







\*Bridging Science and Cultures\*

## Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Endoscopic Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia (ELSA) community, Executive Committe and Local Organising Committee, I am delighted to invite you to join us in Istanbul, Turkey for the 16<sup>th</sup> Asia - Pacific Congress of ELSA that will take place between October 5-7, 2023, at Istanbul Convention & Exhibition Center. I would like to express my sincere appreciation once again to the Board of Governors of ELSA for selecting Istanbul for this landmark event of endoscopic laparoscopic surgery.

Turkey is located on the crossroads between Europe and Asia with most of its territory called Anatolia located in Southwest Asia. Istanbul is the world's one of the most ancient metropolis.

With its 8.500 years of rich history, Istanbul, the only city in the world built on two continents, has a strategic setting forming city's destiny as an imperial capital for nearly 1600 years, for Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman Empires. Istanbul proud of its rich history and unique natural beauty, separated into two continents, Asian and European, offers a friendly welcome and genuine hospitality by bridging the cultures.

The scientific program of the congress will be very comprehensive and focused on updating, investigating and better understanding the topics in the field of the endoscopic laparoscopic surgery including general, upper and lower gastrointestinal, hepatopancreatobiliary, endocrine, bariatric and metabolic surgery and some other related specialities through pre- and post-congress courses, hands on and skill labs (endoscopic, laparoscopic and robotic), expert talks, discussion panels, live surgeries, video sessions, emerging new technology sessions and of course oral and poster presentations. Besides the regular congress's sessions there will be specially prepared prized competition sessions for surgeons in training and exciting social programme is also planned for you by the local organizing committee.

As the President of the Congress, on behalf of the ELSA-society, I look forward to welcoming you to Istanbul where two continents meet.

Yours sincerely,

M Mahir OZMEN MD MS FACS FRCS FASMBS FEBS Professor of Surgery Congress President, ELSA 2023 Please visit our web page! https://elsa2023.org

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