MESSAGE FROM THE ISAPS PRESIDENT

Dear ISAPS members, dear colleagues and friends,

I hope you all heard the good news last week that the U.S. FDA decided not to withdraw textured silicone implants from the American market. The FDA justifies this decision and refers to the lack of sufficient data linking breast implants to BIA-ALCL. We warmly welcome this decision and hope that other decision-makers in other countries will react similarly and recognize the extremely low risk of disease compared to the many advantages of textured implants.

Many thanks to our American colleagues from ASAPS who have rendered outstanding services in this regard. I am also happy about the cooperation with our European colleagues from EASAPS with whom we recently published a press release regarding BIA-ALCL and our points of view. A loud voice is better heard!

BIA-ALCL will continue to be a big topic at the ASAPS Congress which takes place this year in New Orleans. While there, I will also meet with my entire Board of Directors to discuss many of our organization’s exciting plans. If you don’t have anything planned, come visit us in New Orleans and learn from our American colleagues.
Last week, my team was in Vienna to clarify details for the upcoming World Congress in September 2020. It is exciting to see how everything is moving along at full speed in preparation for a fantastic time with you again. Make sure you save the date!

Kind regards,
Dirk Richter, MD,
ISAPS President
Q: How did your passion for plastic surgery develop?
Kontoes: I remember watching on TV the casualties of the war in Vietnam and the hunger of the Biafra children. That was the first time I said to my parents “I want to become a medical doctor, to treat and save the lives of the soldiers and the starving children.” During high school I started drawing, woodcarving, and creating objects and faces with clay, mud, or plasticine. The next question to my parents after some years was if there was a medical specialty that could combine medicine and art. At that time, aesthetic surgery was in its first steps. During my medical studies, the pioneers of aesthetic surgery made the specialty well known around the world. And how could I not be directed towards plastic and aesthetic surgery, which I was demanding and dreaming about from my early childhood?

Q: What has been the highlight of your career as a plastic surgeon?
Kontoes: There are many, mainly related to volunteering and pro bono surgery. One very special case was when I was honored by the President of the Hellenic Republic for my volunteer contribution as a member of the ‘Aegean Team’ to the health of the inhabitants of remote islands of the Aegean Sea. Another was when I was honored by the Minister of Health of the Hellenic Republic and three different Greek charity foundations for my volunteer contributions to the reconstructive surgical procedures of the victims of a massive bus accident in September 2004. The bus was full of high school students and the accident resulted in several casualties and serious injuries.

Q: How did you first become involved with ISAPS?
Kontoes: I became an ISAPS member back in 1998. I had attended an ISAPS Course in London and had been impressed by the dedication and devotion of the Professors to the training of younger plastic surgeons. I became the Greek National Secretary from 2010 to 2014, as the ISAPS Education Council Chair, together with the Education Council Committee members, we do our best to provide the highest standards for every educational event around the world. What counts most is the educational mission of ISAPS which keeps members updated with the most important innovations in aesthetic surgery and enriches their knowledge for the benefit of patients’ safety, the efficiency of procedures, and the promotion of scientific aesthetic surgery.

Q: Which ISAPS event are you most looking forward to in 2019/2020?
Kontoes: As the ISAPS Education Council Chair, I am looking forward to all the ISAPS events for 2019-2020; however, I can refer separately to the ISAPS F.A.S.T. Program. This program was designed by the Education Council, is intended for younger plastic surgeons, and is taking place in Moscow this year. The first module on Facial Aesthetic Surgery was completed with extreme success. A new ISAPS Congress format, the “ISAPS Olympics,” is also on the go and will take place in 2021. This event will be a unique educational event where the best of the best in certain specialties will compete. More to come soon.

Q: As Education Council Chair, what do you hope to achieve for ISAPS and its members?
Kontoes: So far, we have changed and structured new guidelines for the Education Council regarding educational events, supported the creation of the ISAPS video library and ISAPS monthly webinars, and organized many other ‘firsts.’ I hope that during this term we will have finalized further issues related to education and training. But even more, we want to further strengthen the relationship and bond of the Education Council with our members in every country, bringing together and joining forces for the successful, safe and productive future of Aesthetic Surgery around the world.

Q: What is one unexpected hobby or passion that you share?
Kontoes: I love playing basketball with my friends - I played basketball for several professional teams in Greece until 1987. I also enjoy sailing to the Greek islands on my RIB boat with my friends and family. Due to the very tight travelling schedule that I have in my capacity as the Education Council Chairman, many colleagues call me ‘Phileas Fogg,’ after the traveler in Around the World in Eighty Days!
Effects of Silicone Implants on the Mammary Gland: Ultrasonographic and 3D Study

Silicone implants significantly affect the thickness of the glandular tissue. All changes occur soon postoperatively, but stabilize after 4 months. Interested in learning more? Read the full article and watch the videos in your member area on ISAPS.org – or check us out on social media! We are excited to announce that Aesthetic Plastic Surgery is now on social media, so that you can stay up-to-date on the latest research in the field.

Follow APS on Facebook at Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Journal, on Instagram at @aps_journal, and on Twitter at @aps_journal.

JESUS BENITO-RUIZ ET AL., BARCELONA SPAIN
ISAPS COURSE & 11TH INTERNATIONAL EURASIAN AESTHETIC PLASTIC SURGERY (EURASIAN2019)

Venue: Hilton Convention Center
June 20-23, 2019
ISTANBUL

Our organizing committee is already working on preparations to present you a meeting with high educational level. We will be honored to bring to you the absolute best world-class faculty from all around the world and form a scientific program that includes lectures, video presentations, live surgeries and workshops.

We know this will be a most comprehensive, memorable and world-class Course with its outstanding scientific program and social program. On behalf of our invited faculty and the Turkish Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, we are looking forward to welcoming you in Istanbul.

Grand Bazaar
One of the oldest covered markets in the world, Istanbul’s Grand Bazaar is also one of the largest, housing over 3,000 shops. Looking for a specific item? Simply follow the street names, which are named referring to the functions of their vendors. For instance, check out Takkeciler Caddesi (Skullcap-maker’s street) for your very own Turkish skullcap! And don’t be surprised to find numerous shops selling the same items directly next to each other – in Turkey, haggling, or negotiating the price, is expected. Follow these tips to find the best deal: never look too interested, never name your highest price, and never be afraid to walk away!

Kadikoy
Take a fifteen-minute ferry ride across the Bosphorus Strait to the Asian side of the city, and you’ll wind up in Kadikoy, a neighborhood once called ‘the Brooklyn of Istanbul.’ Modern and cosmopolitan, the neighborhood is known for its colorful and whimsical vibe. Check out the fish and produce market for a fresh bite, or stroll amongst the curving streets and explore the vibrant street art, small boutiques, and hip cafes.
UPCOMING EVENTS

ISAPS F.A.S.T. Program – Moscow, RUSSIAN FEDERATION
Website: www.isapsfast.ru
May 24 - 25

1st Abdominoplasties, Brachioplasty and Other Body Contouring Techniques – Lyon, FRANCE
Website: www.ipsac.eu
May 29 - 31

Beauty Through Science 2019 – Stockholm, SWEDEN
Website: www.beautythroughscience.com
June 5 - 8

ISAPS Course, Russia – St. Petersburg, RUSSIA
June 13 - 16

HOT TOPICS
Live Surgery on Complication Cases (SOS) | Cadaver courses
Marking courses | Best and worst case session | Problems and solutions panels | Migraine surgery labs | Best of the World competition
Reboot your practice | Innovations in industry | Social media training

Congress Venue
Austria’s largest conference center is surrounded by contemporary architecture, just 7 minutes from the city center and a few minutes’ walk from the Danube and the Donaupark.

THANK YOU TO OUR ISAPS GLOBAL SPONSORS!