

President's Newsletter: (4/12/21)

Dear Fellow Colleagues,

I hope that everybody is doing well and is having a good year thus far. Thank you for the privilege to serve you as your president. I am honored and humbled by your trust. Please see below updates with regards to the society and some of the agenda items for this year.

*President's lecture series:*

I am pleased to announce the induction a monthly virtual lecture series by both local and world-renowned speakers on various topics including zygomatic implants, arthroscopic TMJ surgery, and other related topics. While the plan is for this lecture series is to continue for the remainder of the year, if this program proves to be popular amongst membership, it will be brought up to executive council for possible renewal. Additional information regarding program schedule and registration will follow.

**Increasing Transparency:** One of my goals for this year is to increase transparency in the ISOMS and to help garner more involvement from membership. As with most things in life I think there is room for improvement. One specific example would be the sharing of resolutions discussed at the House of Delegates. While a lot of these resolutions are procedural, some are consequential and can impact members directly. This past year we had multiple "first-read" resolutions pass that affect the type of training and certifications required of our assistants and surgeons with regards to outpatient anesthesia. While these are not in effect and would have to pass at this year's House of Delegates, I think it is important to make this information available to membership. This can be shared either through a virtual town hall meeting or a simple email communication, allowing members the opportunity to make comments or suggestions.

*Bylaws Committee:* In keeping with the theme above, I've formed an Ad-hoc committee to take a look at our current bylaws. The committee is composed of members from the executive council as well members from the general membership. The committee is charged with following:

1. Reviewing the bylaws to ensure that democratic and fair elections can be carried out.
2. Increasing the transparency with regards to how councilmen and officers are selected.
3. Reviewing bylaws to ensure that any dues paying member in good standing is able to run for a councilman position.
4. Reviewing the bylaws to ensure that continuity is maintained in the society and to assess the need for term limits for the different positions.

Findings from the report will be shared with membership. Based on the report and membership feedback, proposed amendments to the bylaws will be submitted to membership for a vote and adoption.

Bylaws committee members:

Dr. Khaled Abughzaleh (chair), Dr. Herbert Stith (councilman), Dr. Jay Swanson (councilman), Dr. James Murphy (councilman), Dr. Alexander Katsnelson, Dr. Joshua Foxon.

*Oral Cancer Committee:* I am pleased to announce that the creation of an Ad-hoc Oral Cancer Committee. The committee will be charged with raising awareness within our membership but also within our sister dental and medical societies/organizations. In 2020, the Chicago Dental Society had a panel of otolaryngologists talk about management of oral cancers at the Midwinter Meeting with no representation from our specialty. A similar event occurred at the level of the ADA in 2016. Therefore, I am optimistic that this committee can make a positive impact on our colleagues in dentistry and medicine fostering relationships and educating them about the scope of our specialty.

The committee will consist of the following members: Dr. James Murphy (Chair), Dr. Jonathan Bailey, Dr. Nicholas Callahan and Dr. Mohammed Qaisi.

My goal would be to eventually have a committee for every area of our specialty. I believe when people that are passionate about their respective areas become involved, we tend to have better membership participation. This in turn results in more ideas and greater progress being made. If you have recommendations with regards to an area of the specialty or a possible Ad-hoc committee, please reach out to me at [mqaisi@cookcountyhhs.org](mailto:mqaisi@cookcountyhhs.org) or

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I wish you and you families a prosperous year. Stay safe and God bless.