

The IAAS, making history!

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The fourth European Congress and the second International Congress on Ambulatory Surgery were held April 14–18, 1997, in London. The success of the first congresses held in Brussels was continued. The program was excellent in every respect, and included more than 1100 participants from approximately 40 countries. Exhibitors were equally numerous. The international congress, the first and most important of its kind, was well up to par. Doubtless the changing of the venue of the congress every 2 years to a new city is going to increase considerably the impact and influence of the International Association for Ambulatory Surgery (IAAS). The next congress will be held in Venice from April 25–28, 1999.

After many months of negotiations, Elsevier, publishers of the journal *Ambulatory Surgery*, and the IAAS, have agreed that from now on *Ambulatory Surgery* will be the official journal of the IAAS. At present, it is the only international multidisciplinary journal dedicated to ambulatory surgery. There will be considerable benefits for individual members of associations affiliated with the IAAS.

To date, the great majority of associations dealing with ambulatory surgery in the world have joined the IAAS. Many associations have likewise been formed at the instigation of the IAAS or of its members.

The IAAS is clearly successfully achieving its statutory objectives, that is to become the foremost international, multidisciplinary forum on ambulatory surgery, to promote the establishment of national associations and to facilitate useful contacts among them.

Given that the concept and development of modern ambulatory surgery responds to the major challenge in society to control health costs while maintaining quality care, clearly the IAAS now represents, on both national and international levels, an important political and scientific tool whose role is expanding. In this respect, the founding of the IAAS undoubtedly marks a notable achievement in the history of modern ambulatory surgery.

We are making history!

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