming sessions, as their knowledge and guidance of the national sections are of vital importance to the College as a whole. The emphasis on the significant role of the federation secretaries subsequently evolved in the creation of the council of federation secretaries, to allow new federation secretaries to benefit from the knowledge and experience gained by immediate past federation secretaries.

Well aware that plans for the future must target the needs and expectations of the next generation of surgeons, the 1992 international executive committee decided that it would be useful to give some young surgeons-in-training a chance to contribute their thoughts to the planning process. They felt that the fresh views and perspectives of a group of bright, young surgeons, who had little or no previous association with the College, would give rise to new ideas and insights relevant to the strategic planning process the Committee was seriously engaged in. Genuinely committed to a visionary stewardship of the College, Committee members John Lumley, Tehemton Udwardia, Jacques Reynier, Earl Owen, Carlos Mayr, and Jalal Afnan each financed travel





Several members of the newly created Council of federation secretaries. Back row, left to right: immediate past federation secretaries Professor Pedro A. Rubio (North America); Professor Earl Owen (Pacific Chairman); Dr Herbert W. Siebbeles (Europe); and current (1993–94) federation secretary, Professor Paul B. Hahnloser (Europe); front row, left to right: David G. Stanley, MD (North America); Dr Paramasamy Boopalan (Pacific); and Dr Harshad Doctor (Asia).

for a bright individual thinker from their part of the world to attend the November 1992 Biennial Congress in Cairo, Egypt, while Professor Refaat Kamel, who resides in Cairo, paid for the young surgeons' hotel expenses. This is how a "young surgeon-in-training think-tank" with members from Australia, Bulgaria, Brazil, Egypt, England, India, and the USA, came together in Cairo, where they worked vigorously and enthusiastically on their assignment during the five-day program. Their comments were duly considered by the ICS leadership.

When Professor Refaat Kamel (Egypt) took over the international presidency of the College on January 1, 1993, he further stimulated the new thought processes, setting in motion several new initiatives of his own as well, thus providing the

continuity in leadership required to meet the challenges ahead.

### **History book**

One of his ideas, about which he felt very strongly, was that it was high time for the College to look back at the nearly six decades in which it has played a role in the world of surgery, and, for that purpose, to produce a comprehensive coverage of all aspects of its development. He judged that the significant accomplishments of the dynamic personalities from all around the world, whose vision, enthusiasm, hard work, and persistence had made the College come to life, would provide motivation and inspiration to current national and international leaders, and



fellows alike, to cast forward into the future with imagination and courage.

### **Further development: ICS Museum of Surgical Science**

Determined to guide the College's re-energized Museum of Surgical Science in the most appropriate direction, Professor Kamel joined the Museum's board of directors and its executive director at several meetings in Chicago, compelling all to look to the future. With a view to developing the Museum into a foremost resource for the study of the history of surgery, Professor Kamel is encouraging the board to define strategies that will lead to the fulfillment of that goal.

### **The specialties**

Professor Kamel places strong emphasis on the view that surgical specialists must be general surgeons in the first place, with special training and research in their specialty. To promote and support that view, he organized a scientific program for the November 1992 Biennial Congress in Cairo in which all specialties were represented. This format, he believes, allows every specialist to not only stay up-to-date in his field, but also to keep abreast of the state of the art in other specialties and general surgery, which promotes the spread of new ideas and techniques. He feels that it is essential that the specialist does not feel cornered within the confines of his specialty, but that he be a complete surgeon, in *senso lato* and *senso stricto*; a goal that is facilitated by the International College of Surgeons' unique meetings.

Recognizing the great number of foremost surgeons from many different nations among ICS members and honorary members, Professor Kamel encourages the formation of specialty groups composed of leaders in the different specialties from around the world. These eminent men would form the backbone of the College, holding leadership positions and providing guidance in

the organization of its scientific programs, and in defining plans and policy.

### **Towards the twenty-first century**

The thoughts, plans, strategies, and overall vision, which emerged from the cumulative efforts and initiatives of the past years during the presidencies of Professors Udwadia, Lumley, and Kamel, with vital participation from President-Elect Rubio and other members of the executive committee and council, can be captured as follows.

#### ***Assessing the strengths of ICS***

- It is the only international voice in surgery that genuinely represents a broad spectrum of world opinion. With 66 national sections and approximately 14,000 members spread over 108 countries around the world, its network lends itself eminently to its mission of elevating surgical standards worldwide.
- It has nearly unlimited academic resources as it counts, among its Fellows and Honorary Fellows, renowned leaders in every surgical specialty and subspecialty.
- Its national, federation, and world meetings provide a true national and international scientific forum for productive debate on surgical matters. Its world meetings bring panels of foremost leaders in surgery to many different lands, making available to large numbers of local surgeons an unequaled surgical update from around the world.
- Its surgical teams provide education and training to all quarters of the globe, encompassing both developed and developing nations.
- ICS is linked, and collaborates with, international medical relief organizations, such as the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children's Emergency Funds (UNICEF), United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the international office of the US Red Cross, MediSend, Les Médecins du Monde, Action in International Medicine (AIM), and others.



- ICS scholarships, distributed on a worldwide basis, continue to enable young surgeons in training to examine alternative forms of therapy at surgical centers of excellence.
- The ICS Journal *International Surgery* is another forum presenting an on-going update in surgical advancement and scientific thought from every corner of the globe.
- With its unique collection, the College's International Museum of Surgical Science in Chicago is a leader among historical medical and surgical museums, presenting educational exhibits and programs of interest to lay people and medical professionals alike.

#### ***Plans in progress and plans for the future***

##### *Surgical teams*

In view of changing needs and expectations in developing countries, a restructuring of the surgical teams' protocol is envisioned. Under consideration is the concept of first sending out an advance team to assess the realistic needs of the country to be visited, by first-hand conversations with health officials, and directors of medical schools and hospitals, while at the same time establishing a collaborative relationship with these leaders to help prepare for the visit of the teaching team. The advance team's visit would ensure that mutual expectations would be realistic, and would be fulfilled in the most efficient manner, and that the visiting surgeons would be adequately prepared for cultural sensitivities and local conditions. The advance team might also be able to prepare the way for the teaching team to bring with them surgical supplies and equipment to be donated to the host hospitals and medical schools visited by them.

##### *ICS scientific credits*

Thought is being given to developing a system for surgeons to collect scientific ICS credits, which could be allowed for specific courses presented at the College's international meetings which qualify for AMA Category I CME credits, which currently are only of interest to the surgeon from

the USA, where professional re-accreditation is an ongoing process.

The international activities of the College in surgical education and training are in keeping with a wider program for earning credits to recognize every surgeon's endeavors. This will encourage all countries to lay down national standards and expectations for continuing medical education.

##### *The journal*

The dedicated editorial staff of the Journal *International Surgery* is poised to feature updates on the various specialties, while, at the same time, not neglecting the interests of the general surgeon. Not only is expansion of the journal envisioned, but also free distribution to surgical communities that cannot afford the current subscription fee.

##### *The International Museum of Surgical Science*

The international officers and the Museum's Board of Directors and Executive Director are jointly charting a course of direction for the Museum's anticipated development. Although educational programs for high-school students are currently emphasized because of the availability of special grants earmarked for that purpose, a long-term vision is the Museum's development into a foremost reference center for the study of surgical history.

##### *Junior surgeons*

ICS leadership is focusing its efforts on building new, and strengthening existing, junior sections in each national body, with a view to long-term membership growth. Programs are being considered to make it attractive for junior surgeons to join ICS and participate in its activities at an early stage.

##### *Admission requirements*

Proposed programs are being studied to help monitor strict compliance with the solid standards of admission to fellowship throughout the different ICS sections, as put forth in the ICS



constitution and bylaws. National sections are allowed to raise their standards of admission, which many of them have done.

*Links with other organizations*

Links with WHO and other United Nations organizations and health care and medical relief groups are being solidified to step up ICS partici-

pation in the efforts to address global health concerns. Recently, ICS representative to WHO, and member of the International Executive Council, Professor Earl Owen of Australia, attended WHO's forty-sixth annual world health assembly in May, 1993 in Geneva, Switzerland, and went back there in July of the same year to discuss further joint activities.



# Afterword

## Advancing towards our global mission of surgical excellence

Dear Friends and Colleagues

The International College of Surgeons is unique in the opportunity it offers to each and every surgeon, wherever they live and regardless of their creed or culture. Together, ICS Fellows constitute a remarkable global sea of learning, providing a fascinating and inspiring diversity of perspective and opinions. Jointly, we teach and learn, share the excitement of new knowledge and perfected skills, and forge international bonds of mutual regard and friendship.

Goals that we could not achieve alone are within the reach of our Fellows. Together we can enhance current programs which contribute to the College's aims, to disseminate knowledge and practice of surgery. We can tap the College's vast potential, taking new initiatives and developing innovative ideas to bring knowledge and support to where it is needed.

Communication facilities, which we now take for granted, ensure that we remain fully aware of the circumstances of communities throughout the world. With this knowledge, we must accept the accompanying responsibility, which is, in our case, the quality of surgical care.

Our history of six decades of international collaboration is a secure stepping stone which enables us to prepare for the next phase, the twenty-first century, with its changing needs and demands.

Scores of men of vision and altruism have come before us, formulating the College's mission and helping us to mould surgical practice world wide. It is now up to us to carry the torch forward, promoting the ultimate goal of delivering standards of surgical excellence to every corner of the globe.

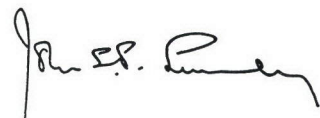
With every good wish,



Professor Refaat Kamel  
President



Professor Pedro A. Rubio  
President-Elect



Professor John S.P. Lumley  
Immediate Past President







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