

Letter of Welcome

A Message from the President of The International Society for Artificial Organs

Wonderful changes are in store for The International Society for Artificial Organs (ISAO), beginning with the Joint Congress this June with the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs (ASAIO) in Washington, DC. For the past year, the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee of ISAO have been working hard to implement the changes and improvements which were outlined by the ISAO Task Force in 1998. The Task Force recommended enhancing international collaboration and communication in artificial organs by consolidating our efforts with the three major artificial organs societies: The European Society for Artificial Organs (ESAO), The Japanese Society for Artificial Organs (JSAO), and ASAIO. To meet this goal, ISAO will return to the original format of bi-annual meetings, held in conjunction with these three major societies. This format was very successful in the past and we expect it will continue to be in the future. Toward this goal, ISAO met with JSAO in 2001, as a sequential meeting. In June 2003, ISAO will meet with ASAIO as a fully integrated Joint Congress. In 2005, the international meeting will be an expanded international meeting

of ESAO, and in 2007 the meeting will be an expanded meeting of JSAO. A return to this format allows us to bring full international participation to each of these continental meetings, maximizing the scientific communication and collaboration in a very efficient manner.

The program for the Washington, DC, Joint Congress in June is spectacular. Panels, scientific presentations, workshops, and every aspect of the meeting are designed to emphasize worldwide participation in artificial organ research and practice. These abstracts represent the entire world experience in artificial organ research. This promises to be an absolutely top quality meeting. All the members of ISAO, all of those interested in artificial organ research, and all the readers of *Artificial Organs* are enthusiastically encouraged to attend.

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