Major developments continue to evolve for the International Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association (IHPBA) under the leadership of President James Toouli. This Newsletter follows regional meetings in Asia, the Americas, Europe and the International Council of Surgical Gastroenterology (ICSG). Updates are provided on: (1) the Kenneth Warren Fellowship, (2) the regional meetings, (3) the Executive Secretariat, Medconnect, (4) the new publisher of HPB, Martin Dunitz, (5) the incorporation of the IHPBA, (6) the recent meeting of the ICSG, and (7) future meetings.

Dr van Heek is First Warren Fellow

The IHPBA has received a wonderful gift from Dr Ken Warren for hepatopancreatobiliary research. The Warren Fellowship provides $US20 000 per year for an IHPBA member to pursue a year’s research in a department of an IHPBA member outside the fellow’s country. The Warren Fellowship supports the researcher’s living and travelling expenses, while the host department provides resources for clinical and laboratory research.

This year ten excellent applications were received for the Warren Fellowship. The applicants were trainees or junior faculty ranging in age from 27 to 41 years. The seven men and three women came from eight countries: Egypt, France, India (3), the Netherlands, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. The ten host departments were from two continents, Europe (5) and North America (5), and five countries, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, the UK (2), and the USA (5).

The Warren Fellowship Committee was chaired by President James Toouli and consisted of the Past President Huug Obertop, President-Elect Joseph Lau, Secretary General Henry Pitt and the Chairman of the Scientific Committee Markus Büchler. The Committee met in Amsterdam and unanimously chose N. Tjarda van Heek MD as the first Warren Fellow of the IHPBA. Dr van Heek is presently a PhD candidate at the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam. She will be working with Michael Goggins MD in the Department of Pathology at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore. Her research project is entitled the ‘Effect of the use of Trastuzumab (Herceptin) in xenografts with pancreatic cancer that overexpresses HER-2/neu’.

Regional Meetings in Asia, the Americas and Europe

The Sixth Congress of the Asian Society of Hepato Biliary Pancreatic Surgery (ASHBPS) was held in Hong Kong on 6–9 February 2001. Professor Tadahiro Takada was the president of the ASHBPS during the Sixth Congress. Professor Joseph Lau, Chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Prince of Wales Hospital of the Chinese University of Hong Kong was the local host. More than 500 delegates primarily from Asia attended this excellent congress at the Hong Kong Convention Center. The Seventh Congress of the ASHBPS will meet in Bangkok, Thailand in February 2003.

The Third Americas Hepato Pancreato Biliary Congress was held in Miami Beach on 22–25 February 2001. Henry A. Pitt MD, Chairman of the Department of Surgery, Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, was president of the American Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association (AHPBA) which hosted the Third Congress at the Eden Roc Hotel. Delegates came from throughout the USA, Canada, Central America, South America, Europe and Japan. The Fourth Americas Congress will again be hosted by the AHPBA during the presidency of Steven M. Strasberg MD, in Miami, Florida in February 2003.

The Fourth European Congress of the IHPBA was held in Amsterdam on 27–30 May 2001. Professor Basil P. Kekis from the Athens Medical Center in Greece was president of the European Hepato Pancreato Biliary Association (EHPBA) which hosted the Fourth Congress. Professor Dirk Gouma from the Academic Medical Center in Amsterdam was the Congress President. More than 500 delegates primarily from Europe attended this outstanding congress at the RAI Convention Center. The Fifth
European Congress will be hosted by the EHPBA during the presidency of Christoph E. Broelsch in Istanbul, Turkey, in May 2003.

**Executive Secretariat**

An agreement has been signed between the IHPBA and Medconnect GmbH of Munich, Germany to provide membership administration and general secretariat services. The agreement began on 1 February 2001 and extends to 31 December 2004. Medconnect has established an 'active membership' list of 942 members. Facilities have now been arranged for payment of dues by credit card. We apologise for any inconvenience during the transfer of the Secretary General's office from Adelaide to Milwaukee and the establishment of the Executive Secretariat in Munich.

Bridget Fischer, a Director of Medconnect, attended both the Americas Congress in Miami and the European Congress in Amsterdam. She has been working with Markus Büchler, Chairman of the Scientific Committee, and Tadahiro Takada, Congress Chairman, for the next World Congress to create an excellent programme in Tokyo. She has also been working with Martin Dunitz, the new publisher of HPB, to be sure that all ‘active members’ receive current and recent past issues of our official journal. Plans are also underway to establish an IHPBA website later this year. Bridget Fischer can be reached at Medconnect by e-mail at Bridget.Fischer@medc.de, and the Secretary General, Henry Pitt, can be reached by e-mail at hapitt@mcw.edu.

**Martin Dunitz to Publish HPB**

HPB, the official journal of the IHPBA, was first published by ISIS Medical Media in 1999 under the editorship of Robin Williamson. Four issues were published in volume 1 and in volume 2, which was completed and mailed early in 2001. The first two issues of volume 3 appeared at the time of the European Congress in May 2001 with issue 3.1 containing the congress abstracts. Issue 3.4 will be published in December 2001. Volume 4, to be published in 2002, will also have four issues, and issue 4.4 will contain papers presented at the World Congress in Tokyo.

The delay in publishing issues 2.3, 2.4 and 3.1 was due, in part, to the sale of ISIS Medical Media to Health Media Services in early 2001. Shortly thereafter, HPB was sold to the Taylor and Francis Group, which publishes 800 journals including 300 medical journals. Martin Dunitz Ltd, a London-based publisher within the Taylor and Francis Group, will publish the remainder of volume 3 and volume 4 under the original ISIS contract. Martin Dunitz officially acquired HPB on 1 March 2001 and were responsible for having issues 3.1 and 3.2 available for the European Congress. The newly formed Publishing Committee of the IHPBA will work with Martin Dunitz on a contract beyond volume 4. Robin Williamson will continue as the Editor of HPB and is in the process of updating the Editorial Board which was initially appointed 3 years ago.

**IHPBA becomes Incorporated**

As previously reported, the IHPBA has received grants from Johnson and Johnson Medical Switzerland and Ethicon Germany as well as from Dr Kenneth Warren. This new income and the transfer of the Secretary General's office to the USA has led the IHPBA leadership to initiate the process of becoming a tax-exempt corporation in the USA in the state of Wisconsin. As a result, new Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws have been drafted and were approved by the Board of Directors, the IHPBA Council, in May 2001 in Amsterdam. These new Articles and Bylaws were based on the original 1994 Articles of Association, updated to be compatible with current practices, and modified to encourage future growth and prosperity.

Key changes in the new Bylaws include the creation of a Nominating Committee, an Executive Committee, a Development Committee, a Publishing Committee, a Warren Fellowship Committee and a Membership Committee. The Past President, President and President-Elect will serve as the Nominating Committee. They will receive nominations from the membership and will recommend a slate of officers to the Council and the General Assembly. The creation of an Executive Committee, chaired by the President, will allow the IHPBA to conduct business between the General Assembly meetings, which occur only every 2 years. The Development Committee, chaired by the Past President, will be charged with securing gifts, contributions, donations and bequests for the IHPBA and advertising for HPB. The Publishing Committee, chaired by the Treasurer, will negotiate contracts with the publisher of HPB, and appoint the Editor and the Editorial Board. The Warren Fellowship Committee, chaired by the President, will choose the Warren Fellow each year. The Membership Committee, also chaired by the President, will have members from each country with at least ten IHPBA
members. This committee will liaise with national chapters and will be charged with growing membership in the IHPBA.

**International Council of Surgical Gastroenterology**

The IHPBA is one of six founding members of the International Council of Surgical Gastroenterology (ICSG). The ICSG met in Atlanta in May 2001 and will meet again in New Orleans in October 2001. The ICSG has organised the surgical aspects of the World Congress of Gastroenterology (WCOG) meeting in Bangkok in February 2002. The IHPBA has supplied the WCOG with our mailing list and encourages your participation. Future goals of the ICSG are to work with industry and to consolidate international meetings by 2005.

**Future World Congresses**

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<td>Tokyo</td>
<td>25–28 April 2002</td>
<td>Japan Convention Services, Inc.</td>
<td>Nippon Press Center Bldg 2-2-1, Uchisaiwai-cho Chiyoda-ku, Japan 100-0011</td>
<td>+81-3-3508-1214</td>
<td>+81-3-3508-0820</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ihpba@convention.co.jp">ihpba@convention.co.jp</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www2.convention.co.jp/5thihpba">http://www2.convention.co.jp/5thihpba</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Washington</td>
<td>2–6 June 2004</td>
<td>Strategem, Inc.</td>
<td>26064 Capitol Drive, Suite A Daphne, AL 36526, USA</td>
<td>+1 334-635-2205</td>
<td>+1 334-625-4435</td>
<td><a href="mailto:curcur@email.msn.com">curcur@email.msn.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.ahpba.org">http://www.ahpba.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
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