

PRESIDENT'S E-MAGAZINE

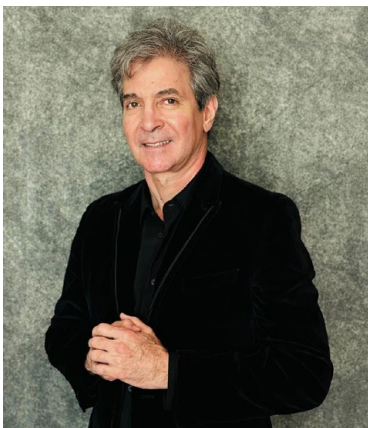
2026

June ISAPS



MONTHLY UPDATE FROM YOUR ISAPS PRESIDENT

CONNECTING CULTURES, SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND
LEADING THE FUTURE IN AESTHETICS



Arturo Ramírez-Montañana, MD
ISAPS President

Dear Colleagues, Friends, and #ISAPSFAMILY,,

We are already in June and are busy finalizing the **much-anticipated ISAPS Body Masters in Barcelona, Spain, being held July 3-5, 2026!** Continuing our Masters Program series, it features **leading world experts** and a **fully immersive, technique-focused program.**

We will cover all the latest in body contouring through interactive cadaver dissection workshops, body marking, step-by-step video demonstrations, and detailed discussions around surgical techniques. Enrollment is limited to **maintain an intimate learning environment**, so **register** soon. If you haven't yet, **check out the program** and see why this is a must-attend meeting!

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ISAPS BODY MASTERS: ANATOMY, STRATEGY AND SURGICAL MASTERY IN BODY CONTOURING

JULY 3-5, 2026 - BARCELONA, SPAIN

WWW.ISAPS.ORG/BODYMASTERS

And, of course, we are also another month closer to our **World Congress in Cancun, Mexico, October 27-31, 2026!** I am so excited to welcome everyone and introduce our **newly refreshed and updated World Congress program format.** I want to thank everyone who is working diligently on making it another unforgettable gathering of colleagues and friends. To complement our scientific program, our integrated **didactic educational programs, social events, and networking opportunities** will open for booking this week (if you have already registered, just log in for priority booking!). Kick-off is on **Wednesday, October 28**, when we come together for a day of comprehensive state-of-the-art surgical updates from some of your top-rated speakers, **culminating with our Opening Ceremony and welcome reception from 6.30 p.m.** I look forward to seeing you and hope we can attend the 30th World Congress together in person.

See you there!

Until next time, I wish you all a successful and happy June!

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arturo Ramírez-Montañana".

Arturo Ramírez-Montañana, MD
ISAPS President

Insights and Perspectives



Giulia Lo Russo, MD

Italy

Member of the ISAPS Transgender Surgery Focus Group & World Congress 2026 Speaker

This month, it's Pride Month, and we're pleased to feature an interview with **Dr. Giulia Lo Russo, a member of the [ISAPS Transgender Surgery](#) Focus Group**. This group advises the **ISAPS Patient Safety Committee** and helps set high standards for developing and publishing guidance on patient safety for transgender surgeries.

ISAPS: According to the ISAPS Global Survey 2024, gender affirming surgery remains a niche within aesthetic plastic surgery. What factors motivated your decision to focus your expertise in this area?

LO RUSSO: The very first congress I attended, during my fifth year of medical school, was on gender-affirming surgery. It was called "Gender Identity Disorders" at that time; vocabulary has changed a lot since 1995. Because of that congress, I became interested in the topic and thought it would be **a very rewarding field to specialize in**. So, I started dealing with gender affirming surgery while working in Florence's University hospital. Then, in 2016, I was responsible for trans men's chest-wall contouring surgery. Since then, I have worked with an interdisciplinary team related to trans people care.

I have defined my personal technique, while sharing many of those details in various publications over the years.

Now I think I felt drawn to transgender patients because I truly respect people who decide to **embark on a path of self-discovery**. It was a very spontaneous choice for me, and it has given me great satisfaction and joy.

ISAPS: According to the ISAPS Global Survey 2024, gender affirming surgery remains a niche within aesthetic plastic surgery. What factors motivated your decision to focus your expertise in this area?

LO RUSSO: I will share my personal experience on the matter. As of today, AI has still not influenced my work. From meeting patients to performing surgery to following their recovery during the controls, my job has relevant human and manual aspects that won't benefit from AI use.

Even with the goal of the best aesthetic result, I choose to rely on my personal taste, my technical skills, and my patients' desires. I have always distrusted all those applications

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that generate images of ideal post-operative results. In fact, I even find them dangerous and harmful because **they create unrealistic expectations**. When AI software provides an image, it doesn't take into consideration many specific and practical aspects that we, as surgeons, know very well.

I confess that I have even refused to operate on some patients who have brought to me photos of themselves modified by using applications or filters, telling me, for example, they wanted "that exact nose". In these cases, the result could never match their expectations, so I find that there wouldn't be the objective foundations for a healthy surgeon-patient trusting relationship.

Regarding gender affirming surgery, I can't really imagine how AI could play a useful role.

ISAPS: From a purely surgical standpoint, what has changed most significantly in the last years?

LO RUSSO: I intend to soon publish an overview of my 10 years' experience in chest-wall contouring. In this time frame, I have **operated on more than 700 transmasculine (trans-masc) patients**, implementing many technique details, from the pre-operative drawing, to surgery, through post-operative recovery. The constant practice has definitely improved my performance. I started by studying Professor Monstrey's algorithm, and then I decided to develop my own. Thanks to my research, I know which technique will work the best, depending on anatomical characteristics.

But I have also noticed that my patients are changing. Considering that society has been improving in accepting and dealing with the theme of gender identity, it is now easier for young trans people to come out and be supported by their family. This means that they can **access care and surgery sooner**. Because of that, my patients are now younger and healthier than when I first started. Their skin is generally more toned, and their muscles are more developed. This leads to better, longer-lasting surgical results.

ISAPS: You are speaking about male chest procedures at the World Congress later this year. Can you share a little about the methods and techniques you will be covering?

LO RUSSO: At this year's World Congress, I will review my patient cohort and share tips and tricks I have gathered over the last 10 years of experience. The three techniques I perform are **hemi-peri-areolar, peri-areolar, and double-incision**, so I will talk about how my algorithm helps me choose between them.

My presentation will also be about secondary surgeries, which are unfortunately more and more frequent. The goal in gender affirming surgery is not only to remove the breasts, but to create a pleasing masculine-looking chest that will feel authentic to the patient's personal identity.

And because I believe in a practical approach, I've decided to do that by sharing many surgery videos, hoping the audience will find them useful and entertaining.

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ISAPS: How has ISAPS shaped you as a plastic surgeon, and why is it important to be a part of the worldwide #ISAPSFAMILY?

LO RUSSO: Since the first ISAPS Congress I attended, I've been **attracted to the sense of family** that I found there. I have felt naturally included, from the start, as an Italian surgeon in an international group. I don't see it only as a World Congress, but also as an **annual reunion of friends**. This is why I keep coming back, increasingly convinced, every year.

Another thing I really love about ISAPS is the fact that, for the first time, I saw the topic of **gender-affirming surgery being addressed** during such a relevant event.

I'm also very grateful and motivated because I've been included in the **ISAPS Patient Safety Committee**, whose purpose is to

have better, always-growing, gender-affirming surgical care around the world. This definitely keeps shaping me as a surgeon, because I always say that working together as a team, sharing our passion and knowledge, makes all of us better doctors who can actually make a change.

ISAPS: As you prepare for the World Congress in Cancun, aside from being part of the program, what are you most excited about?

LO RUSSO: I always find it very exciting to represent Italy in an international context. This year I'm also a member of the Italian Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery's (AICPE) board of directors and, as I previously stated, I'm always very happy to network. I'm sure it will be an **enriching and rewarding experience**, as it always is.

Lisit the [Transgender Focus Group](#) to meet more members, and check out sessions from Dr. Lo Rosso at the [ISAPS World Congress](#) in Cancun this October, including **Tips and Tricks In Chest Wall Masculinization: My Personal Technique**.

Join us for this month's upcoming [Instagram Live](#) session, featuring a panel discussion on **gender-affirming surgery** led by distinguished experts:

Montserrat Fontbona, MD (Chile)

Alexander Aslani, MD (Spain)

Lazaro Cardenas Camarena, MD (Mexico)

Sanguan Kunaporn, MD (Thailand)

We will release details soon—stay tuned!

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JULY 3-5, 2026 - BARCELONA, SPAIN

WWW.ISAPS.ORG/BODYMASTERS

Take your skills in body contouring to the next level with our [ISAPS Body Masters Course](#) in **Barcelona, July 3-5, 2026!** The program will feature the world's leading body-contouring surgeons for another immersive, technique-driven ISAPS Masters program.

Experience **cadaver dissection and patient marking demos, high-definition intraoperative videos, and comprehensive A-Z training for both male and female body contouring.**

Don't miss this **master class on July 4, 2026, Gender-Affirming Body Contouring, moderated by Dr. Jesús Benito-Ruiz,** and featuring ***Sculpting Identity: Advancements in MTF Body Feminization Surgery Integrating Safety, Aesthetics, and Function*, by Dr. Alexander Aslani,** which will be followed by a Q&A.

[Meet the rest of your faculty](#), and check out the [full program here](#).

Just a quick reminder to **book your hotel by June 9, 2026, to get the best rates.** We've set aside a limited number of rooms at the InterContinental Barcelona with a special discount. These rates are lower than what you'll find online. [Click here](#) for more details and to reserve your room.

ISAPS Body Masters

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The banner features the ISAPS logo (a globe with 'ISAPS' text) and 'WORLD CONGRESS Cancun | Mexico | 2026'. Below this, it says 'SEE YOU IN CANCUN' in large, colorful letters, with 'October 27-31, 2026' and the website 'www.isaps2026.com'. On the right side, there are three deadline boxes: 'Early Bird Deadline: August 27, 2026', 'Residents' Symposium: October 27, 2026', and 'Main Program: October 28-31, 2026'. The banner is decorated with colorful floral patterns in the corners.

Connecting Cultures, Sharing Knowledge, and Leading the Future in Aesthetics.

The **ISAPS World Congress in Cancun, October 27-31, 2026**, promises a **comprehensive learning experience** for all attendees. With **over 1,000 presentations from speakers across 72 countries**, you'll find topics that interest everyone.

The Congress will feature educational sessions, ample opportunities to network, and updates on the latest techniques and procedures in aesthetic plastic surgery.

Don't miss the **State-of-the-Art Transgender II session** on **October 31, 2026**, moderated by **Session Chairs Dr. Gustavo Abrile and Dr. Lazaro Cardenas Camarena**, covering several transgender topics and procedures:

- **Three-Dimensional Gluteoplasty in Patients With Gender Dysphoria: Liposuction, Fat Grafting and Implants**
- Lazaro Cardenas Camarena
- **Male and Female Transgender and Chest Management**
- Gustavo Abrile
- **Body Contouring in the Transgender Patient**
- Jorys Martinez-Jorge
- **Evolution of Gender Confirmation Surgery: From Simplified to Complexified Technique**
- Sanguan Kunaporn
- **Tips and Tricks in Chest Wall Masculinization: My Personal Technique**
- Giulia Lo Russo
- **Comparison Between Lower Pedicle Technique and NAC Grafting in Chest Masculinization Surgery**
- Marcello Molle; Roberto Grella; Mario Faenza; and Giovanni Francesco Nicoletti

For the full program, including session details, speakers, and more, [click here](#)

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Just In—Save the Date for Our Social Events!

The Opening Ceremony:

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

President's Networking Dinner:

Friday, October 30, 2026 at 7:30 p.m. (tickets available soon)

Informal Social:

Saturday, October 31, 2026 at 8:00 p.m. (tickets available soon)

[We hope you can join us!](#)

[2026 Program](#)

✓ Register Today & Secure Your Place!

Early Bird Registration Deadline: August 27, 2026

Members save the most on registration rates!

Not yet a member? [Join today!](#)

[Register](#)

✓ Book Your Accommodations

ISAPS has arranged special rates with several hotels in Cancun. Each hotel is close to the Cancun Center and offers its own unique atmosphere, with options to fit different budgets. Since rooms and rates depend on availability, **we recommend booking early** to ensure you get your preferred choice.

[Accommodations](#)

✓ Support ISAPS and Share World Congress News!

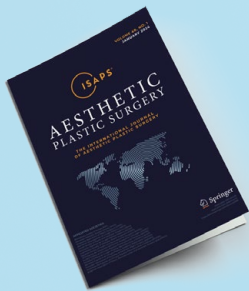
Join the ISAPS Congress conversation and promote **#ISAPS2026** by using our **social media toolkit** which contains Congress material and useful information for all your communication needs.

[Social Media Toolkit](#)



MONTHLY EDUCATION CORNER

In recognition of Pride Month, we are highlighting transgender surgical procedures as our featured topic. As these techniques advance, we invite you to stay informed with our many educational tools.



Recently published in
Aesthetic Plastic Surgery...

Free Jejunal Graft Vaginoplasty in Gender Affirmation Surgery: A Novel Technique

S Eunhae Cho • Ihyun Kim • Eul-Sik Yoon • Sanguan Kunaporn • Na-Hyun Hwang

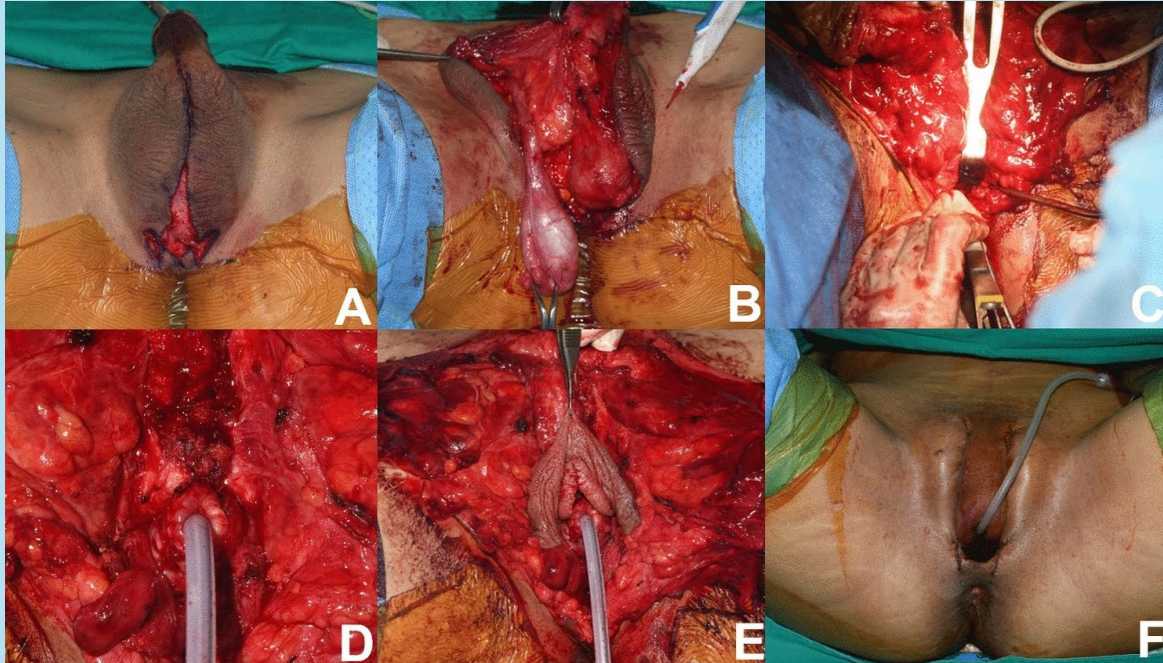
Backgrounds

Many techniques have been described for reconstruction of the vaginal canal in gender affirmation surgery. However, none of the existing methods is known to be ideal. To overcome disadvantages of previous methods, we developed a method of vaginoplasty using a free jejunal graft. In this study, we describe the new method in detail and report postoperative results of our case series.

Methods

Between May 2022 and July 2023, 10 transfeminine patients underwent two-stage gender-affirming vaginoplasty at Korea University Anam Hospital. The first stage involved orchiectomy, urethroplasty, and neovaginal canal dissection. In the second stage, an average of 14.3 cm of jejunum was harvested via single-port laparoscopy, remodeled, and placed in the neovaginal canal. Patient characteristics, along with intra- and perioperative outcomes, were recorded.

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First surgery involving (A) incision and dissection of skin flap; (B) bilateral orchiectomy; (C) neovagina dissection; (D) urethroplasty; (E) formation of the neoclitoris and clitoral hood; (F) skin re-draping

Results

The median patient age was 27 years (range 21-52). The median BMI was 20.1 kg/m², having received 50.6 months of hormonal replacement therapy, in average. No patient had history of gender-affirming surgery. The first surgery took 654 minutes (range 330-920 minutes) and the second surgery 283 minutes (range 150-441 minutes), in average. No major complication was noted. All patients were followed up for 6-18 months. In the donor site, two patients experienced paralytic ileus, which resolved within a week. No patient complained of persistent gastrointestinal discomfort.

Conclusions

A two-staged free jejunal graft for neovagina construction is a safe and effective method of gender-affirming surgery for transfeminine individuals. This paper presents a novel approach of using a free jejunal graft to line the neovagina. The new technique comprises two stages of surgery to ensure hemostasis and minimize swelling of the neovaginal canal. No major complication was noted in the donor or the recipient site after follow-up of at least 6 months on 10 patients.

Read the entire article [here](#).

Become a member to have full access of **APS Journal**

For questions, please contact memberservices@isaps.org.

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Learn more about intimate female surgery in the Residents' Symposium during the 2024 ISAPS World Congress Cartagena:

Module V - Female Intimate Surgery/Transgender

Female Genitalia Beautification

- Sandra Filiciani

Aesthetics and Functional Improvements With Female Intimate Surgery

- Catherine Bergeret-Galley

Scrotal Lifting

- Claudio Thomas

Masculine Chest-Wall Contouring in Transfab Patients: A Personal Approach and a New Algorithm

- Giulia Lo Russo

Gender Reassignment Surgery: Lessons Learned Over a Decade

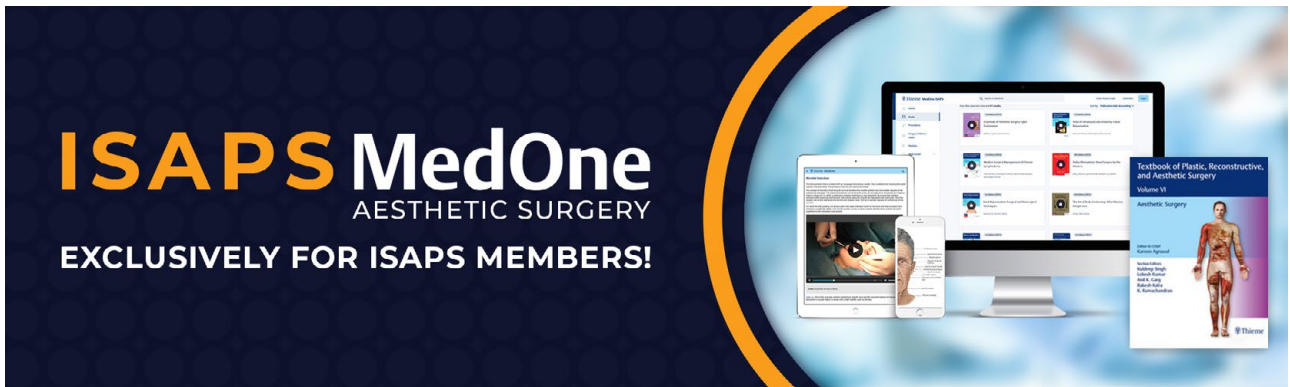
- Rita Passos Meireles

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close to 2,700 educational videos!**

[Video Library](#)

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June 2026 MedOne Feature: Hair Transplantation

Walter P. Unger, Ronald Shapiro

Section VI Repair and Special Considerations: Transgender Patients

Steven Gabel



Summary

Transgender patients pursue hair restoration surgery with the goal of reshaping their existing hairline to match their preferred gender identity. Follicular unit transplantation allows the patient to have a hairline and hairstyle that most appropriately fit the gender with which they identify. There are several studies that demonstrate that gender reassignment surgery is highly satisfying for this patient population.

To read more, become a member today.

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PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Emotional Intelligence

One morning, Dr. Rui awoke after a night of interrupted sleep, feeling fatigued. The previous day had involved multiple surgical procedures followed by consultations, and he had not arrived home until around 9:00 p.m. This was not an isolated incident; it frequently occurred. He often woke up considering whether he could have approached a procedure differently, or what new technique he should implement next time. His thoughts were also occupied by current patients and administrative issues he had addressed with his assistant.

That day, he had a surgical case that was not standard in his practice, though he had performed it a number of times. This, too, had kept him up as he meticulously planned and reviewed the steps required to achieve an optimal outcome. En route to the hospital, he was rerouted due to traffic and failed to arrive 30 minutes early, as was his preference. Upon reaching the clinic, his surgical scrub nurse had sent a message indicating she would be unable to attend, having awoken ill. He proceeded to the operating theater, quickly greeted his patient and the team, but felt compelled to commence the procedure without delay.

The surgery was progressing smoothly until, suddenly, he began encountering difficulty with tissue dissection. He found extensive fibrosis and experienced profuse bleeding. The scrub nurse attempted to assist, as did the anesthesiologist, yet Dr. Rui grew frantic and began speaking to everyone in a sharp tone, using strong language, and adopting an aggressive demeanor. The operating room fell silent, and the patient's condition continued to deteriorate. Ultimately, the procedure concluded successfully, though it lasted one hour longer than anticipated. Hours of high tension permeated the room, and upon completion, everyone sought a swift exit. Whispers in the corridors were immediate, and Dr. Rui's reputation as an ill-tempered and difficult individual was further cemented.

Within **surgical specialties**, the synergy of knowledge and technical skill is paramount, but once in the operating theater, an additional element becomes crucial: **the management of stress and emotions**. Cultivating awareness, comprehension, and effective management of these states, along with exemplifying team leadership, enables specialists to achieve superior patient outcomes daily, thereby enhancing their mastery.

The **surgical environment** contains inherent factors that necessitate performance under pressure; the need for immediate decision-making in complex matters demands a high degree of emotional control. Self-awareness and self-management are integral components that assist in maintaining control, modulating our emotional state prior to interventions, and ensuring adequate rest and moments for introspection, which allow us to connect with ourselves and always react appropriately. Heightening awareness of the location and situation, and pausing activity at critical junctures, enables a shift in perspective. Even a **brief interruption, coupled with deep-breathing exercises**, can reorient one's energy and facilitate improved decision-making.



PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

The surgeon serves as the leader within the operating theater; identifying and managing the emotional state of the team members is an aspect that must not be undervalued. While everyone's role must be clear, it is incumbent upon the leader to demonstrate composure and equanimity, which instills confidence in the team should a reaction be necessary.

The consulting room is the primary setting for interaction with our patients and our surgical team. Maintaining strong relationships with both is a responsibility of the physician-leader. On occasion, we interact minimally with our team members, often speaking to them to be heard rather than actively listening, thus failing to foster an environment for open expression. During consultations, we sometimes believe our primary role is to elaborate extensively on procedural details, but in reality, it is a setting where our greatest effort should be placed on attentively listening to the patient's motivations, fears, and aspirations.

Managing patient expectations through honest and empathetic dialogue helps mitigate their concerns, thereby creating an atmosphere of trust that proves invaluable throughout the ensuing process. Adherence to recommendations will play a significant role in the recovery process, and this is achieved only by affording space for open conversation.

Emotional intelligence is a priority skill for any team leader to cultivate. Its consistent application in team interactions results in a superior, more productive work environment. Performing a **self-assessment** to identify our personal characteristics allows us to pinpoint weaknesses to improve and strength to leverage. This involves **analyzing complex cases**, discussing them with team members, reviewing how critical situations were managed, providing feedback, and adopting new behaviors by consensus. Furthermore, **managing burnout** will enable us to identify the factors that impede our emotional well-being.

If you want to join conversations like this, please write to me:
juanestebansierra@hotmail.com.

JUAN ESTEBAN SIERRA, MD - COLOMBIA
ISAPS National Secretary



Interested in more practice management tips?

- Check our [L.I.F.T. program](#) online
- Login and listen to the recording from the [ISAPS Business School: Leading the Patient Journey - from Marketing to Patient Conversion](#) webinar, free for members in our [Online Video Library](#).

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July 11, 2026 | Upper Blepharoplasty and Ptosis Correction | 13:00 UTC

[Click here](#) for your local time.

FREE for ALL ISAPS Members and only \$100 for non-members.

Mark your calendars!

- October 10, 2026: Abdominoplasty and Lower Body Lift
 - December 12, 2026: Male Genitalia Surgery and F to M Gender Reassignment

***All times are at 13:00 UTC unless otherwise noted.**

Recordings of previous webinars are available on the [ISAPS Video Library](#).

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September 26, 2026 | [Rethinking Thrombosis Prevention in Aesthetic Surgery](#) | 13:00 UTC

[Click here](#) for your local time.

Join moderator **Dr. Sergio Korzin** to discuss the following paper: [“ISAPS Patient Safety Update: Deep Venous: Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism: Stratification and Proophylaxis in Aesthetic Surgery”](#) - Dr. Jesus Benito Ruiz (et al.)

FREE for ALL ISAPS Members and only \$50 for non-members.

Mark your calendars!

- November 21, 2026: [Glidelift™ - A No Visible Scar Approach](#)

***All times are at 13:00 UTC unless otherwise noted.**

Recordings of previous webinars are available on the [ISAPS Video Library](#).

Register Now

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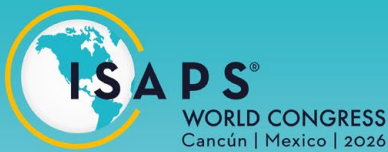


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SEE YOU IN
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October 27-31, 2026

www.isaps2026.com

Early Bird Deadline:

August 27, 2026

Residents' Symposium:

October 27, 2026

Main Program:

October 28-31, 2026



UPCOMING **ISAPS**
EVENTS



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ISAPS Membership

We are still accepting applications for 2026

ISAPS offers membership to accredited aesthetic plastic surgeons and residents worldwide. We have members in 117 countries and provide them with access to training, e-learning, and networking opportunities within our community of more than 6300 fellow surgeons.

All our members can access:

- Our *ISAPS Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Journal*: all current, future and past articles.
 - The video library on our website, with than 2,600 plastic surgery videos.
 - Members-only discounts for events, including our annual Congress.

Life, Active and Associate members are included on the **Find a Surgeon Directory** on the ISAPS website.

ISAPS MedOne e-library, printed copies of our Journal sent by post, and the price of registration for our Congress can also be included with your membership as “optional extras”.

Membership costs from just \$125 for newly qualified surgeons and \$350 for more experienced colleagues. Residents can join for free, for up to three years. Applications for membership are available online, through our website.

Apply today to become an ISAPS Member!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at memberservices@isaps.org



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