

MONTHLY E-MAGAZINE

2022

June ISAPS



MESSAGE FROM THE ISAPS PRESIDENT



Dear friends and ISAPS members,

I cannot believe that it is already June and that we are only three months away from the ISAPS World Congress in Istanbul!

I am very much looking forward to welcoming ISAPS members and friends to my home city.

I recently returned from ISAPS Symposium in Belgrade, May 27-28 where Dr. Katarina Andjelkov organized an outstanding high-quality scientific program for over 200 participants. I would like to congratulate and thank Dr. Andjelkov, and the Serbian Plastic Reconstructive Surgery and Serbian Aesthetic Surgery Societies, for hosting this wonderful ISAPS event, and for their warm hospitality (fig 1,2,3).



Figures 1, 2 and 3. ISAPS Symposium in Belgrade.

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In May we also launched ISAPS Aesthetic Plastic Surgery Journal Club. This new webinar venture provides a great opportunity, particularly for our younger members and residents, to discuss current research with a diverse selection of experts and I would like to thank APS Journal Editor in Chief, Dr. Bahman Guyuron, EC Chair, Dr. Ozan Sozer, Resident Committee Chair, Dr. Maria Wiedner, and all other team members who put this project together.

Looking to the months ahead, I am excited to announce that we have now finalized the scientific program for the **ISAPS Istanbul World Congress 2022**. Members of our Education Council and Executive Team will meet in Istanbul next week to put the finishing touches to the program, so get ready to explore our program, and I invite you, if you have not already, to register and take advantage of our early bird fees and join the **700 delegates** who have already registered.

Highlights of the five days include the opportunity to observe **12 expert live surgeries**, enjoy **hot topic panels**, and to dip in to **two days of non-invasive surgery sessions** including the continuation of our **Regenerative Surgery Symposia** and **ISAPS Business School**. You can take part in a special **sculpture course** by Dr. Baris Cakir, a **hair transplantation session**, our **Resident's Day**, or our **Women Symposium**; join **Master Classes** by experts and **free paper sessions**, and, most important of all, have the opportunity to catch up with your friends and colleagues from our international family of aesthetic plastic surgeons.

We have also planned a very enjoyable social program for you, of course! As well as our gala dinner on the banks of the Bosphorus, there will be an array of day tours and pre- and post-congress tours to Cappadocia, Ephesus, and a boat tour along the beautiful coast of the Mediterranean Sea.

Remember that **ISAPS members pay much less to attend**, so I urge you to **apply for**, or **renew** your membership today, to get a significantly lower price for registration at our flagship event.

I am looking forward to seeing you all soon.... in Istanbul!

With warm regards,



Nazim Cerkes MD, PhD
ISAPS President

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The **2022 ISAPS World Congress program is almost complete!**

700 of your colleagues and peers have already booked their places at our World Congress. **Register today** to join them in learning the latest advances and innovative procedures in aesthetic plastic surgery.

We look forward to welcoming delegates from all over the world to explore over 250 learning hours, delivered by more than 450 faculty members this September 20-24.

To view the current program please [click here to visit the website.](#)

Sessions will be also available on-demand (during and after the event), so you can watch anywhere, anytime at your own convenience.

Register today!



ISAPS 2022 Global Survey

What will this year's data reveal about the latest global trends and statistics?

As our 'thank you' for completing the **Global Survey** non-members will pay no application fee when they **join** ISAPS. All ISAPS member participants will be entered into a prize draw each month to receive one of our exciting prizes including free attendance at one of our ISAPS Educational events/activities, or a free MedOne subscription.

Participate Now!



Interview with **Dr. Sanguan Kunaporn,** ISAPS member, and his insights on Gender Reassignment Surgery

Coinciding with the start of pride month, Dr. Sanguan Kunaporn, ISAPS Parilamentarian, shares his insights on Gender Reassignment Surgery.

ISAPS: According to the Global Survey, Thailand is the country with the highest percentage of plastic surgeons performing Gender Reassignment Surgery. What would you say are the main procedures in this area?

Kunaporn: Male to Female Sex Reassignment Surgery (MTF SRS) - changing people's genitalia from male to female - is also known as Gender Reassignment Surgery, Gender Affirmation Surgery, or Gender Confirmation Surgery. In Thailand, these surgeries date back to 1975, when Dr. Preecha Tiewtranon performed the first MTF SRS. He then started training residents in Plastic Surgery at Chulalongkorn University Hospital, Bangkok, in 1983. Today, at least 100 out of almost 500 Thai plastic surgeons are trained in performing MTF SRS, although the number of surgeons who actually perform this surgery might be not more than 20. The other type of SRS is to change people's genitalia from female to male, which is called „FTM SRS“. This is a lot more complicated than MTF SRS and requires multiple surgical stages before the transformation is complete.

The demand for SRS is not limited to the transgender community in Thailand but extends worldwide, and it is increasing every year. Thai plastic surgeons' expertise is highly recognized among the transgender community from all over the world, due to its long history here, and our continued development of new techniques.

ISAPS: How important is it in these procedures, to work holistically with other specialties?

Kunaporn: Not all of transgender people request SRS. The Transgender patients who show a strong desire to change their gender and physical genitalia (a psychology sometimes known as „Gender

Identity Disorder“ or „Gender Dysphoria“) are called „transsexuals“. This is a more specific term that falls under the transgender umbrella. SRS, either MTF or FTM, is an irreversible procedure, so surgeons need to be confident that their patients fully understand and have carefully considered the implications of these surgeries. The guidelines for this work and the Standard of Care Protocol are guided by the World Professional Association of Transgender Health Care (WPATH).

All SRS patients must be under the care of multi-specialty professionals such as psychiatrists, psychologists, sex therapists, endocrinologists, speech therapists, social workers, etc., to prepare themselves to live in another gender role before undergoing surgery.

ISAPS: ISAPS: Given your experience in this area, what would be your advice to surgeons performing these types of procedures?

Kunaporn: I always tell the residents and junior surgeons that, prior to becoming an SRS surgeon, they need to have the right attitude. As surgeons, they really need to understand and believe that transsexuality is a medical condition; that it is not psychotic and that transgenderism exists in all walks of life. For thousands of years, some people have just been born in the wrong body, with an assigned gender that they do not want to be. Then, those surgeons must be ready to participate in the multi-specialty team, and able to help transsexual people enjoy a better, more fulfilled life. I even know a few SRS surgeons who are transgender, but it does not mean that all SRS surgeons must be transgender.

There are only a handful of training centers for SRS in the world. The most complex aspect of gender affirmation surgery is SRS, which must be performed by surgeons who have completed extensive training in these procedures. SRS is complemented by other, related surgeries, such as facial feminization

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or masculinization, breast augmentation or amputation, voice, body contouring, buttock, penile construction, etc., to help transsexuals. The learning curve for each procedure is different. To start, I recommend surgeons should focus on just some, not all, of these procedures, and look for a proper training center and instructor.

ISAPS: Patient safety is a core part of ISAPS' mission and vision, and patients are one of the four factors of the patients' diamond. What are your recommendations for surgeons in ensuring patient safety, and checking that the patient is a suitable candidate for the procedure?

Kunaporn: Patients who are viable candidates for SRS are usually healthy. They are mostly in the middle age range, but some of them are over 70 years old. More and more young transsexuals, who are supported by their family, are now seeking out gender affirmatino surgeries.

All surgeons working with transgender patients must follow the Standard of Care set by WPATH or other NationalPATHs, such as AsiaPATH or IPATH (India). With this standard, the patient must be under psychological care and then certified by the proper psychological health personnel for a period of time. During this time, they undergo hormone replacement therapy, real-life tests, etc. In many countries including Thailand, there are laws that require that only a few specialists can perform SRS. Here patients must be over 20 years old, and the procedure needs to be approved by a psychiatrist (18 to 20-year-olds must also get approval from parents). Patients from abroad who choose to have SRS in Thailand must be seen by a local psychiatrist.

ISAPS: What would be your advice to patients considering Gender Reassignment Surgery?

Kunaporn: There is consensus in the medical community that SRS is the proper treatment for transsexuals. Almost all patients report that they have significant improvement in life quality and are happier following their surgeries.

Around 30-40 years ago, when the world was not so inter-woven by the Internet, transgender people in most countries did not know of medical and surgical advancements in the field of transgender surgery. They suffered and had no happiness in

their lives. Then, with knowledge and information spreading digitally, more and more of them learned that SRS is the key to treatment. Nowadays, in most large countries, transsexuals can access SRS by surgeons in their homeland. But in many countries that have no adequate competency to offer SRS, and where surgeons do not have much experience or familiarity with SRS, many patients who have had SRS end up with disastrous complications or genital deformities that are quite difficult to correct. I would tell these patients to consider seeking medical advice from abroad until the proper time when the surgeons in their home countries have more capability to perform SRS.

ISAPS: Why did you become a plastic surgeon and what makes you most proud about your career?

Kunaporn: No one is born to be a doctor, surgeon, or plastic surgeon. No matter if you are just a general practitioner, surgeon, or plastic surgeon, if you have passion for your role and are consistent with professional ethics, you will find happiness in every minute of your life by doing good for your patients. To be a plastic surgeon, I am proud to deliver a happy smile to the cleft lip children, to allow the burn patients back to their workplace without raw wounds or bad scars on their face and body, to bring back esteem to women who had flat breasts, or to help transsexuals having peace of mind when their body and genital assignment is aligned with their preferred gender.

ISAPS: What are you most looking forward to at ISAPS World Congress in Istanbul?

Kunaporn: The Global Travel Agency predicts that, during the second half of 2022, after Covid-19 becomes an endemic disease in the world, there will be a phenomenon called „Revenge Tourism“. It is not a very nice sounding term but it simply means that travelers from around the world will rush to travel to tourist destinations that are open to visitors, to make up for lost time. Istanbul is one of the best international tourist destinations and, with the prestigious biennial World Congress of ISAPS, I strongly believe that not only ISAPS members, but also non-member plastic surgeons with their families will be eager to attend the meeting in person to learn, meet old friends, explore the city and to get their lives back to normal again. I am really looking forward to it!

PRACTICE MANAGEMENT



Are you Up to Date on the Latest Patient Trends?

Options

The aesthetic plastic surgery industry has developed into a thriving market over the years and offers patients many options to choose from when deciding on what types of procedures they desire. Options range from enhancing, modifying, and adjusting almost anything.

Specialize

Aesthetic plastic surgeons can specialize in anything ranging from lip augmentation, facelifts, tummy tucks, eyebrow lifts, liposuction, and more recently Gender Reassignment Surgery (GRS).

Know what's 'hot'

The amount of GRS procedures has increased over the years, with the United States alone, performing more than 9,000 of these surgeries annually¹. And Thailand leads with the most amount of GRS surgeries performed

worldwide each year².

Information Empowers

As a plastic surgeon, it is important to know what patients, and potential patients, are the most interested in when it comes to the types of procedures they are requesting. This type of information empowers you to market your practice toward what individuals are asking for when it comes to their plastic surgery needs, so being 'in the know' is just as important as the level of service you provide.

Know what the market commands

Whether the latest trends show an increase in nose reshaping, forehead lifts, or GRS procedures, knowing what the market is commanding, will always put you at an advantage. And if you are looking for some data, be sure to check out the [ISAPS Global Statistics!](#)

Website

- [1. \[https://journals.lww.com/cur/fulltext/2021/03000/transgender_surgery___knowledge_gap_among.12.aspx#:~:text=There%20are%20about%209000%20transgender,result%20in%20gender%20affirming%20surgeries\]\(https://journals.lww.com/cur/fulltext/2021/03000/transgender_surgery___knowledge_gap_among.12.aspx#:~:text=There%20are%20about%209000%20transgender,result%20in%20gender%20affirming%20surgeries\)](https://journals.lww.com/cur/fulltext/2021/03000/transgender_surgery___knowledge_gap_among.12.aspx#:~:text=There%20are%20about%209000%20transgender,result%20in%20gender%20affirming%20surgeries)
- [2. \[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_reassignment_surgery#:~:text=Thailand%3A%20Thailand%20is%20the%20country,reassignment%20surgeries%2C%20followed%20by%20Iran\]\(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_reassignment_surgery#:~:text=Thailand%3A%20Thailand%20is%20the%20country,reassignment%20surgeries%2C%20followed%20by%20Iran\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sex_reassignment_surgery#:~:text=Thailand%3A%20Thailand%20is%20the%20country,reassignment%20surgeries%2C%20followed%20by%20Iran)

Interested in more practice management tips?
[Register now to view the entire ISAPS Business School](#)
[On Demand!](#)

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In the latest issue of
Aesthetic Plastic Surgery...

Getting to the Bottom of Patient Experiences with Genital Gender Affirmation Surgery: A Qualitative Analysis of Online Reviews

A Qualitative Analysis of Online Reviews by Dominic Moog • Kyle R. Latack • Widya Adidharma •

Caleb Haley • Thomas Satterwhite • Shane D. Morrison

Patients undergoing gender-affirming surgery seek information from online sources including online reviews written by peers. We aimed to conduct a qualitative analysis of the information discussed in online reviews related to genital gender-affirming surgery and evaluate the topics driving positive/negative reviews.

[Click here for a preview of this article!](#)

If you are a member, log in to your account to view the full article and **invited discussion**. **Become a member** to have full access of **Aesthetic Plastic Surgery**.

For more educational resources on Sex Reassignment Surgery, you may want to the book *Reconstructive and Aesthetic Genital Surgery* which includes a chapter about Transsexualism, Male-to-Female Transsexualism and vice versa. This is available to ISAPS Resident Junior +, Associate Eco, Active Business and Active First Class members via the ISAPS MedOne e-learning tool. If you are interested in upgrading your membership so that you can access our excellent MedOne product, please contact **memberservices@isaps.org**



Donate to support
your colleagues, and
the People of Ukraine

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Membership

ISAPS members receive free or discounted access to most of our events, including ISAPS World Congress, and access to our Journal. Plastic surgeons at any stage of their career can also upgrade their membership to include access to our MedOne e-learning resource, which includes hundreds of books, videos and discussions.

ISAPS offers membership to accredited aesthetic plastic surgeons and residents worldwide. We have members in more than 115 countries and provide them with access to training, e-learning, and networking opportunities within our community of more than 5,000 fellow surgeons.

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!

For any questions, please feel free to contact us at memberservices@isaps.org.

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upcoming ISAPS events!**



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