LETTER FROM PRESIDENT

Charles M. Vollmer, MD

We are currently realizing the “Golden Age” of HBP surgery, with booms in necessity of services, consummate training, technological breakthroughs, and ever-optimized outcomes for our patients. It is fitting, then, that we as an Association are now celebrating our Silver Anniversary during this 2019 calendar year. We will be acknowledging our heritage at the upcoming annual meeting as well as through the development of a forthcoming book chronicling our germination and expansion since 1994. It’s time to revel in the remarkable, almost meteoric, ascent of the AHPBA and the value it provides us as care providers, as well as to our patients. However, our field is certainly not without significant obstacles and challenges yet, and the organization, too, is not perfect. A sense of ultimate satisfaction or stasis of any entity inexorably leads to decline.

With this in mind we will be embarking on a significant, formalized Strategic Planning initiative this year, in order to chart the course for the future. We need to contemplate new avenues of financial security, structural processes, and novel initiatives. We’ll initiate the process during our Fall Council meeting in Boston, and it will continue throughout the ensuing year/s. I look forward to updating you on the results during my Presidential Address at our annual meeting in March. Along the same lines, the overall theme of this year’s meeting will be “Get Better”, including all the connotations of that saying. Ideally, this will provide motivation for improvement across the board. I hope you will make plans to join us in Miami Beach at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel (March 20-24, 2019) for what promises to be an educational and exciting celebration of our thriving and energetic organization.

Last year’s 2018 Annual Meeting was another great success drawing almost 1,000 attendees (an incredible proportion from our current membership of over 1300) from over 40 countries. Thank you to our Industry Partners for over $400K in exhibitor and sponsorship support. I’d also like to congratulate the 2018 Program Chair, Shimul Shah MD, and thank the program committee on an outstanding production. As you have come to expect, the pre-congress President-Elect’s symposium on “HPB Across the Spectrum of Care” was top-notch. Other highlights were the first ASTS-AHPBA joint symposium and the first AHPBA-SAGES Joint Symposium. Dr. David B. Adams MD delivered a riveting Leslie H. Blumgart Historical Lecture on the history of pancreatitis surgery. Furthermore, Clifford Ko MD gave the Betty & Henry Pitt Quality Oration, and author Scott E. Page was the Presidential Invited Lecturer, who focused on the benefits of diversity. Check out our YouTube Channel if you missed any of these great lectures. Finally, the quality of the scientific presentations was better than ever, with many finding acceptance in top-impact surgical journals, including our own HPB.

The AHPBA 2019 program will be chaired by David Koob MD with the assistance of Sean Cleary MD, Latin American Program Co-Chair, Heber Salvador Ribeiro and the Program Committee. We will continue our collaborative efforts by including a joint symposium with the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation (CCF). In addition, patient advocacy will be a focus; towards that end, the invited Presidential Lecture will be given by Julie Fleshman, CEO of PanCan. Enjoy also the exciting debates, cutting edge State-of-the Art lectures, and an expansive invited speaker program. Also, highly anticipated will be our new “Master Surgeon’s Studio” motif, where we will get up-close-and-personal with some select icons of our field. The AHPBA 2019 abstract submitter will open in July and will close with a firm deadline of October 8, 2018 - watch www.ahpba.org for details. We look forward to receiving your best, forward thinking work.

We are proud to announce that our dream of creating our own authoritative textbook has now come to fruition. At 175 chapters, “Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary and Transplant Surgery: Practical Management of Dilemmas” provides a thorough and definitive resource for tough clinical scenarios we encounter daily. Kudos to our Past-President Gazi Zibari for his vision, and the other editors, particularly Quyen Chu, for their sweat-equity in delivering such a fine product. This collection is a “must-have” for every HPB surgeon and trainee in their library. The proceeds from this self-published work go directly to our Foundation to support future missions. To purchase your hardcopy or eBook, visit www.ahpba.org.

Chapter and Regional development continues to be a point of emphasis for the AHPBA. We are pleased to report that the Dominican Republic will soon become our 19th chapter. Furthermore, our first “regional” meeting will take place in the Central America zone this December (5-7) in Mexico City, with the purpose of providing more comprehensive, convenient, and economical education opportunities to the chapters. This will, of course, be followed by an analogous South American meeting hosted by Peru in 2019, which will feature our first Ultrasound Training Course outside of the United States. Also this year, AHPBA members will be conducting humanitarian missions in an impressive 4 locations. Lest we forget that we live in an even larger global HPB community, remember that the biannual IHPBA congress will occur in Geneva (Sept 4-7), where the AHPBA will have a strong showing on the faculty and scientific program. Let’s match that with robust attendance overall.

Our 13 committees are diligent and productive. For instance, our recently initiated Clinical Trials Committee has launched its first endeavor, in association with NSQIP, with a randomized, multi-center clinical trial is currently accruing patients with the aim of studying antibiotic efficacy during pancreatic resection. A call for proposals for the next iteration is underway. The Allied Health element has grown by leaps and bounds in just three short years, now numbering 60 members, and offering a fantastic educational program at our annual meeting. Our HPB training programs continue to be the jewels of the organization, producing state-of-the-art specialists for the workforce. A highlight of the year for the trainees is the Annual AHPBA-sponsored Fellows Course, hosted by the Carolinas Medical Center, which has a strong emphasis on minimal invasive and other technological training offerings. Finally, our Membership committee has just designed a member survey so that we can better understand how we can serve you. I urge you to take a few minutes to contribute your opinions, insights and visions when you receive that email soon. Your responses will be valuable to us as we endeavor on the Strategic Plan.

This list of offerings and accomplishments has been garnered from two forms of support. First is the tireless effort, passion and initiative our members have brought to the table. Yet, most of these projects require fuel (read: $$$). To this end, our Foundation has steadily matured a corpus over the last 8 years to become a valuable resource and vehicle for progress. I strongly appeal to you that your personal support, at whatever level, can improve our mission and would be greatly appreciated. Please consider a contribution to our own HPB.

As you can tell, we are clearly thriving in this Golden Age. However, it would be foolish to rest on our laurels. I am really excited about our future and hope that the various endeavors we are undertaking will propel us forward to even greater heights and impact over our ensuing 25 years. Please join us as we “Get Better!”

Charles M. Vollmer, MD
2018-2019 AHPBA President
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MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association is to disseminate knowledge, foster research and innovation, advance education and training and encourage multidisciplinary collaboration.

IN MEMORIAM
Please report the passing of other AHPBA members to ahpba@lp-etc.com

Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!
You don’t have to belong to Facebook or Twitter to view the AHPBA pages.
THE AHPBA TEXTBOOK IS NOW AVAILABLE IN HARDCOPY OR EBOOK VERSION!

ORDER NOW

This unique textbook provides a concise and practical approach to clinical dilemmas involving the liver, pancreas, and biliary tree. Six major sections encompass:


Each topic is written by recognized experts from an “experiential” viewpoint combined with evidence-based medicine. Sponsored by the Americas Hepato-Pancreateo-Biliary Association (AHPBA), the intent is to enhance and optimize patient care, support our educational mission, and provide value to its members as well as others who have an interest in HPB diseases.

KEY FEATURES

- Contains over 170 chapters and over 350 contributors
- Relevant to Surgical Oncologists, HPB Surgeons, Transplant Surgeons, Traumatologists, HPB Interventionalists, and General Surgeons
- Title of each chapter is in a form of a clinical dilemma
- Each chapter begins with a Case Scenario and ends with Salient Points
- Special Debates are included in each section
- Numerous compelling images, detailed illustrations, comprehensive tables, thorough algorithms, and other adjunctive tools that enhance learning
- Authors emanate from different corners of the world
- Valuable for faculty, students, surgical trainees, fellows, and all health care providers in the HPB/Trauma/Transplant field

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AHPBA CASE DISCUSSION GROUP – PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Contact ahpba@lp-etc.com to join the AHPBA Case Discussion group. All AHPBA members in good standing are welcome to join.

An interactive private forum for AHPBA members to share ideas, research and questions with expert peers from around the world with the main goal of improving the quality of patient care. We encourage young faculty, Fellows and Residents to participate, comment and post cases and take advantage of the educational opportunities this group provides.
The 2019 Program Committee and AHPBA leadership are working hard to organize a great meeting for next year, scheduled to take place March 20-24, 2019 at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel, in beautiful, and exciting South Beach, Florida. We congratulate Shimul Shah for his excellent vision and leadership for the 2018 meeting, which was attended by almost 1,000 participants and boasted 393 scientific abstract submissions. The 2019 meeting theme is “Get Better.” We will focus on improvements in patient care, advocacy, technology, translational science, and international collaboration. Various symposia and debates will highlight topics such as current management of colorectal cancer liver metastases, a distal pancreatectomy “tool kit”, state of the art stone disease management, and the growing environment of “community” HPB surgery. A key debate will be led by international leaders in gastrointestinal pathology on the topic of the best way to slice a pancreas for pathologic assessment. We are excited to again highlight combined symposia with SAGES and the ASTS, and we are especially excited about our programs on patient advocacy and HPB surgery. This symposium will bring together representatives from organizations like Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PANCAN) and the Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation (CCF), to clarify the patient’s perspective towards improving the interface between and HPB program and patient need. As this is the 25th anniversary meeting of our Society, we will also remember our past, and pay homage to our origins. We will remember our success and milestones and plot a path for our future. This will be a great opportunity to meet and glean wisdom from many of our Society’s past leaders. The culmination of this endeavor will be a printed history of the first 25 years of the AHPBA, which will be available for purchase. Several “State of the Art” lectures are planned, as well as the Pitt Quality Oration delivered by Barbara Lee Bass MD, the Blumgart Historical Lecture delivered by David M. Nagorney MD, and the invited Presidential Lecturer, Julie Fleshman, JD, MBA, President and CEO of the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network (PANCAN). Once again, we will quiz our HPB, Oncology, and Transplant fellows in “Fellow Jeopardy.” Various groups will have the opportunity to meet and discuss key issues pertaining to them, such as the AHPBA committees, the advanced practice providers, and women in HPB surgery. Finally, the program would not be complete without an opportunity to blow off some steam – don’t miss the 5K Fund Run and our famous Congress Banquet. We have arranged for a Latin jazz band to grace our stage, while we enjoy food and cocktails with our colleagues and families. We look forward to seeing everyone at the Loews Miami Beach Hotel, from March 20-24, 2019 to participate in the best society of clinicians and allied healthcare professionals focused on making things better for our patients with surgical problems relating the liver, pancreas, and biliary tree. Sincerely, David A. Kooby
AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Congratulations to the 2018 Annual Meeting Award Winners!

NONIE LOWRY
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD
Bernard Langer MD
University of Toronto

2018 RESEARCH AWARD RECIPIENTS
Apply online today!

Mohammad Raheel Jajja, MD
“Peptide Nanoprobes For Multi-Receptor-Targeting and Optical Imaging of Colorectal Liver Metastases”

Bradley A. Krasnick, MD
"A Humanized Mouse Model of Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma"

The 2019 Research Award Application Deadline is Friday, December 7, 2018.
Supported by the AHPB Foundation.

NORTH & LATIN AMERICAN EXCHANGE GRANT
2017 RECIPIENTS
These grants support an exchange of a surgeon from North America to Latin America (or vice versa) to learn how HPB diseases and conditions are managed in a different country. The goal is to promote international collaboration and sharing of best practices.

Mary Dilloff MD, MS
Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center
Travel Destination: Sao Paolo Brazil
Host: Paulo Herman MD

Timothy Frankel MD
University of Michigan and the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital
Travel Destination: Fundación Arturo López Pérez (FALP) in Santiago, Chile
Host: Jean Michel Butte MD

Patricia Rebolledo MD
Universidad de Chile
Travel Destination: University of Wisconsin Health Transplant Program
Host: Martin J. Dib MD

The 2018 North and Latin American Traveling Fellow Grants Application Deadline has expired. Next year’s deadline and application instructions will be posted to the AHPBA website soon!

ANNUAL MEETING TRAVEL GRANT
The goal of the fellowships is to assist trainees and AHPBA members from Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America to attend the AHPBA Annual Meeting.

Deadline to Apply for 2019 Grants: September 28, 2018
Apply online today!

2018 RECIPIENTS
Alfonso Bandin Musa MD - Mexico
Fabio Vergara Suarez MD - Columbia
Gustavo Reason Paredes MD - Peru
Mario Interiano Tobar MD – El Salvador
Shamir Cawich MBBS, DM – Trinidad & Tobago
GAZI ZIBARI GLOBAL OUTREACH AWARD
The AHPBA Gazi Zibari Global Outreach Humanitarian Award is aptly named after AHPBA Past President, Dr. Gazi Zibari, for his outstanding humanitarian contributions abroad and to honor his passion for medical outreach. The purpose of this award is to recognize an AHPBA Member who has dedicated a significant amount of time to volunteer medical outreach activity and capacity building abroad.

2018 RECIPIENT
T. Peter Kingham, MD
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Members may nominate an individual or self-nominate using the online application. Deadline to Apply for 2019 Award: September 3, 2018
Apply online today

NEW - ALLIED HEALTH GRANT
Three $1,000 grants and complimentary AHPBA 2019 Annual Meeting registration will be distributed. The purpose is to offset costs for an Advanced Practice Providers to attend AHPBA annual meetings.

2018 RECIPIENTS
Lacey Bittel, PA-C
University of Cincinnati Medical Center

Emily Herriman, ANP-BC
University of Michigan

Cheryl Woolsey, PA-C, MMS
Washington University School of Medicine

Deadline to Apply for 2019 Travel Grants:
September 3, 2018
Apply online today!

BRANDEIS SCHOLARSHIP
The American College of Surgeons and the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association offer an annual scholarship to subsidize attendance and participation in the Executive Leadership Program in Health Policy and Management at Brandeis University. The award is in the amount of $8,000, to be used toward the cost of tuition, travel, housing, and subsistence during the period of the course

2018 RECIPIENT
Maria B. Majella Doyle, MD, MBA
Washington University in St. Louis

The application process is now closed, and will open again in the fall.
The Surgical Innovation Committee’s (SIC) goal is to identify promising emerging technologies and techniques applicable to the treatment of pancreatic, liver, and biliary disease and facilitate the introduction of these in the clinical arena.

As part of the mission of monitoring the safe introduction of new technologies, the SIC committee continues to oversee and report the activities of the AHPBA Irreversible Electrophoresis (IRE) Pancreatic Cancer Registry. This exciting project has currently enrolled over 170 patients across 8 national and international enrolling sites.

Acknowledging the needs of AHPBA membership in Central and South America, the SIC is actively working to bridge the gap in technology and facilitate introduction, education, and adoption of new techniques in this region. In collaboration with the Ultrasound Subcommittee the SIC has proposed to organize a Latin American AHPBA Ultrasound Course and Ablation Techniques (LA-AHPBA US) that would take place in the future Latin American HPB Regional meetings with the collaboration of local chapters and industry. This idea was welcomed and approved by the AHPBA leadership and the first LA-AHPBA US course will take place in the Regional AHPBA Meeting in Lima, Peru in September of 2019.

Lastly, in order to promote and facilitate the development of innovative ideas in the field of Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Surgery, the SIC has proposed the creation of an HPB Innovator Award Grant. The areas of interest could include: surgical techniques, devices, treatment interventions, and software applications among others. We expect that this grant will foster and bring to fruition novel ideas in the field of HPB surgery that otherwise would have limited chances of funding through research grants.

The SIC continues to welcome new ideas of all the AHPBA members from all regions to improve access to surgical innovation in HPB surgery.
HPB PROGRAM DIRECTORS
Maria B. Majella Doyle, MD, MBA, Chair
- Congratulations to graduating 2018 HPB Fellows!
- Incoming Fellows to begin planning 2019 Bernard Langers Symposium in August.
- HPB Fellows invited to 7th Annual Fellows Course in HPB Surgery in Charlotte, NC in late August.

Join today!

The AHPBA is a great place for HPB enthusiasts to meet, learn and collaborate!

EDUCATION AND TRAINING COMMITTEE
Tara Kent MD, Chair
- HPB 2018 Fellowship Certificate application now open. The committee will review applications in the Fall.
- A motion was passed at the last committee meeting to change the requirement to be 5 MIS Distal Pancreatectomy and 5 Non-minor Liver Resections. The HPB Curriculum Appendix will be revised.
- A special taskforce will be responsible for updating HPB fellowship content online. Additionally, this taskforce will also create modules to correspond with the revised online curriculum.
- More training materials for Fellows added online!
  - SAGES ILLS Videos
  - Pre-Op Videos on myHPB
A global commitment to hepato-biliary procedures

For more than 100 years, we’ve shared your goals—helping patients live longer, healthier lives.

Expanding Professional Education offering

Strengthening Society partnerships to advance Surgical Technique

Comprehensive Surgical Portfolio now including NeuWave™ Microwave Ablation
The AHPBA Fund Run had over 50 participants, and Annual Meeting Fundraising efforts raised over $30k!

Thank you to all who donated to their Favorite Team!

1ST PLACE
HPB Heroines
Team Leader: Rebecca Minter
2nd Year in a Row!

2ND PLACE
HPB Quality
Team Leader: Henry Pitt

3RD PLACE
Pancreas Team
Team Leader: Bruce Schirmer

It was a chilly start at the 5K Run
The AHPBF was created to support the vision, principals and objectives of the Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (AHPBA). Our focus is to foster and advance the research, education and training activities of the AHPBA and, thereby, enhance the quality of hepato-pancreato-biliary surgery and patient care. The AHPBA Foundation was founded exclusively for charitable, research, educational, and training purposes in the field of HPB surgery. The work and awards of the Foundation are supported through gifts from individual members, corporations, other foundations, patients in honor of family members or friends, and from the AHPBA and its membership.

Endeavors supported by the Foundation include:

- International Collaboration through Regional Travel Grants
- Research Support for Promising HPB Investigators
- Global Surgical and Medical Humanitarian Outreach Missions
- Annual named lectures at the AHPBA Congress

The Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Foundation (AHPBF) is a not-for-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible as charitable contributions. The AHPBF accepts gifts of cash, appreciated securities and gifts by bequest. Tax ID# 27-4355142.
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