Message from the President

It is an honor, but also a challenge, for me to follow the footsteps of my esteemed predecessors in leadership, Drs. Callery, Helton, and Adams. Collectively, they have led our association to new heights in strength and stature both academically and internationally. We started this year with an excellent meeting at the Eden Roc in Miami Beach. The exceptional quality of the scientific meeting and social events will continue to energize our association in the coming months. Miami Beach remains an unmatched location for Northern members of the association around Spring Break, and it is also an easily accessible destination for our South American colleagues. As such, we have renewed our contract with Eden Roc for the next five years.

Since we renamed our association the “Americas” Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association, the move has received the applause from our South American colleagues, and the association remains more committed than ever to offer unique opportunities as the premier North-South regional association. A concrete step toward this goal was laying the foundation of the Chilean Chapter of the AHPBA during our first Americas Postgraduate Course, which took place at Clinica Alemana in Santiago Chile, June 30 - July 1, 2011. During this conference, more than 10 North American members of AHPBA travelled long distances to make this a grand educational and collaborative event. The highlights of the meeting included an excellent session on gallbladder cancer under the leadership of our Chilean Colleagues, a session on cystic liver disease with the presentation of the Amazonian Experience in parasitic liver disease, and a North-South video competition. As testimony of the strength of our Chilean contributors, the first prize for the video competition went to Nicolas Jarufe, who just one day earlier was appointed the first President of the newly founded Chilean Chapter of the AHPBA!

A few more events will mark the rest of the year. We will announce the winner of our new AHPBA Logo design competition. The competition re-opened on July 20th to give the membership a little more time to submit their design. For those who have artistic talents, we hope you will consider submitting your work by September 9th. If you have already submitted a design, thank you! All artwork will be judged and we plan to announce the results in the Fall Newsletter. Next January 2012, we will meet for our
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bi-annual consensus conference co-sponsored by the Society of Surgical Oncology and the Society of Surgery of the Alimentary Tract. The topic will be the Multidisciplinary Treatment of Colorectal Liver Metastases, and it will take place in San Francisco on January 18, 2012 before the Gastrointestinal Cancer Symposium. We will have outstanding speakers, as well as participation from an iconic international faculty.

As a specific initiative for this presidency, the officers of the association Drs. Jarnagin, Chapman, Dixon, and myself will be leading medical outreach teams for short trips to Central America to provide AHPBA expertise and assistance in Costa Rica, Bahamas, Nicaragua, and Ecuador. Within the next six months, volunteer teams of 6-10 members from our Association will travel to medical centers in these four countries. They will spend two to three days providing short teaching sessions and on-site hands-on medical assistance. The members of the association are encouraged to contact the above officers to consider joining this exciting initiative, as space is still available for participation on some of these teams.

It is no coincidence that with such an active association our membership continues to expand with the milestone of 1,000 members within reach over the next few weeks or months. I have asked our Executive Director, Kim O’Dell, to precisely tabulate the incoming members over the coming months as the 1,000th member will be rewarded with a free membership to the association. Finally, the Program Committee is actively preparing for the next annual meeting under the leadership of Charles Vollmer. The deadline for submission of abstracts to our association will be October 3, 2011 Midnight EST. I encourage you to submit abstracts for our Annual Meeting, which will take place, March 7-11, 2012. Please be sure to mark this date on your calendars.

Nic Vauthey, MD
President 2011-12

2011 Annual Meeting Round Up

Our annual March meeting held at the Eden Roc in Miami reflected the ongoing growth and success of the AHPBA. While sunny southern Florida in the spring is always a recipe for a good time, the real success of the meeting was marked by record attendance, high quality scientific sessions, top notch speakers and enthusiastic participation from all the attendees. Additionally, as is typical of our society, the social programs were well attended with good food, drink and partying! Lastly, and definitely not least important, the meeting was a financial success and our society continues to thrive financially; largely due to the continued success of our annual meetings. It is easy to note the international world leaders who participated in lectures and symposia as well as the high level scientific and clinical content of the sessions however; the real success of the meeting is measured by the attendees. Without question the success of the AHPBA is due to a passionate, enthusiastic membership that regularly attends and actively participates in the meeting. It was the attendees and membership of this great society that it made it a true pleasure to organize and put together this meeting!

The meeting kicked off with a well-attended and well supported fishing and golf expeditions. Fish, both large and small were caught and while I’m sure many golf balls ended up in the woods, a few went straight down the fairway. The meeting kicked off with a highly successful Post-graduate course organized by Nic Vauthey with a diverse and international faculty

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addressing the advances in preoperative evaluation and surgical technique for HPB malignancy. The opening plenary session was marked by an introduction of and address by our president Reid Adams followed by very high level plenary papers and young investigator competition. The next two and half days were marked by outstanding invited talks and competitive abstract presentations. Very successful symposia on autoimmune pancreatitis, transplant for malignancy, common bile duct stones, metastatic colorectal cancer and gallbladder cancer were all well attended and informative. The debates and case presentations continued to be successful with active banter, controversy and wonderful participation from the audiences. State of the art updates on randomized trials in pancreas cancer and on stem cells and liver cancer were very informative. This year we introduced ‘lunch with the professors’ sessions which were well attended and provided an avenue for the membership to have up-close and personal discussions with some of the world leaders on HPB topics. As always, our competitive abstract sessions were very well attended with the latest research presented by investigators of all levels. For the first time we introduced ‘min-oral’ sessions which were quite successful and gave a new platform to present novel research.

It truly was an honor and privilege to organize this meeting and it has been a pleasure to watch this society grow and grow over the years. Chuck Vollmer is actively organizing more novel and exciting ideas for next year’s meeting so mark your calendars, March 7-11, 2012 at the Eden Roc. See you next year!

2011 Meeting Statistics

Registration
430 Pre- Registered; 460 Total Registration

Abstracts
272 Submissions; 184 Accepted Abstracts

Sponsorship/Exhibits
Sold out Trade Show of 28 Booths
$81,400 in Exhibit Revenue
$182,000 in Symposia/Online Educational Support

An outstanding year for the AHPBA!

AHPBA requests pictures from members for the Newsletter and Website: please send us fun pictures of you on the job, on a trip, doing your hobbies, or with your family.

We will highlight them in upcoming issues!
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Education & Training Update

The Education and Training (E&T) Committee continues to expand its efforts to develop robust criteria and curricula to support strong foundational training in HPB Surgery. To that end, our committee members continue to participate in the increasingly rigorous accreditation process for Fellowship Council accredited HPB fellowship programs (https://hpb.fellowshipcouncil.org/directory/browse2.php), setting the standards by which HPB training programs are measured. To recognize this high quality training, the E&T Committee solicited applications in 2010 for the inaugural award of the AHPBA certificate of successful completion of training in HPB Surgery. Nine applications were approved and these individuals were recognized at the AHPBA annual meeting in Miami. On the curricular front, the HPB curriculum is currently being updated so that it can be converted to an interactive web-based format which will ultimately have both content and assessment instruments linked to each objective for program directors to utilize. This will be a rich resource which will serve HPB fellowship program directors, but also general surgery residents, other fellowship trainees, and even practicing surgeons. Lastly, the E&T Committee is planning to execute a work force needs assessment to better understand what type of practices HPB fellowship graduates are currently entering, and to try to determine how saturated the market is at present. This data will be informative and will potentially help guide future decision-making around how many HPB fellowship training programs should be optimally developed.

All of these efforts would not be possible without the broad and active participation of our entire committee (http://www.ahpba.org/mc/page.do?sitePagId=103471).

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca M. Minter, MD
Chair, Education and Training Committee

Publications Committee Update - July 2011

The Publications Committee has been busy, enhancing the AHPBA webpage for members and enhancing our coordination with HPB societies and meeting within the Americas and beyond. I would like to highlight changes to the webpage since our annual meeting in March:

Enhanced HPB fellowship training content. Links to current AHPBA fellowship programs, the fellowship council and relevant match information are now highlighted on the homepage. This change reflects Google analytic data, which demonstrates that most visitors to our homepage first click on fellowship related content.

Current content of our Journal, HPB - is now active on the homepage - updated monthly to reflect each journal issue with titles of papers visible and linked to the HPB webpage. Access is immediate to PDF files, if viewed from your institution with an electronic subscription or from any computer once the member has performed a one time sign in.

The Publications Committee hopes to expand the role of the AHPBA webpage, to include resources for members. 2011 will be an exciting year for AHPBA and for our webpage. I hope each of you will look at our new home page, and please email me directly with suggestion for functions and resources that will better help AHPBA serve you.

Sincerely,
Craig Fischer MD, MPH
Chair, AHPBA Publications Committee
Approximately 1.4 billion people live in poverty globally. A third of diseases in developing countries are potentially treatable by surgery. Surgical disease represents a substantial global burden of disease. There is an enormous unmet need of surgical care for the developing countries. Surgeons in the U.S. can play a pivotal role in addressing the above burden via volunteerism. Although, several members of this team have been doing medical charity work in Kurdistan of Iraq since first Gulf War, this Medical Charity Team is the first very comprehensive and it is Co-Sponsored by International College of Surgeons (ICS), Operation Hope (OH) and American Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA).

Our team was consistent with the following team members. Drs. Chu (Surgical Oncologist), Michael Moore (Hematologist / Oncologist and Hematopathologist), Susan Shattuck (OBGYN), Mark Dean (ENT) and Gazi Zibari (Transplant and HPB) from Shreveport, Louisiana, and Dr Lou Smith (Trauma and Critical Care) from Knoxville, TN; and Drs John Thomas (Advanced Laparoscopic Surgeon), Patricia Aldridge (Plastic Surgeon) Dr Kirk Labor (Ophthalmologist) from TX, Scrub Technician Gabriel Joseph Buentello, TX, KMAC News, ABC affiliate News Reporter Stephanie Berzinski and cameraman David Morris, TX.

We dedicated two days to The State of Art First Annual Scientific Medical Symposia in Kurdistan, Iraq which was followed by treating patients both in the operating room as well as at clinic and not to mention daily rounds and lectures which it was given to house staff and medical students. Surgeries performed were ranging from Ophthalmology to Head and Neck to OBGYN surgeries, to mastectomies, G.I. and advanced laparoscopic surgeries, and complex hepatopancreatobiliary surgeries, as well as renal transplantation. Additionally, our trauma Surgeon Dr Smith taught and educated the locals about Management of Rural Trauma...etc. The team was received by President of Kurdish Regional Government Mr. Barzani. We are very grateful to Kurdish Regional Government warm hospitality.

Additionally, we want to acknowledge Scanlan International, Inc., Thompson Retractor Foundation, Karl Storz Endoscopy-America, Inc., Eye Consultants of Texas, Ethicon and Covidian.
One year old child with liver cancer (Hepatoblastoma) been presented by her father to Dr. Zibari - Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan.

Extended left hepatectomy for Hepatoblastoma from a 12 month old child with clear margin. Performed by Drs Zibari and Chu in Irbil, Kurdistan of Iraq.

One year old child CAT scan of Abdomen with liver mass.

Extended Left Hepatectomy of one year old child with clear margins.

Dr. Susan Shattuck, Dr. Gazi B. Zibari & Dr. Quyen Chu