Annual Report

It has been a rather busy year for IAAS. The Congress in Porto was clearly a highlight and the Local Organising Committee, led by Carlos Magalhaes deserve our gratitude for raising the level of professionalism with the introduction of an IAAS App and the ability to offer voting choices during the presentations. I admit, as an IT novice, to being sceptical about going paper-free, but I am now converted! Long may it continue. But, let us not allow our enthusiasm for the App detract from the high quality presentations from our multidisciplinary members. I think we all learned something new!

The second major event of 2019 has been the SRSS (Structural Reform Support Service) Project, supported by the European Union, to develop a day surgery infrastructure in 8 hospitals in Budapest. Our Treasurer, Luc van Outryve and Past-President Gamal Eldin Mohamed were instrumental in devising the successful grant application. Site visits to the 8 hospitals were conducted in early October by ExCo members and reports submitted on the day! The project requires considerable paperwork and no-one was allowed to leave for the airport until all documentation had been checked. Past-President and Current Webmaster Ian Jackson took on the onerous task of collating all the reports and surveys, and most importantly produced our considered recommendations for the project. A multidisciplinary training interactive workshop was held at the beginning of December for the hospital participants in conjunction with the Hungarian Association of Ambulatory Surgery.

Voting for our new ExCo was conducted immediately before the Porto Congress by the members of the General Assembly. May I offer congratulations to our new ExCo for the next 2 years and to our President-Elect, Carlos Magalhaes. We also owe considerable thanks to our Immediate-Past President, Beverly Philip who has wisely led and encouraged us over the past 2 years and congratulate her on her appointment as First Vice-President of the American Society of Anaesthesiologists.