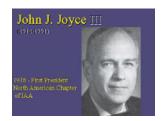
The Beginning of the International Arthroscopy Association – IAA



At the AAOS meeting in Las Vegas, in 1968, a group gathered in Dr. Robert W. Jackson's hotel room and talked about forming an association. In 1972, John Joyce, MD arranged a course in arthroscopy in Philadelphia and at that course the International Arthroscopy Association was born. A group of pioneers, which included Masaki Watanabe, MD, Robert W. Jackson, MD, Ward Casscells, MD, John Joyce, MD, Ralph Lidge, MD,

Allan Bass, MD, James Guhl, MD, and Maurice Aignan, MD met in a restaurant along with two solicitors named Messrs. Seabring and Cline, and established the International Arthroscopy Association. The objective of the association was "to foster by means of arthroscopy, the development and dissemination of knowledge in the fields of orthopaedics and medicine in order to improve the diagnosis and treatment of joint disorders." Masaki Watanabe, MD was elected president, Robert W. Jackson, MD became vice president, Dr. Casscells was secretary and Dr. O'Connor became treasurer.

Two years later, at the second course in arthroscopy held in Philadelphia, a meeting of the faculty was held to develop the bylaws of the association, which was growing quite rapidly. This meeting was conducted under the intense surveillance of several Secret Service Agents, who were suspicious of a group of young men gathered in a room in the same hotel that President Richard Nixon was visiting Philadelphia on official business. The group was virtually locked in the room for approximately four hours until the President departed.

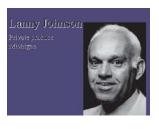


In 1975, the first meeting of the International Arthroscopy Association was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in association with the SICOT meeting. The one-day meeting with Professor Watanabe as Chairman was highlighted by the diversity of papers that were presented. Also, Richard O'Connor, MD, the Treasurer, had brought with him all of the funds paid as dues by the founding 70 members, which he had converted (illegally) into gold coins. At that time there was a moratorium in the United States on the private use of gold. Dr. O'Connor carried approximately 30 pounds of gold coins in a money belt around his waist to Copenhagen. Following the meeting he went to Switzerland, opened a numbered Swiss account, and deposited the gold coins. This was in April of 1975. This investment of approximately \$3,500.00 in gold represented the total assets of the association at that time. Eight months later the value of gold was unpegged internationally, and rapidly rose from \$42.00 an ounce to \$600.00 an ounce. The executive of the IAA sold their gold in 1977 when it was selling at approximately \$800.00 per ounce. The profit was approximately \$60,000.00, which enabled the association to hire its first Executive Director, Mr. Tom Nelson, who later left the IAA to become the executive director of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.



The logo for the International Arthroscopy Association was based on a concept put forth by Robert Bechtol, MD from California, and designed by a Canadian graphics designer named Peter Robinson. It included the two hemispheres of the world, the Watanabe 21 arthroscope, and the orthopaedic tree used by Nicholas Andre. A modification of this logo was used by the Arthroscopy Association of North America when it formed as a separate entity in 1982.

The original concept of the IAA was that every three years the best papers from around the world would be presented at a meeting held jointly with SICOT. Countries that had 10 or more practicing arthroscopists could form a "chapter" of the International Arthroscopy Association. The initial chapters were Japan and North America. Soon chapters were developed in Brazil, India, and Australia. The second meeting of the IAA was in Kyoto in 1978 and Dr. Watanabe as president, had arranged sufficient funding to provide a magnificent meeting for all those who attended. Robert W. Jackson, MD then became President until 1981 when the third meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro. By this time the membership had grown to more than 200.



During this period of time there were many teaching courses, as the concept of arthroscopy interested a lot of people. There were private courses put on by individuals such as Robert Metcalf in the United States and Theo van Rens in Europe and individual teaching sessions by Lanny Johnson, MD, Robert W. Jackson, MD, Richard O'Connor, MD, Ejnar K. G. Eriksson, MD and others. The American Academy held regular courses often in

association with arthrography, comparing and contrasting the two techniques. The International Arthroscopy Association

also put on courses in various parts of the world. The interest in and the rate of growth of the Association was truly amazing. In those early days, most of the teaching was done with models, the first of which was called a "True model" and developed by Robert Eilert, MD and built by his artistic wife, whose maiden name was True. Howard J. Sweeney, MD developed the "swee-knee", which was a water-filled knee that gave a better appreciation of the natural feeling of arthroscopic surgery. Eventually cadaver legs were used for demonstration and



The video equipment improved from the earliest black and white cameras, first used in 1968, to large color cameras, which were gradually miniaturized until they could be attached directly to the scope and the surgeons would work entirely off the monitor screen.



teaching purposes.

New instrumentation was constantly being developed with numerous handheld knives being produced, and various types of grasping and cutting forceps with different handgrips were produced. The pioneer of the rotating shaver was Lanny Johnson, MD. The pioneer of video was John B. McGinty, MD.



The rapid progress and development in the United States came to a head in 1982, when a group of arthroscopists felt that a separate arthroscopic association should be developed for America only, and considered the concept of restricting membership to elite arthroscopists as opposed to anyone with an interest in the technique. Eventually the Arthroscopy Association of North America was born and opened its doors to anyone who had a specific interest in the technique.

A separate group of Arthroscopists met at the AAOS meeting in New Orleans early in 1982 to discuss the possibilities of an arthroscopic association that would restrict membership to elite arthroscopists only, as opposed to anyone with an interest in the technique. Later in that year both groups got together and the founding members of the Arthroscopy Association of North America decided to open its doors to anyone who had an interest in the technique. Thus, the Arthroscopy Association of North America was born. The new organization was led by the following officers: President, John B. McGinty, MD, Vice-president James Guhl, MD, Treasurer Ralph Lidge, MD, Secretary Alan Bass, MD. It would continue to serve as the North American chapter of IAA, but develop its own autonomy administratively and financially.