

Newsletter

European-African HepatoPancreato-Biliary Association



Dear E-AHPBA members,

After the success of the Manchester 11th Biennial congress, the new executive of the E-AHPBA has begun to focus on the next 2 years. We must begin by congratulating Ajith Siriwardena and his LOC for an outstanding meeting. From all reports the academic Program was well received and the hospitality and warm reception we received was appreciated by all. I also want to thank Claudio Bassi and his council for their commitment and contribution to the great progress made by the E-AHPBA during his tenure as President.

The Executive and Council of the E-AHPBA have identified a number of areas that we wish to concentrate on over the next two years. HPB surgery has become a very established sub specialty in General Surgery. Many young surgeons are pursuing a career in HPB surgery. There are many centres of excellence in our region ensuring that the standard of the training is very high. We believe we can assist the young members with their journey to becoming HPB surgeons by providing a system to ensure that the quality of the training across the region is standardized. Under Xavier Rogiers leadership the Education committee, in collaboration with the UEMS, is developing strategies to support this process. We will host a number of trainee symposia and skills courses in different centres. We are also working to develop a reliable and valid training centre accreditation process to assist members in identifying training centres of excellence.

General Secretary

Our 13th EAHPBA Biennial Congress will be in Mainz (Germany) in May 2017. The Biennial IHPBA World Congress will be in Sao Paolo (Brasil) in April 2016. Keep an eye on the website for important dates.



Membership

Remember to encourage your colleagues to join our Association. We are particularly interested in reaching out to our trainees and medical students

HPB surgery has seen a very rapid rise to prominence over a short period of time. During that process many different societies and associations have contributed to the development of the discipline. It is essential that we now consolidate these efforts and create a global environment. However we must recognise that the HPB leaders in a region are best placed to understand and be responsive to the needs of their members. The IHPBA and the E-AHPBA stand together in the recognition of this fact. Prof Jagannath the President of the IHPBA has championed the concept of harmonisation. This means to use the strengths of the regional association together with that of the IHPBA and to offer this to members as a single entity. It remains crucial that the E-AHPBA grows the region by ensuring the inclusion of all national chapters and to welcome new chapters into this HPB family. This should be done together with our partners, the IHPBA. In this light we want to see that all members of the E-AHPBA and all members of the IHPBA are members of both organisations. We are working towards a single combined membership. The benefits of this are too many to list but include a regionally appropriate and responsive E-AHPBA focusing on education and training and the inclusive platform for all HPB surgeons in Africa and Europe. A strengthened IHPBA and with it its website and MyHPB platform to support communication between all HPB surgeons, their excellent secretariat support and international harmonization with the other 2 regions. The HPB journal that belongs to all of us has recently been allocated an impact factor of 2.675. This is a fantastic achievement for a relatively young journal. This is a significant benefit for all members.

Regional Biennial meetings and the IHPBA congress are excellent opportunities to catch up on the most recent developments in our field but it is an important time to meet old friends and make new friends. It is an opportunity for our younger and more junior colleagues to rub shoulders with the giants in HPB surgery. A single combined membership will allow this at a significantly reduce registration fee. With the 2016 IHPBA meeting in San Paulo around the corner, combined members will be able to get a significant reduction in registration fees.

I wish everyone in the north a welcomed summer break and hope you will take time to regenerate your energy. For those of us in the South, I hope the winter is not to cold.

Best Wishes to all

Martin Smith

Past en future presidents





Dear E-AHPBA friends,

It has been a great honour for me to serve the European African HPB Association as President. These last two years have been unforgettable from both the professional and personal perspective.

During my presidency, I worked to promote the role of the single National Chapters within the Association. At the same time, I tried to convey the awareness of our common belonging to a community: although coming from all over the world, we are part of the same family!

As President, I also had the great opportunity to see the birth of a new “baby”: the Middle Eastern Chapter of the IHPBA. I believe this was a fundamental step in the development of the Association worldwide. I am confident we will keep on working in this direction, with the aim to create a friendly and efficient platform to share ideas and experiences in a truly international setting.

Last but not least, the Manchester meeting has really been a great success; I thank all of you for your participation and enthusiasm. I particularly have to acknowledge the great effort put by Ajith Siriwardena and his team in the organization of this memorable event! Great job!

Let me also thank Kevin Conlon, “the perfect secretary”, and the whole Council for their precious support!

Finally, to Martin Smith goes my best: “Have a good job my friend!”.

Ciao a tutti!

Claudio



Notes from the General Secretary

Dear EAHPBA members,

We are approaching the summer holidays and probably many of us are looking forward to having a break. Many of us have worked hard, particularly those who have played a dominant role in the organization of the superb Manchester Surgical Week, where we had our joint meeting of the E-AHPBA and the ASGBI. This was the biggest surgical meeting ever held in the UK, but most of all the scientific programme was of extremely high quality. The Scientific and Programme Committee under the guidance of professors Dervenis and Siriwardena and his LOC have done a great job and they are to be applauded for this. The meeting was very well organized, the social programme very enjoyable, and the visit of HRH unforgettable.

The joint meeting with the ASGBI created the opportunity to have amongst others a discussion on whether laparoscopic cholecystectomy is still a general surgical procedure, or whether this should be regarded as an HPB procedure. Obviously, this outcome of such a discussion might have consequences for manpower planning in HPB surgery. There was also a successful joint meeting on clinical problems in HPB with the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT) from the USA. Key topics in the HPB field included the update on the 2nd laparoscopic liver surgery consensus meeting held in Morioka in October 2014 as well as the discussions on vascular resection during pancreatic surgery.

During the Manchester E-AHPBA meeting, the UEMS division of HPB Surgery held an HPB examination that was attended by 15 HPB surgeons. Of those, 10 surgeons were successful and passed the exam whereas 5 unfortunately did not succeed. We are looking forward to the next examination which will be held in Dublin in December 2015. Teaching, training and examination have been targeted as a major focus for the E-AHPBA during the Council Strategy meeting held in Manchester prior to the E-AHPBA congress on the 20th April. It is one of the domains where we have added value and a responsibility to deliver.

During the Manchester Surgical Week, our now past-president Claudio Bassi had a meeting with representatives of the National Chapters. The interaction between the E-AHPBA and the National Chapters was one of the key issues discussed during the Council Strategy meeting held in Manchester. Harmonisation in this interaction and in the interaction with the IHPBA is extremely important and will be a key feature of the organization in the years to come.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a happy, but also exciting summer holiday!

Best wishes

Kees Dejong

Secretary General E-AHPBA

Nominating Committee

The E-AHPBA is committed for a regular turn over of councilors, chairs and members of the various committees according to its *by-laws*.

The E-AHPBA is very keen to include motivated and innovative individuals in the leadership of the association with a great desire to promote young HPB doctors covering the broad field of HPB diseases. If you have an interest and are ready to commit some times for the success of the E-AHPBA, please send us a short CV and a few words of motivation. Of course, only active and "in good standing" E-AHPBA or combined E-AHPBA – IHPBA members will be considered.

The nominating committee will propose a few names to the council to replace councilors and other chairs.

Please send your application to the Secretary General

Committee news



The E-AHPBA Nominating Committee is composed of the President of the E-AHPBA and the three immediate past presidents as well as the president-elect.

Currently, the Committee therefore consist of Martin Smith, our president, Christos Dervenis, the president-elect and Jacques Belghiti, Pierre-Alain Clavien and Claudio Bassi.

A complete update on all the Committees and their members will be on the E-AHPBA website after the summer

The Educational committee (chair Prof. X. Rogiers) has been expanded to help E-AHPBA to achieve its strategic long-term goals in teaching and training. It consists now of

1. Subcommittee on training center accreditation

prof. X. Rogiers, prof. M. Smith, prof. C. Dejong, prof. P. Clavien, prof. K. Conlon, prof. J. Izbicki and prof. R. Parks

2. Subcommittee on educational activities

Prof. X. Rogiers, prof. M. Abu Hilal, prof. C. Dejong, prof. Berrevoet, prof. G. Marchegiani, prof. S. Olde Damink and prof. G. Toogood



Impressions from Manchester, including HRH visit

Il futuro? Questa direzione!



Now history – a great, historical success!!



Coming soon – our world congress

A promotional banner for the IHPBA 2016 World Congress in São Paulo. The banner features a stylized logo on the left and a cityscape on the right. Below the logo, the text reads: "IHPBA 2016 - SÃO PAULO", "12TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association", "APRIL 20-23 2016 - BRAZIL", and "SHERATON WTC - SÃO PAULO". Below the cityscape, the text reads: "TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE WORLD CONGRESS:". At the bottom, there are three icons: a suitcase, an airplane, and a passport, each with a corresponding instruction: "Plan your trip to arrive in São Paulo on 19th April because on this date all attendees will arrive", "First time in São Paulo and need information on ground transportation? Check our website for advice", and "Check if you need a visa to enter Brazil. Brazil does not require a visa for most countries. For more information, see our website".

Next in Europe – save the dates



12th Biennial E-AHPBA Congress 2017

European-African Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association

SAVE THE DATE

May, 23rd – 26th, 2017
Mainz, Germany

Congress chairman:

Professor Dr. med.
Hauke Lang, MA, FACS
University Medical Center, Mainz

Registration & Abstract Submission:

www.eahpba2017.com



Teaching, training and certification

One of the important topics that were discussed at the E-AHPBA council strategy meeting in Manchester was the increasing focus that the organization will have in the years to come on teaching, training and certification. This is where the organization can be of particular added value. It is beyond reasonable doubt that, like in vascular surgery and other surgical subspecialties, an official HPB diploma will become compulsory for practicing HPB surgery in most countries. Currently, it is the UEMS in Europe that takes care of awarding such diplomas – for HPB, the E-AHPBA takes care of teaching, training and examination. For those seniors who have extensive experience and who play a role as potential examiners, an honorary diploma can be applied for.

- **E-AHPBA postgraduate course**

A very successful postgraduate course was held in Manchester (UK) on the 21st April 2015 during the Manchester Surgical week. It was attended by a large number of professionals of varying ages, which may be seen as a sign of its popularity for both young surgeons and allied health professionals interested in HPB (or preparing the exam) and of more experienced HPB surgeons eager to have a quick update on the whole field of HPB surgery.

The next postgraduate course under the banner of the E-AHPBA will be held in Maastricht (the Netherlands) 2-3rd June 2016 followed by the UEMS HPB exam on the 4th June. This course is aimed principally at HPB and general surgical trainees and will cover key aspects of the care of patients with HPB problems. The course may also be of benefit to more senior, established surgeons as a refresher or update and as a preparation for the HPB exam. The faculty will be composed of recognized leaders in the field of HPB surgery as well as experts with a non-surgical background, to underline the multidisciplinary nature of treating HPB problems. Didactic lectures, question and answer sessions and how-i-do-it sessions will all be part of the course.



- **UEMS HPB Examination**

As it stands at the present time, there will be an HPB examination in Dublin (Ireland) 4th December 2015. In 2016 there will be an HPB examination in Maastricht (the Netherlands) on June 4th (following a postgraduate course, 2nd and 3rd June). Please have a look at the E-AHPBA or UEMS website for further details (www.eahpba.org or www.uems.eu)



- **Honorary HPB diploma (FEBS)**

The opportunity to obtain an honorary UEMS HPB diploma has been extended for another 2 years. Those who want to apply should have worked as a consultant surgeon in HPB for a minimum of 10 years. Instructions for how to apply can be found on the website (www.eahpba.org).

Membership News

Let me start by thanking my predecessor Peter Lodge for the wonderful job he has done in the past years in making propaganda for the membership of the E-AHPBA. The E-AHPBA is a young and vibrant Association. Our membership has continued to grow and we now have about 410 members. Council has recently approved several new initiatives to increase our membership, which is the backbone of E-AHPBA. We are keen to attract new members, with a particular focus on young professionals, allied health professionals and those who are not surgeons, but do work in the field of HPB. Special rates are applicable for some of those categories. Please have a look at our website for further information (www.eahpba.org). It is essential for us to recruit young members and together with the Junior Member category these new categories of membership should help to create a firm foundation for future growth by encouraging interest in our specialty.

In addition, we are working towards incorporating National Chapters more formally into E-AHPBA and we will be using future meetings to promote this. Unfortunately, not all our members are fully paid up and this is a concern, so please support E-AHPBA by ensuring your subscription is up to date. Some IHPBA members in our region have not yet joined E-AHPBA so we are working hard to incorporate these members. This is an important step as this will ensure that we have a sound financial footing for the future and it also fits in the EAHPBA-IHPBA harmonization strategy. Please remind your colleagues that to be eligible for reduced registration fees for future meetings they need to be E-AHPBA or E-AHPBA-IHPBA combined members as membership of IHPBA alone (which costs about the same) does not carry this benefit.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish E-AHPBA members a good summer break.



Professor Rowan Parks

Chair, Membership
Committee

News from the Scientific and Research Committee

At the E-AHPBA Manchester meeting the new Scientific and Research Committee was launched. The new team consists of Mickael Lesurtel (Switzerland) (Chair), Marc Besselink (The Netherlands), Jorg Kleeff (Germany), Raj Prasad (UK) and Roberto Salvia (Italy).

The aim of the Committee is to promote collaboration between research groups within the E-AHPBA and to provide a forum through which members of the E-AHPBA are informed or can announce various research activities within the HPB community.

For more details please follow the link to the E-AHPBA Website corner of the Scientific & Research Committee at: [http://eahpba.org/?q=Scientific Committee and Projects](http://eahpba.org/?q=Scientific+Committee+and+Projects).

The Manchester UEMS HPB Examination



The successful applicants and some of the examiners in Manchester

Ten candidates passed:

Dr. F. Ausania Mr. V. Upasani, Dr. D. Dorcaratto, Mr. R. Saif, Dr. S. Hinz, Dr. Ch. Soll, Dr. S. Müller, Mr. F. Nazir Awan, Prof. T. Benkö, Mr. S. Rohatgi

Congratulations!

Besides these successful UEMS Exam applicants, the following E-AHPBA members have obtained a **honorary UEMS HPB diploma**: Prof. R. Porte, prof R. Troisi, prof P. Wojciech, prof. J. Ijzermans and prof J. Costa-Maia

Next UEMS HPB Examination



Dublin, Ireland December 4th, 2015

Details on the E-AHPBA (www.eahpba.org) or UEMS websites (www.uems.eu)

The E-AHPBA is interested in your educational and training activities in HPB Surgery!

EAHPBA will advertise them on its website.

Register them by filling the document on the EAHPBA website.

