

PRESIDENT'S E-MAGAZINE

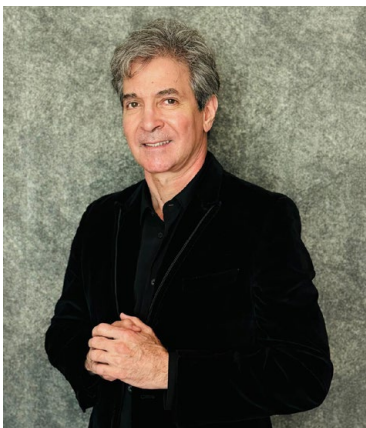
2026

ISAPS
February



MONTHLY UPDATE FROM YOUR ISAPS PRESIDENT

CONNECTING CULTURES, SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND
LEADING THE FUTURE IN AESTHETICS



Arturo Ramírez-Montañana, MD
ISAPS President

Hello everyone! This month, I have only good news for all of you!

Our next academic event, the **ISAPS Face Master Course, February 27-March 1, 2026**, has sold out on site ... but don't worry, you can still attend virtually! I invite you to **join via live stream and on demand**, so you can still benefit from this exceptional experience and participate in Q&A discussions.

For those attending on-site, the Course will be held at the prestigious Practical Anatomy and Surgical Education facilities of the **Saint Louis University School of Medicine**.

Fabulous setting! Speaking of outstanding destinations, we are excited to host you at the **Cancun Convention Center** later this year for our 2026 **ISAPS World Congress**. The venue is conveniently located in the heart of the Cancun hotel zone, close to the airport and many local restaurants and attractions. Cancun is easy to reach with over 500 flights a day from 100 destinations. We will open our discounted rates for our local HQ hotels later this month, so look out for those updates very soon.

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Extend your stay! There is plenty to enjoy in and around Cancun, from beach to lagoon, and jungle to underwater wildlife, but if you have a few extra days, check out Cozumel, Playa Mujeres, Tulum or the magnificent Riviera Maya.

More good news for Cancun! The Scientific Committee has received more than seven hundred abstracts and is busy organizing another incredible **program**.



And speaking of incredible, I would like to share my experience from the recent ISAPS-endorsed **Qatar Plastica Conference (January 14-17, 2026) in Doha, Qatar**. It was my second time visiting this fantastic country, and it didn't disappoint. The last time was 10 years ago, and I was excited to go back. Their theme this year, "*When Innovation Meets Elegance*," was spot on.



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What a wonderful place, what wonderful people, what wonderful planning! The Chairman of the Conference and President of the Qatar Society of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Habib Al Basti, accompanied by Co-Chairs, Drs. Saed Kaldari (ISAPS National Secretary) and Talal Al Hetmi, who also serves as the Scientific Committee Chair, did an excellent job. I want to thank them, the Qatar Society of Plastic Surgery, and everyone involved, for organizing such a memorable meeting and for taking such good care of us: **an unforgettable experience, world-class academic standards, and an incredibly friendly social environment!** As part of the international faculty, we had the opportunity to see great friends, surgeons and mentors including Drs. Moustapha Hamdi, Fabio Nahas, Ruth Graf, Paul Nassif, Sebastien Garson, Enrico Robotti, Alsaid (Al) Aly, Bertha Torres, Ahmed Afifi, Adam Rubinstein, Sami Saad, among others, who all shared their knowledge in a very friendly environment.

Thanks to all the participants!



I look forward to seeing many of you soon in St. Louis; until then, have a safe and successful February.

Warm regards,

Arturo Ramírez-Montañana, MD
ISAPS President

MONTHLY E-MAGAZINE

#ISAPSFAMILY & Other Reflections



Dr. Fabian Cortiñas

Argentina

ISAPS Membership Chair and IN, News Editor-in-Chief

This month, we are thrilled to share impressions from our [Membership Chair and IN](#), **ISAPS News Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Fabian Cortiñas**—an esteemed member and influential figure at ISAPS. His role also includes serving as a Committee Member on the Communications, Branding and Public Relations, Governance and Policy Committees, and the ISAPS Board of Directors. Through his many efforts, he has developed extensive knowledge of ISAPS, and we are fortunate to have him as part of the [#ISAPSFAMILY](#)!

ISAPS: From your perspective as Membership Chair, how would you describe ISAPS and the #ISAPSFAMILY to someone who is not yet a member but is considering joining?

CORTIÑAS: I kindly invite anyone who is really committed to making the best of themselves in the aesthetic field to **join ISAPS due to the quality of our members, the broad spectrum of learning opportunities, and the nature of the society**, not to mention if someone is also attracted by being part of educational activities internationally. There is no other group or association that can offer such an extraordinary international network of devoted aesthetic surgeons worldwide.

All countries have their own associations, and many of them are linked to other National Societies, but **this is another league altogether**; we are members linked with members from all over the world. The imagination is the limit.

ISAPS: What would you consider to be one of the biggest achievements for ISAPS membership in the past year?

CORTIÑAS: I would answer this question from two different perspectives, my personal feeling and the other factual, but to begin, I need to emphasize that **representing ISAPS members is a big responsibility** that we, the Membership Committee, have, and is

exercised with a great multinational team. We have **representatives from all regions**: Drs. Pier Luigi Cantà from Italy, Hisham El Minawi from Egypt, Cenik Demirdover from Türkiye, Sanguan Kunaporn from Thailand, Luis Carlos Moreno from Panama, Hisham El Seify from the United States, who are all supported by our Head of Membership Services from the central office, Richard Guy. It is teamwork.

To answer the question, I see it as a major achievement to have chosen these committee members to lead the ISAPS membership division. By including people from different regions, we **show our commitment to supporting everyone**, and we are always available to help anyone who contacts us.

The other achievement is that last year we surpassed 6,000 members, a historic milestone for the Society; however, while numbers are important, it wouldn't be an accomplishment if it were not aligned with quality. ISAPS increased its membership to only **qualified, certified plastic surgeons**, and this analysis is also part of our Committee's task to ensure that all members meet these requirements.

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ISAPS: The ISAPS News, IN, has undergone some exciting changes. What would you like to highlight and why?

CORTIÑAS: IN was initially born with the aim to share information, mainly educational activities, and to keep members informed; however, progressively it has been transformed into the “*journal of all members*”, where members are actually contributing to making IN—sending the information they want to share, creating the content with the editors, and **actually being part of it**. IN is an elegant way to express diversity in many forms.

One of my favorite sections is **Coffee and Anecdotes**, where we have relaxed conversations with plastic surgery leaders, diving into their personal lives and professional achievements, and enjoying coffee in between. Another notable section is the **Concepts of Beauty**, which explores the subtle differences in how beauty is perceived across diverse cultures, regions, and perspectives, enhancing our aesthetic expertise.

ISAPS: What is one of your fondest Congress memories, and what are you most looking forward to at the 2026 World Congress in Cancun?

CORTIÑAS: I have a very special memory from the **ISAPS Melbourne Congress 2008**, which was organized in a completely different way than the ones we attend nowadays, due to the context at that particular time. It was one big ballroom for all presenters, can you imagine?

Moreover, as you know, ISAPS congresses are a great reason to travel with family, this time I brought my eldest son on the journey, who today became a plastic surgeon and ISAPS member!.

ISAPS: As a specialist in facial plastic surgery, what do you anticipate will be the most exciting developments in facial aesthetics in the near future?

CORTIÑAS: I am not anticipating thrilling discoveries; I believe we are going to witness a reduction in filler treatments due to the fact that during the last few decades, we experienced a sort of abuse of synthetic fillers for many reasons, and today patients are starting to perceive overfilled faces and are **progressively moving to more balanced outcomes**.

In my view, a **deeper understanding of the aging process** at the biological and molecular levels will lead to a customized, particularly designed, personalized facial treatment.

ISAPS: As we start the year, what are your aspirations for 2026, both personally and for ISAPS?

CORTIÑAS: From my personal perspective, I hope we can keep enjoying a healthy, growing family, which is the most precious asset we have. The seeds we sowed are growing and keep moving forward in their own path, and experiencing that is a **real joy**.

My aspiration for ISAPS goes to the whole membership for which I wish **a year of self-knowledge and growth**; from the society side, I have enough evidence that ISAPS this year will serve the members by providing great tools for their **professional and personal improvement**, this is not only a desire since it is based on facts. Just to mention two, the **Face Masters Course** at the end of February will bring “the tools” for those devoted to enhancing their facial rejuvenation skills. The second will be the **World Congress in Cancun**; we are expecting a fantastic meeting full of friendship and scientific substance.

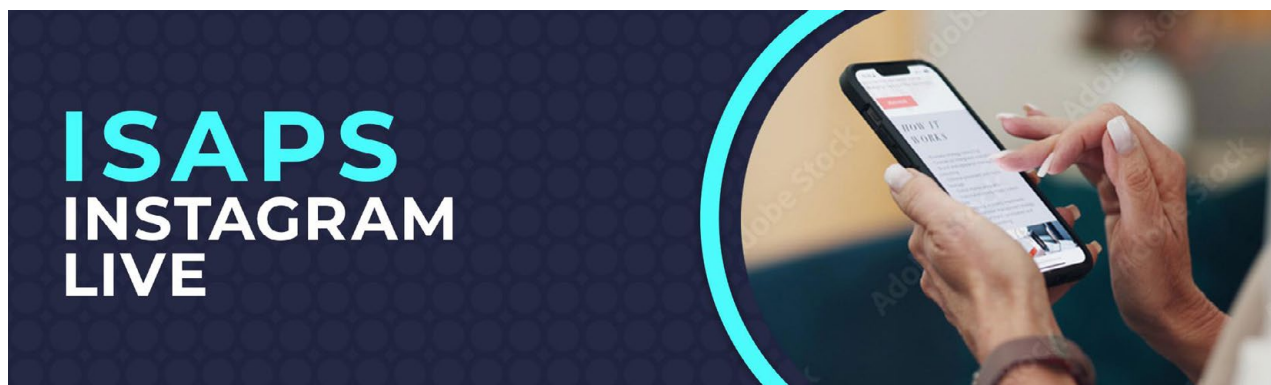
Not yet a member of the #ISAPSFAMILY?

Now is the perfect time to join to **make the most of your annual membership!** [Visit the website](#) to see what level is best for you.

ISAPS Residents

We offer a range of educational opportunities for early-career surgeons and are happy to offer ISAPS Residents free membership. [Learn more and apply today!](#)

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ISAPS BUSINESS SCHOOL: Leading The Patient Journey—From Marketing to Patient Conversion | February 7, 2026 | 15:00 UTC

[Click here](#) to find your local time!

Hosted by:

- Lina Triana MD, ISAPS Past President (Colombia)
- Paz Martorell, Medical Marketing Specialist (Argentina)

Instagram Live



The Global Survey is Open! Don't Delay—Participate Today!

In case you missed it, revisit the recent **Instagram Live:**

Know Your Stats to Grow Your Practice & Protect Patient Safety!

Global Survey

MONTHLY E-MAGAZINE



February 21, 2026 | Regenerative Medicine & Surgery | 13:00 UTC

Speakers:

Catherine Bergeret-Galley, MD (France), Dana Jianu, MD (Romania),
Tsai-Ming Lin, MD (Chinese Taipei (Taiwan), Zekeriya Tosun, MD (Türkiye)

Moderators:

Luis Mastronardi, MD(Argentina), and Jesslyn Gunardi, MD (Indonesia)

Mark your calendars!

- April 18, 2026: Breast Lift and Reduction
- July 11, 2026: Upper Blepharoplasty and Ptosis Correction
- 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](#).**

Register Now

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**March 28, 2026 | Tripedicle Breast Reduction Technique I
13:00 UTC**

**Tripedicle Breast Reduction Technique: Superomedial, Central and Inferior. A
Modified McKissock Technique**

Federico Ramírez Zuluaga, Diego Posada Ríos,
Ana M. Moreno & Natalia Mejía Jiménez

Mark your calendars!

- March 28, 2026: Tripedicle Breast Reduction Technique
 - May 23, 2026: TBA
 - September 26, 2026: TBA
 - November 21, 2026: TBA

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

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

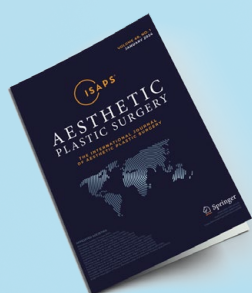
Register Now

MONTHLY E-MAGAZINE



MONTHLY EDUCATION CORNER

As we mark **World Cancer Day on February 4, 2026**, we reaffirm our commitment to advancing our specialty and to prioritizing innovation in our work for the safety and betterment of patients worldwide. We invite you to review some of these relevant materials in this issue.



Recently published in
Aesthetic Plastic Surgery...

Autologous Fat Grafting for Functional and Aesthetic Improvement in Patients with Head and Neck Cancer: A Systematic Review

**Yu Wang • Lili Hou • Mingyi Wang • Fuping Xiang
• Xiaomei Zhao • Meizhen Qian**

Introduction

The efficacy and safety of autologous fat grafting for use in oncology patients are controversial. Patients with head and neck cancer have complex anatomy and require reconstructive repair of the head and neck after comprehensive treatment. The limited additional aesthetic and functional studies on the use of autologous fat fillers in patients with head and neck cancer are unclear. This study systematically evaluates the additional function of autologous fat fillers in the head and neck and systematically reviews issues related to autologous fat grafting after comprehensive head and neck cancer treatment, including current indications, techniques, potential complications, graft survival, and patient satisfaction.

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Methods

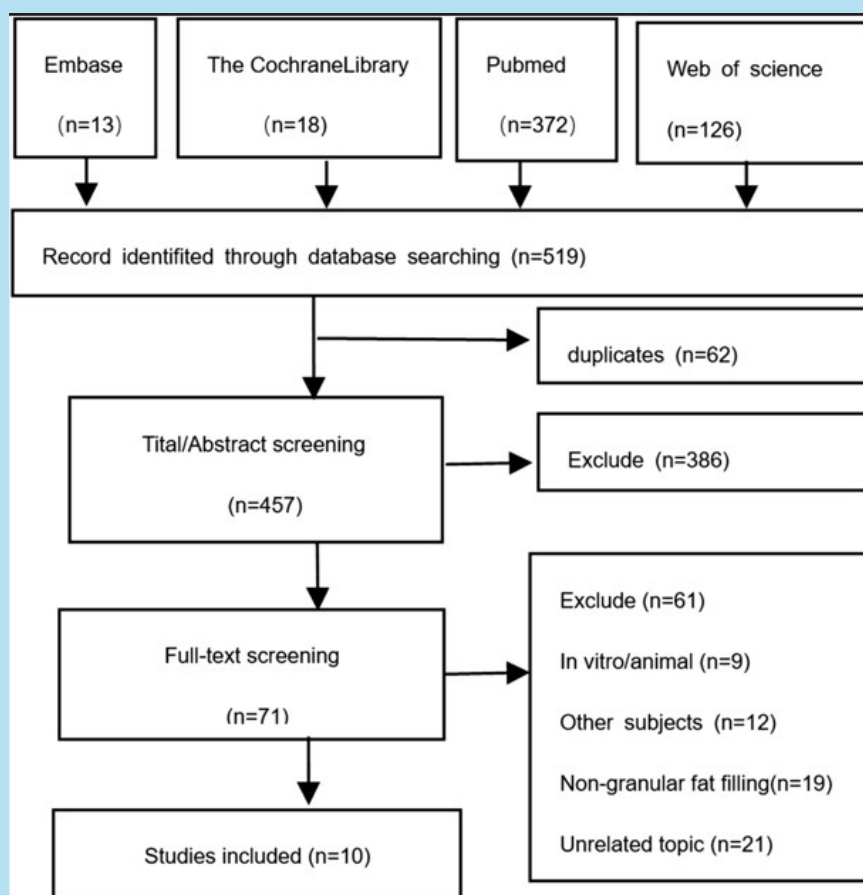
A systematic literature review was performed using PubMed, The Cochrane Library, EMBASE, and Web of Science (last accessed on January 9, 2023).

Results

A total of 249 cases of autologous fat fillers in patients with head and neck cancer were reported in 10 clinical publications. Observations were based mainly on subjective physician and patient evaluation indicators, and all studies reported the beneficial effects of autologous fat fillers on aesthetics and function after treatment for head and neck cancer.

Conclusion

Autologous fat fillers are effective in improving the aesthetics and function of head and neck cancer, and due to the limitations of the original study, future studies with large samples are needed to support this. PROSPERO registration number is CRD42020222870.



Flowchart of the screening process.

Become a member to have full access of **APS Journal**
For questions, please contact memberservices@isaps.org.

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Learn about **challenging breast cases** from the in-depth session held at the ISAPS World Congress in Cartagena.

ISAPS World Congress Cartagena 2024: Breast - How the Experts Manage Challenging Breast Cases

Speakers:

Moustapha Hamdi, MD (Belgium) and Nora Nugent, MD (United Kingdom)

Moderators:

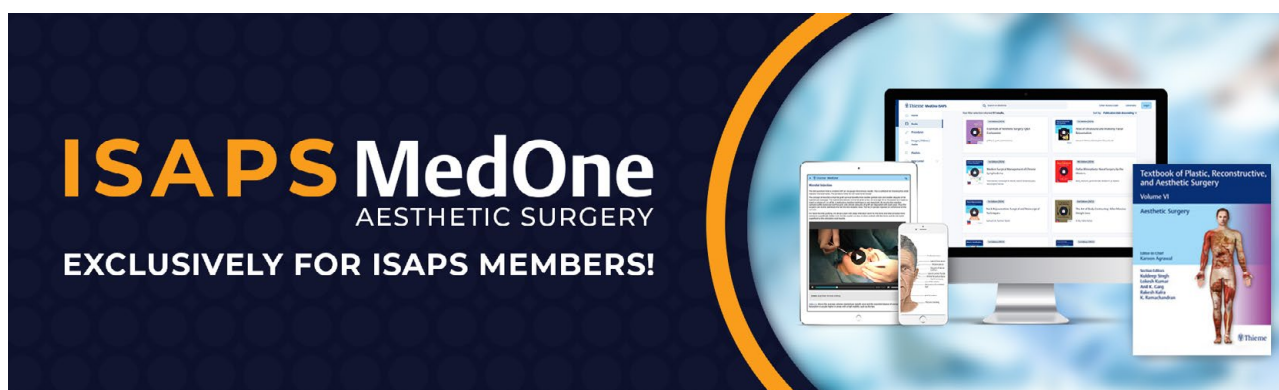
Naci Celik, MD (Türkiye), Moustapha Hamdi, MD (Belgium), Serdar Eren, MD (Türkiye), Nora Nugent, MD (United Kingdom), Horia Remus Siclovan, MD (Romania) and Bernadett Levay, MD (France)

Don't miss more exclusive on-demand content from ISAPS Congresses, ISAPS Official Courses, the innovative ISAPS L.I.F.T. Program, and a variety of insightful ISAPS webinars. Elevate your expertise and stay up-to-date!

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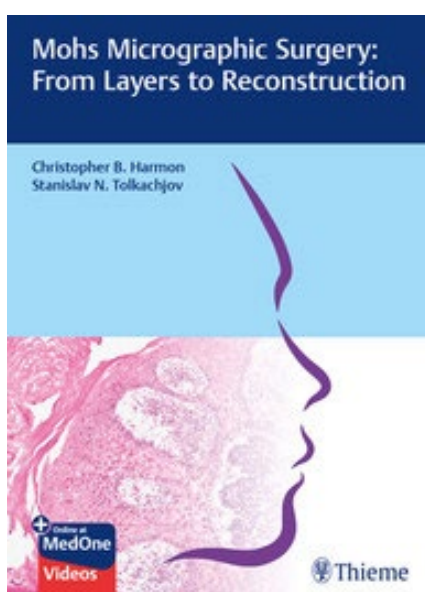


February 2026 MedOne Feature

Mohs Micrographic Surgery: From Layers to Reconstruction

Christopher B. Harmon and Stanislav Tolkachjov

A systematic approach to Mohs surgery and reconstruction from renowned skin cancer surgeons.



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Thieme, Rüdigerstr. 14, 70469
Stuttgart, Germany.

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More than 5.4 million cases of nonmelanoma skin cancer, most notably basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma, and melanoma, occur annually in the United States alone. The Mohs technique, developed in the 1950s and refined over the years, has the highest cure rate of any treatment for nonmelanoma skin cancer, is used increasingly for melanoma, and has the lowest recurrence rate. Mohs Micrographic Surgery: From Layers to Reconstruction by renowned dermatologic and Mohs surgeons Christopher Harmon and Stanislav Tolkachjov provides a detailed yet succinct road map to learning and mastering Mohs and reconstruction.

The algorithmic organization coupled with instructive photographs and illustrations provide a reader-friendly format conducive to learning. The two opening chapters describe the principles of Mohs surgery including progressive layer excision to determine if wound margins are cancer free, associated pitfalls, recurrences, special sites, reconstructive principles, and general considerations. The subsequent eight chapters are organized by facial site, from the nose to the eyelid/eyebrow. The final two chapters discuss combination reconstructions stretching over multiple subunits and perioperative management and wound care.

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MedOne



PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

The Transformation of the Surgeon Leader

The transition from being a surgical expert to a practice director involves a radical change in mindset. Our work, once we step out of the operating room, expands to encompass business management. We are **owners and directors**, and **our responsibility extends to building and leading** efficient work teams. This is the reality many plastic surgeons face, and success often depends more on leadership skills than on technical dexterity.

Early in my career, I saw firsthand the consequences of poor leadership. I hired two assistants: Adriana, trusted for her seniority, in charge of cash and finances; and Vanesa, with a customer service profile, for appointments and scheduling. Despite good intentions, **efficiency failed**. Adriana's accounts were chaotic, and patients complained about Vanesa's coldness, directly impacting surgical scheduling.

An administrator friend suggested a simple exercise: ask them to list all their daily activities. Adriana wrote a vague list of three or four points on an entire sheet, then explained each one in detail. Vanesa, on the contrary, structured her sheet with specific times and activities, presenting a clear and self-explanatory document. The conclusion was evident: **they were in the wrong roles**. When their functions were reversed, everything began to flow. I realized that my initial selection and assignment criteria did not meet the necessary minimums for directing.

The concept of the leader as a "boss" is obsolete. Today, **one leads by example**, seeking followers, not employees. Authority is earned through consistency, communication, and trust; it is not imposed. Currently, the landscape is complicated by digital integration: hybrid teams, automation, management indicators, and data handling. For a plastic surgeon, integrating human leadership with the digital approach is the line that separates a **"busy practice"** from a **"profitable and replicable"** one.

To be an effective leader, **clarity** is the first step: defining the founder's vision and creating a job description manual that incorporates it and its values. This is followed by **consistency**: our actions must reflect the values we want the team to convey. It is our behavior, not just our words, which will be replicated. **Demanding respect** implies recognizing achievements and emphasizing goal fulfillment, strengthening authority through the valuation of work. **Delegating with discernment** means showing the team how to be autonomous and define their limits, without always depending on the leader's solution. The **continuous improvement mindset** prioritizes proactivity over reactivity, using indicators, scripts, and checklists to build more efficient processes. Finally, serenity in crisis is vital; the leader's calm, transparent communication determines whether a crisis is contained or escalated.



PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Leadership 4.0: The Digital Imperative

Current leadership has transcended the traditional sphere to become intrinsically integrated with the digital world. Effective leadership is, by necessity, digital. This implies implementing and managing fully integrated processes. **Technology is not a mere accessory** but a requirement for efficiency and quality of service.

Integration must cover automated scheduling management, time optimization, and the **strategic use of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) systems** to enable deep understanding and personalized patient interaction. Communication must be truly omnichannel, supported by strategically developed scripts that deliver a unified message. Automation of reminders minimizes oversight and frees up valuable team time.

The traceability of all information in specialized software becomes the pillar of operational excellence and patient care, covering the pre- and postoperative stages. This not only provides a better experience and greater safety for the patient but also enables continuous improvement of protocols. It is crucial to understand that **technology is not a substitute for leadership but a catalyst and a requirement for it**. The modern leader must master these tools and guide their team in their ethical and effective use, complying with privacy and data security regulations.

Strengthening leadership is not just about becoming a manager; it is about protecting the practice and the surgeon's well-being. The surgeon leader ceases to be the center of all operations and **becomes the architect of the system**: defining standards, developing people, measuring what is essential, and acting with coherence. The reward is tangible: better patient experience, higher conversion, less personal burnout, and a practice that functions as a solid company without losing its clinical soul.

I would love to receive your opinions and responses to my commentaries, and I invite you to email me at juanestebansierra@hotmail.com.

Interested in more practice management tips?

- Check our [L.I.F.T. program](#) online
- [Business School 2022](#) recordings from Istanbul available free for members in our [Online Video Library](#).

MONTHLY E-MAGAZINE



ISAPS FACE MASTERS: LIVE ANATOMY AND SURGICAL STRATEGY

FEBRUARY 27 TO MARCH 1, 2026
ST. LOUIS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ON-SITE SOLD OUT!
LIVE STREAMED / ON-DEMAND
ATTENDANCE AVAILABLE

Join virtually via live stream and on-demand!

This inaugural event will feature the **most respected names in aesthetic surgery** for three days of cutting-edge education, anatomical exploration, and clinical excellence. Whether you are refining your techniques or seeking fresh perspectives from the world's leading surgeons, **ISAPS Face Masters** offers a transformative educational experience.

Onsite registration is SOLD OUT!

You can still join via **live-stream** and the **Course will also be available on-demand for a limited time** after the event. Live stream audience will be able to participate in Q&A discussions and have the opportunity to **apply for CME credits**. To learn more about virtual fees, [visit our registration page](#).

Members save up to \$450 off virtual registration fees!

ISAPS Residents: \$400
ISAPS Members: \$500
Non-Members: \$850
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Program

Virtual Registration

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The Scientific Program Committee is Setting New Records!

The Committee has received **OVER 700 ABSTRACTS** from more than **515 UNIQUE PRESENTING AUTHORS**—the **MOST**, for any **ISAPS World Congress to-date!**

The Scientific Program Committee would like to thank all 2026 abstract submitters! They received a **record-breaking 706 abstracts, from 517 unique presenting authors**, and they can't wait to organize an exceptional, once-a-year program.

Attendees will be presented with a **comprehensive academic program** led by **experts and leaders of aesthetic plastic surgery**. It will feature renowned master classes, educational sessions, innovative workshops, and networking opportunities.

Additionally, Cancun provides an **inspiring setting for the World Congress**, a **network** of world-class aesthetic plastic surgery leaders and multiple opportunities to enhance your educational experience.

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It's not too early to [start planning today!](#)

✓ Venue: the [Cancun Center](#)

✓ [Plan Your Trip](#)

✓ [Register](#)

Members benefit from the lowest registration rates!

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

[Register](#)

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](#)



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ISAPS Membership

We are now accepting applications for 2026.

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

ISAPS membership now includes:

Our *Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Journal* is published as two online issues per month, one online-only issue, and a second 'selected articles' issue, which will also be sent to print subscribers.

A video library on our website, offering close to 2700 plastic surgery videos.

Members-only discounts for events.

Listing on the ISAPS Find a Surgeon Directory on the ISAPS website

Membership costs from just \$250 for qualified surgeons. 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
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