

Editorial

The 2nd International and 4th European Congress on Ambulatory Surgery is to be held from the 15th–18th April 1997 in London. The British Association of Day Surgery also plans to hold its 8th Annual Scientific Meeting during this Congress.

At the 1st International and 3rd European Congress on Ambulatory Surgery in Brussels (1995) approximately 800 delegates from 40 countries attended. Since then an International Association of Ambulatory Surgery (IAAS) has been founded and so far 12 National Associations have combined to advance the course of ambulatory surgery worldwide.

The success of this venture is probably due to the fact that a multidisciplinary approach to ambulatory surgery has been actively encouraged. During the past 10 years there has indeed been a growing international interest in the concept of ambulatory surgery and this is one area of health-care provision where people from different professional backgrounds may co-operate to provide a first-class, quality service.

The basic objectives of the London Congress will be:

- To raise the awareness of ambulatory surgery among public and private health authorities, thereby establishing adequate national guidelines and policies.
- To review the development of ambulatory surgery in the international setting.
- To establish fundamental protocols for the safe practice of ambulatory surgery.
- To structure and co-ordinate international research, education and quality assurance.

The Congress is intended for any organisation or individual involved in the practice or management of health-care. All personnel with an interest in ambulatory surgery are therefore urged to attend the London Congress in 1997. The stimulating programme and a large exhibition area should make this conference a focus for the future development of international ambulatory surgery. Do please make a note of this Congress in your diaries and come to London in April 1997 and meet your worldwide colleagues in Ambulatory Surgery.

Tom W. Ogg