



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF UNIVERSITY COLON AND RECTAL SURGEONS

Newsletter · Spring 2022



Prof. Narimantas Evaldas Samalavicius

President, the International Society of University Colon and Rectal Surgeons

Dear members of the International Society of University Colon and Rectal Surgeons, colleagues and friends,

It was quite usual in the pre-pandemic past, and especially during the global pandemic, to begin our newsletter with something stimulating, celebratory and with good spirits. However, the war in Ukraine and the invasion by the Russian Federation into a free, sovereign and independent European country is the worst event human calamity that has occurred during the 21st century! The leadership and members of this Society have all reached out to me expressing their horror at these events and the humanitarian crisis that this invasion by Russia into Ukraine has caused and our colleagues willingness to help the Ukrainian people. Using this newsletter as a forum to express our views, must comment and express our condemnation for the Russian Federation's invasion into Ukraine and the humanitarian crisis that has followed the mass scale destruction of major cities leaving Ukrainian people starving, dying and necessitating the mass exodus of millions into Europe for safe haven!



Our society expresses great sympathy and support of our Ukrainian colleagues and all Ukrainian people. These valiant Ukrainians are struggling through their most darkest hours in the history of Ukraine and, indeed, all World history - an atrocity and horror that can only resemble the nightmares of World War Two. The callous and unprovoked destruction of an independent European country, the murder and rape of innocent peaceful Ukrainian civilian people including children!! The destruction of cities, hospitals, schools and necessary infrastructure will impact millions of Ukrainians for generations to come!!! Over 5 million Ukrainian refugees, to date, forced to relocate outside their native and beautiful country requires universal global condemnation for those responsible for this reckless war and ongoing carnage.

We, as a society working within our bylaws established in 1962 and modified in 2016, as well with our rules, enactments and our usual goals, will be working tirelessly for any and all possible ways to support our Ukrainian colleagues and offer help to the Ukrainian people as they travel through this very complex period. We are ready for all ideas, and will be generating initiatives ourselves.

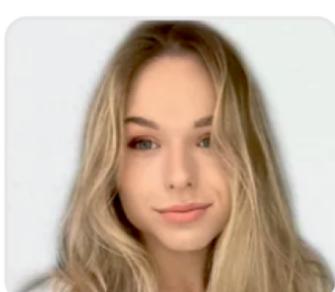
All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing!

The biggest event of our society's life during the last few months was our new collaborative agreement with the VALOR organization to help to run our society professionally. Since our biennial meeting in Mumbai in 2016, when we made this historic turn towards a new and vibrant organization, we tried to manage our society with the assistance of board members and our leadership. Their contribution was of great value, and success. However, the success of these activities during the last few years, has contributed to progress of the field of colon and rectal surgery in our own communities and the revitalization of our society, it became obvious to the Executive Board that we definitely needed a more structured way of running the organization.



Back Row: Gökçen Demirkaya, Richard Fortunato, Damla Kaya, Yudum Kaya

Front Row: Dursun Buğra, Narimantas Samalavicius



Mirga Liekyte

We are certain that we are progressing to an even brighter future for our Society. On behalf of our Society, we welcome our new administrative director Gokcen Demirkaya from Valor. At the same time, I would like to thank very much Mirga Liekyte, our previous administrative director, for her incomparable, excellent, kind, professional service and always with personal charm, who spent the last year with us and whose kind presence will be missed.



We all hope that the pandemic will be over soon, but it is still with us today and may be for some time. Even if travel restrictions are gradually eliminated, our webinars have reached an important international audience and will not go away. Indeed they have helped us to reach new audiences! This year began with a diversity webinar spearheaded by Ann Lowry, then continued with a webinar of LARS successfully coordinated by Audrius Dulskas, followed by Ricardo Escalante organized webinar with a deep analysis of stoma related issues. New webinars are soon to see the daylight - all information is on our webpage and separate notices will be sent to our membership and colleagues around the world.



World Journal of Coloproctology - the official journal of the International Society of University Colon and Rectal Surgeons - is approaching the time when it will be submitted for PUBMED certification. Our Editor in Chief Nasser Al Sanea, and our tireless and beloved Amal Al Gammas and their whole team have worked hard for us to have this possible good news hopefully in time for our biennial meeting this coming October.



Our ambitious international colorectal training program is soon to be launched, as fast as the pandemic will allow unrestricted international travelling.

Vice president Dursun Bugra is also the congress convenor for this year's biennial congress of the International Society of University Colon and Rectal Surgeons to be held October 27-29 in Istanbul, Turkey. Due to his tireless efforts, as well with the help of congress secretary Emre Balik, Valor organization and the whole team, the program committee managed to put together an amazing scientific program which is almost complete. Make no mistake - this will be the most exciting colorectal meeting of the whole year. You can see the program on our webpage already, and the program with the names of all involved will be there in early June.



[Click for detailed information about ISURCS 2022](#)

If I ask myself the question what we need most for the global progress of colon and rectal surgery today, I find this simple answer... peace... Peace in every corner of the world where you practice, peace for Ukraine and Europe in turn, this is what would I like to wish to each and everyone of you...

Yours -
Prof. Narimantas Evaldas Samalavicius
President, the International Society of University Colon and Rectal Surgeons