Biography

Professor James Toouli: IHPBA President 2000–2002

Professor James Toouli, who is current President of our Association, is Professor of Surgery at Flinders University of South Australia, Australia, and Head of the Department of General and Digestive Surgery at Flinders Medical centre. He was born in Cyprus in 1945 and emigrated to Australia with his family at the age of 9 years. He was educated in Melbourne, where he qualified as a doctor in 1970. During early postgraduate appointments at the Alfred Hospital he came under the influence of Professor Hugh Dudley, Professor of Surgery at Monash University, who stimulated a lively research interest in the young trainee. As a consequence Jim Toouli joined forces with Professor Jim Watts, following him to the Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide when Watts was appointed to the Foundation Chair. Fellowship of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (1977) was succeeded by a year with Professor Leslie Blumgart in Glasgow U.K. (1978–79) and then a PhD (Monash) on the treatment of cholesterol gallstones (1979). It was at Glasgow then he began to develop his interest in ERCP. Between 1979–81 he was a National Health and Medical Research Council Fellow working with Dr Jerry Dodds at Milwaukee USA and investigating the motility of the biliary tract and pancreas.

On his return to Adelaide and Flinders Medical Centre Jim Toouli developed HPB surgery as a major subspecialty interest in the department, while being promoted through the academic ranks to a full professorship in 1989. His initial research on the sphincter of Oddi has been supplemented by recent interests in pancreatitis and pancreatic cancer. In recognition of the success of his unit, he took up an additional appointment in 1995 as first Professor of Surgical Sciences at the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons. In this capacity he has helped to increase the research output of several other surgical departments and to encourage new trainees to undertake a period of full-time research.

Jim Toouli was an early member of the original IBA, joining the Programme Committee in 1985 and serving as its Chairman between 1989–1992. He played an important part in the amalgamation between the IBA and WAHPBS and succeeded me as Secretary General of the new IHPBA in 1996. He also held office in the Gastroenterological Society of Australia, the Asian Pacific Association of Gastroenterology and OMGE, the organisation that runs the World Congress of Gastroenterology. A prolific author, he has written five books, 66 book chapters and some 150 articles in refereed journals. He is married with two children and lives in the hills surrounding Adelaide. Last but certainly not least, he was the convenor of our splendid World Congress in Brisbane in the millennial year.

Robin Williamson
Editor