

## ISL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
**LYMPHOLOGY**  
LYMPHATICS • LYMPH • LYMPHOCYTES • LYMPH NODES

## *ISL Lifetime Achievement Awards*

Grace Wagner	Etelka Földi	Saskia RJ Thiadens
		
Executive Secretary of the ISL; Managing Editor Lymphology 1987-2025	Lymphologist extraordinaire; 15 <sup>th</sup> President of ISL 1968 – Current Member	Founder of the National Lymphedema Network (NLN); ISL Executive Committee 1988 – Current Member

Three prestigious ISL Lifetime Achievement Awards were presented at the 30<sup>th</sup> International World Congress in Antalya, Türkiye in 2025.

### **Grace Wagner:**

It is with great sadness but also many joyful memories, that we communicate with you that “Amazing Grace” Wagner, Executive Secretary of the ISL, Managing Editor of Lymphology from 1987-2025, Program Manager of the Medical Student and multilevel Research Trainee programs at the College of Medicine has passed away after a long illness. She had just recently retired but had continued her involvement with the many programs and trainees that were so dear to her. Grace began working in the Department of Surgery with the late Professor of Surgery and Editor-in-Chief of Lymphology Charles Witte, and Secretary General Marlys Witte and participated in developing and administering multiple NIH-funded programs over her 39 years

working for the University of Arizona and the College of Medicine.

Grace was a “mother” not only to her own children, grandchildren and great grandchildren but also to the thousands of students she interacted with over the years along with their faculty whose tasks she facilitated. The ISL was a great “motherly” love of Grace’s, and she was involved in all activities of the society and interactions with its officers and members spanning nearly 39 years, ~ $\frac{2}{3}$  of the life of the ISL and the founding of the discipline of “lymphology” 60 years ago. Over the past 2 years she has been able to share her tasks with her assistant, Neal Barnett. Many of you have interacted with him in various matters, particularly the journal Lymphology where he has participated with Mike Bernas in expediting manuscript review and publication and updating the website and membership matters, among various other activities. Grace thoroughly enjoyed her interactions with so many of you and facilitated the workings of the ISL while participating in the social activ-

ities at our International Congresses. Thank you for the enthusiastic support you provided for her knowing that the ISL was a very important part of her professional and personal life. Grace greatly contributed to the ISL's milestones and progress over the past 4 decades and will be remembered fondly as she joins her many friends in the Celestial Chapter of the International Society of Lymphology.

**Professor Doctor Etelka Földi, MD:**

Lymphologist extraordinaire, pioneering clinician, teacher and researcher and founder of the world-famous Földiklinik, the first hospital and clinic devoted exclusively to lymphatic disorders, founded in 1979 in Feldberg-Altglashütten with a later relocation and expansion in Hinterzarten, today having 152 beds for patients. Etelka is a past ISL President (15<sup>th</sup>), and an active and dedicated member of the ISL since 1968. She is also coauthor of the classic *Textbook of Lymphology*; the latest Urban & Fischer Edition (3<sup>rd</sup>) published in 2012.

**Sakia Thiadens, RN:**

Active and dedicated member of the ISL Executive Committee member from 1988-Present. Founder and President of the Nation-

al Lymphedema Network (NLN) from 1987-2015. During her tenure as President of the NLN, Saskia organized biennial Congresses alternating with the ISL Congresses and attracted thousands of participants (patients, clinicians, researchers) worldwide and also maintained a heavily used patient hotline. She was also involved in inaugurating World Lymphedema Day (1994) and the Lymphedema Frameworks. In 1998, NLN's Primary Lymphedema Action Network became the independent Lymphatic Research Foundation (LRF), which subsequently transitioned to the Lymphatic Education and Research Network (LE&RN) in 2013, and separately, the Lymphatic Malformation Institute (LMI) in 2010.

Both Grace Wagner and Saskia Thiadens were heavily involved in organizing the historic, first, NIH Think Tank Conference on "Conquering Lymphatic Disease; Setting the Research Agenda" - held at NIH's Natcher Conference Center in Bethesda, Maryland, from May 11-13, 2000. The conference brought together more than one hundred invited world leaders in basic and clinical lymphology. The conference and proceedings were co-sponsored by the University of Arizona and the Lymphatic Research Foundation and funded through a multi-NIH institute NIH grant to the University of Arizona. (PI Marlys Witte).



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF LYMPHOLOGY  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY MINUTES  
October 19, 2025 · Antalya, Türkiye

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order with a welcome to all by President E. Dimakakos and thanked P. Borman for an excellent Congress in Antalya. The minutes for the last General Assembly in Genoa were published in *Lymphology* 56 (2023) 190-194. Minutes were approved as published.

**2. Elections:**

Nominations were solicited from the floor to add to the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. There were 2 floor nominations: Pinar Borman (Türkiye) for President and Joseph Harfouche (Belgium) for Executive Committee. The Nominating Committee composed of ISL members-at-large G. Manokaran

(India), A. Pissas, (France), President E. Dimakakos (Greece), Past President M. Amore (Argentina), and Past-Past President A. Szuba (Poland) proposed the following slate of officers: President-Elect: Takumi Yamamoto (Japan) for President. Executive Committee: Miguel Amore (Argentina), M. Andrade (Brazil), Isabel Forner-Cordero (Spain), Y. Dori (United States), G. Manokaran (India), and S. Michelini (Italy). Nominating Committee: S. Michelini (Italy) and A. Pissas (France). Auditors: M. Cestari (Italy) and E. Okada (Japan). The voting proceeded and the Nominating Committee slate was elected.

### 3. Reports:

#### *a. Presidential Report (E. Dimakakos):*

President Dimakakos thanked the General Assembly, Executive Committee, Secretary General Marlys Witte, and the Central Office and for all of their help and support in building a society with greater power and greater accessibility to lymphologists around the world and the honor of being President of the ISL. President Dimakakos specifically highlighted many accomplishments including strong collaborations and meetings in numerous settings around the world with a strong ISL presence, a newly updated ISL Consensus Document published in *Lymphology*, updated ISL website, and several new ISL chapter applications. Evangelos also highlighted the sad passing of close friends and great scientific minds including Alejandro Latorre Parra (Colombia), Iwona Swedborg (Sweden), Grace Wagner (USA), and Leo Clodius (Switzerland). He also wished incoming President Corrado Campisi, “all the best for your Presidency of ISL and we are here to help you and to support you in this very difficult new task for you.” During the General Assembly President E. Dimakakos focused on the new generation and he supported the continued activation of the ISL Young Lymphologists. The General Assembly agreed and tasked this committee with the singular goal of coming together with other young lymphologists from all over the world to inspire continued work in Lymphol-

ogy and continued involvement by the ISL in leading the field forward as the only global professional society so dedicated for the past more than 60 years. The first Coordinators for this Committee are: Juhi Agrawal (India), Joseph Harfouche (Belgium), Filipp Kruppa (Germany), Alberto Maccio (Italy), Ziyou Yu (China), Bo Kyung Kang (South Korea), Mitchell Bartlett (USA).

#### *b. Treasurer's Report – 7/1/23-6/30/25 (A Pissas):*

The UBS Swiss account has been stable since the last General Assembly report of 14,442 SF in Genoa in 2023 with a June 2025 balance of 14,839 SF. The Central Office has broken even during the past two years based on substantial reduction in Lymphology production/handling costs and optional online conversion and has not needed transfer of funds for annual allocation for Lymphology production/ handling, complimentary E/H memberships, and 2023 ISL Presidential Prizes awarded in Genoa.

#### *c. Secretary-General's Report (M Witte):*

1. The Society has 203 members from 36 countries (7 honorary members, 5 emeritus members, 10 young lymphologists, and 2 associate members). In the course of this business period, 24 new members have been accepted, and 21 memberships were discontinued due to non-payment of dues, retirement, resignation, or death.
2. The 29th International World Congress of Lymphology that was held September 11-15, 2023, in Genoa, Italy was a great success. Basic science sessions were complemented by panels, oral presentations, and posters on latest advances in basic and clinical lymphology including management of lymphedema particularly imaging and surgical approaches. The meeting venue and arrangements were congenial and the dining and sightseeing options diverse.
3. Four meetings of the Executive Commit-

tee were held during the 29th Congress on 9/12, 9/13, 9/14 and 9/15/23. In addition to the reports of the President, Secretary-General, Treasurer, and Editor, the Executive Committee discussion items included the annual budget and proposed expenditures, status of Lymphology, membership, the Consensus Document, Young Lymphologists, collaborative research projects, and future meetings. In addition, an Executive Committee meeting was held on May 31st, 2024, in Istanbul, Türkiye where there were a wide variety of issues discussed on topics including education, the ISL website, new congress locations, the upcoming international congress in Antalya, and ways to enhance outreach and organization of the society.

4. Nominations were solicited from the floor to add to the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. There were none. The Nominating Committee composed of ISL members-at-large F. Boccardo (Italy), A. Pissas (France), President M. Amore, Past President A. Szuba, and Past-Past President S. Michelini proposed the following slate of officers: President-Elect: Corrado Campisi (Italy) was the sole nomination for President. Executive Committee: F. Boccardo (Italy), P. Borman (Turkey), P. Bourgeois (Belgium), S. Hayes (Australia), N.F. Liu (China), and T. Yamamoto (Japan). Nominating Committee: G. Manokaran (India) and A. Pissas (France). Auditors: M. Cestari (Italy) and E. Okada (Japan). The voting proceeded and the Nominating Committee slate was elected.

5. The ISL website has been revised and updated and is now accessible at [isl.arizona.edu](http://isl.arizona.edu).

*d. Editor/Journal Report (M Bernas):*

Since our last meeting in 2023 at the 29th World Congress of Lymphology in Genoa, Italy, the journal Lymphology has continued to function well with the printing and editorial offices housed in Tucson, Arizona, USA. The journal layout has been successful, and most articles require considerable editing for clarity as well as most required work on the figures

and reference format. Between September 1, 2023, to September 1, 2025, 156 new articles were received, 40 articles were published, 77 articles were rejected and 13 articles withdrawn by the authors after receiving the first review. Twenty-six (26) additional manuscripts are either in press, accepted, or in various stages of review. Almost all of these have required further revision or review. Turnaround from receipt and acceptance to appearance in print has averaged 3-6 months with some publications expedited due to high interest as judged by outside reviewers and the Editors and also requiring substantially fewer editorial changes. E-mail submission has continued and is efficient. We tend to have longer review times than other journals since we prefer to use senior reviewers who frequently have more crowded schedules and take longer to return their reviews, and often the authors are asked for further revision(s) before acceptance instead of outright rejection. In addition, we also sometimes send back articles to reviewers for a second look after the first author revision. These practices serve a particularly valuable function for ISL member authors and are appreciated. The average number of pages per issue continues at 50-60, which at the current level of operation and finances is the optimal size that can be processed every 3 months.

The Journal continues to represent an important tangible benefit of ISL membership and the vehicle for dissemination of ISL and regional chapter news and information. Because Lymphology publishes the ISL News, the cost of a separate ISL Newsletter previously published by the Central Office has been eliminated while retaining this important Society news feature within the Journal. It should also be reemphasized that funds contributed from ISL membership dues pay only a portion of the costs of producing and maintaining the Journal. Costly editorial and computerized typesetting tasks such as revision, proofreading of manuscripts, layout of the Journal, and handling are absorbed by the Tucson office as are equipment updates and repair as well as other technical aspects of editorial production. There is no salary or other remuneration for the Editorial Board,

Editor, or Executive Editor.

The Journal's 2024 impact factor for 5-years remained high (2.7) although the one year impact factor for 2024 had fallen due to severe health related delays in the Editorial office (from late 2023 through 2024), that adversely affected the impact factor score (0.6 for 2024) due to the nature of JIF's calculation method (Citations in 2024 to items published in 2022+2023) / (Number of citable items in 2022+2023). However, the journal has seen a significant increase in Article Influence Score (up 67% from previous report 2 years ago to 0.743) and also its 5 Year Impact Factor as previously noted (currently 2.7), which is the average number of articles from the journal published in the past five years have been cited in the JCR year (2024). These numbers are respectable for a small specialty society, non-commercial publication especially considering that methods to artificially inflate ("game") the score are not used by us, such as frequent review articles or excessive self-citations in articles or editorials. Not practicing these "gaming" techniques may tend to restrict the impact factor but do provide a valuable service and publication outlet for our members and, therefore, are vital to our Society. Another impressive metric related to our impact factor is its cited half-life which continues to be above 10 years (currently 11.9 years) meaning that our articles remain relevant for a long period of time. Addition of online access to current and back issues of *Lymphology* (discussed below) has had a positive effect on our Journal impact. Renewed efforts by the federal repository to correct delayed uploading of journal articles and 2016 requirement of journals founded before 1988 have been completed.

The *Lymphology* Journal website (<https://journals.librarypublishing.arizona.edu/lymph/>) is now fully functional and currently includes *Lymphology* articles (in pdf format) dating back to vol. 1 (1968) are now fully uploaded and publicly accessible. Because the uploading process undertaken by the Journal is comprehensive, all titles, subjects, and authors are fully searchable. *Lymphology* is now available through Open Access. All article information is uploaded on PubMed where

*Lymphology* is an official journal. Information about the Society including a short history, the aims, membership information and applications, subscription information, current administration, etc. will continue to be found on the original website pages. A dedicated page for the Consensus Document is still included on the Society's website, although it is also now searchable on the new website ([isl.arizona.edu](http://isl.arizona.edu)).

Among sad notes to report is the death of lymphological greats who passed away since our last meeting and contributed to the Journal and biennial Proceedings. These luminaries include Jacques Gruwez, Leo Clodius, Alejandro Latorre Parra, Hugo Partsch, and Iwona Swedborg. They all lived long, productive, and exemplary lives and kept *Lymphology* and ISL close to their hearts.

The Editor and Executive Editor once again thank their Co-Editors, members of the expanded Editorial Board and their colleagues, and particularly the contributing external reviewers for assistance in reviewing manuscripts as this function is indispensable for assuring quality articles as well as service to ISL members. Continued submission of high-quality articles remains the chief priority as it can only strengthen the reputation and impact of the Journal and Society while promoting greater worldwide interest in the discipline of lymphology. We hope to see our members submitting their best work to *Lymphology* for future issues. The Editors and Editorial Office continue to serve the Society and our members by striving to produce articles of the highest quality and of the most relevance to our Society in the international arena.

#### *e. Young lymphologists*

No formal meetings were held at this Congress but many young lymphologists presented and interacted (some online) during the meeting in Antalya, a substantial number applying or planning to join the ISL.

#### *f. Chapters and Regional Societies*

We received applications for new Chap-

ters in China and South Korea.

#### 4. Future Congresses:

2027 - 31<sup>st</sup> Congress. Dr. G. Manokaran made presentation for southern India (now confirmed location of Mamallapuram from September 15-18, 2027), which was approved, finalizing his proposal from earlier ISL General Assembly meetings.

#### 5. New Business:

Evangelos Dimakakos ends his Presidency and introduces Corrado Campisi. Corrado wished everyone a good trip home and says he will work to continue improving, supporting, and growing the Society in all aspects.

Corrado Campisi officially closed the General Assembly session as the new ISL President for 2025-2027.



#### ISL Consensus Document

Please email any proposed revisions and/or additions to the ISL Consensus document

(The Diagnosis and Treatment of Peripheral Lymphedema) for potential inclusion for the 2026 version to the ISL Central office at: nbarnett@arizona.edu.



#### New Members

Mitchell Bartlett, PhD  
Associate Scientific Investigator  
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Samsung Medical Center  
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Stefano Gentileschi, MD, PhD  
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Division of Vascular and Endovascular Surgery  
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Zhikun Guo, MD  
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 Henan Key Laboratory of Cardiac  
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Philipp Kruppa, MD  
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**Art. 6–ISL Constitution:** Membership in the Society can be obtained on the basis of a written application. Names of new applicants will be published in the Society's Bulletin. Any member who objects to the admittance of a candidate must state their objections in writing to the Secretary-General no later than one (1) month after publication of the Bulletin. The reasons for the objection must be stated...