

Editorial

With this issue, *Ambulatory Surgery* enters its third year of publication. Since its launch in 1993, the journal has established itself as a multidisciplinary forum addressing not only a broad range of clinical issues, but also topics fundamental to the management and development of modern ambulatory surgery worldwide.

Both the authorship of the papers published and the growing readership of the journal reflect the developing interchange of ideas and experience between the various national associations and groupings that have been formed as ambulatory surgery and day care have developed over the last 25 years.

This internationalisation is now recognised with the formation, this March, on the occasion of the 1st International and 3rd European Congress on Ambulatory Surgery in Brussels, of the International Association for Ambulatory Surgery.

The Association has taken as its objectives:

- To provide an international multidisciplinary forum for the interchange of information and advancement of ambulatory surgery.
- To encourage the development and expansion of ambulatory surgery.
- To promote education and high quality ambulatory surgery.
- To promote research into ambulatory surgery and disseminate the results of this research.
- To provide a data bank of information.
- To establish guidelines.
- To act as an advisory board to interested parties for development and maintenance of high standards of patient care in ambulatory surgery facilities.
- To organise meetings and seminars.
- To establish close relationships with other societies concerned by ambulatory surgery.
- To stimulate the development of national societies of ambulatory surgery.

The founding full members of the IAAS are:

Association for Ambulatory Surgery (Germany)
Belgium Association of Day Surgery
British Association of Day Surgery
Day Clinic Association (South Africa)
Dutch Association of Day Care and Short Stay
French Association of Ambulatory Surgery
National Day Surgery Association (Australia)
National Multidisciplinary Working Group for the Diffusion of Day Surgery (Italy)
Spanish Association of Major Ambulatory Surgery.

The Swedish Association of Day Surgery and the Swiss Association of Surgery are founding associate members.

The Federated Ambulatory Surgery Association (USA) and the Society for Ambulatory Anaesthesia were both represented at the discussions prior to the formation of the IAAS but have yet to formally affiliate.

Ambulatory Surgery has been adopted as the official journal of the Association, and will not only reflect the scientific endeavours of the new organisation but also act as a vehicle for the exchange of news and activities of the member groups.

Paul Jarrett