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A person in a suit and tie

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**MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

February 19, 2021

Dear Fellows, Associate Fellows, Affiliate Fellows, Members and Student Members,

As your new Chairman of the Board of Directors, I would like to begin by wishing you and your family a very happy and safe New Year amongst the world’s pandemic. To this end, I thank the ICA Directors, Vice Presidents, Officers, Fellows, Associate Fellows, Affiliate Fellows, Members and Students for their academic and financial support over the past year.

There is no doubt this pandemic has impacted every member of the ICA. As a society we remain unwavering in our goals, objectives and mission. Despite the overwhelming challenges worldwide, the ICA leaders and executive committees remain committed to the raising mission of the ICA and dedicated to producing new avenues for member participation in all ICA events going forward.

The diversity of specialties within the ICA makes this society one that is unique. A primary goal is to create professional collaboration among the specialties.

Recruitment remains an important function in maintaining our present status and widening the scope of our organization. During the first quarter of 2021, we would like to implement a new recruitment program targeted specifically towards interns, residents, fellows, physician assistants and nurse practioners. It is not to say the recruitment of fellows and associate fellows is not as equally important.

In order to increase the scope of our activities and strengthen our society and its significance in the international academic and scientific podium, we are requesting your support by recruiting **1 new candidate, whom you personally will endorse for any of our categories of membership-Full Fellow, Associate Fellow, Affiliate Fellow, Member, Student.** A full description of each category of membership is on the ICA website.

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One new category of membership is the **ICA Medical Student Membership.** In actively recruiting medical students, we will provide them with a platform to access a diverse career in medicine or surgery and the opportunity to join a network of similarly interested students.

In 2020 our 62nd Annual World Congress went virtual from Vienna under the leadership of Dr. Jürgen Falkensammer. While not the same as an “in-person” congress, nonetheless, our Local Organizing Chairman selected an outstanding panel of moderators and speakers to match. The Congress was an amazing success, and we appreciate Dr. Falkensammer’s leadership.

***The ICA 63rd Annual World Congress - 2021***

Amid the COVID pandemic and vaccination rollout, the ICA is planning to hold its 63rd Annual World Congress in “The Wine Country of Long Island” just an hour east of New York City. We are currently working with a local venue to bring this as an “in-person” congress during late September 2021 or early October 2021. We are also considering the option of a “virtual” registration as may be warranted, or for those who may remain reluctant to travel or not permitted to do so.

Many members have shared they miss the in-person camaraderie and informal networking with colleagues and experts in their respective fields following presentations. We are optimistic in planning for our congress in late summer or early fall. However, an in-person meeting isn’t guaranteed at the present, but there would still be a possibility of a hybrid or virtual meeting.

We will keep our membership updated with our congress plans within the next month and ask each of our members to show their support for the ICA by attending the upcoming congress and encouraging their colleagues and trainees to participate and attend.

***ICA Angiology Workshop Dinner Meetings***

Continuing the tradition initiated by Professor John B. Chang, we are optimistic in resuming our Multi-Disciplinary Dinner Meeting followed by a Hands-On Suture Workshop in late 2021, or resume this diverse workshop beginning with our 63rd Annual World Congress. These workshops highlight complex and unusual case presentations by residents and fellows and followed by informal round-table discussions with “the experts in the field.”

The Board of Directors and Officers of the ICA will be highly appreciative of your support and involvement in the ICA. Your support and efforts will assist in taking this society to new heights.

As your new Chairman of the Board, I welcome any and all comments which you may have as well as suggestions for future programs and improvement.

Yours sincerely,

Randall W. Franz, MD, FACS, FICA, RVT, RPVI

Chairman, Board of Directors