CONGRESS DESCRIPTION

This congress aims to give a comprehensive review and update about living donor liver transplantation (LDLT) and advanced hepatobiliary surgery.

The congress banner 'Excellence through versatility' reflects the enormous evolution that have been made in the field of surgery, transplantation surgery and medicine since its first applications in clinical practice by Professors R. STRONG (1989) and K. TANAKA (1990) and Professor M. MAKUCHI (1990).

The 90’s were the years of exploring technical and ethical feasibility (“nihil nocere”) : “the allograft morphology and anatomy matter “

The 00’s were the years of exploring functional boundaries by perfecting surgical skills and imaging (“small for size graft and syndrome”) : “the allograft morphology and function matter”;

The 10’s were the years of exploring innovative surgical and immunologic techniques to enhance donor and recipient safety and to widen the clinical indications; “ the donor’s safety and quality of life matter”

The 20’s will be the years of transplant oncology and minimal invasive donor surgery; “the donor’s scar and aggression matter”;

These evolutionary steps reveal that successful LDLT not only needs “excellence through innovation and integration” (this was the congress banner of the 4th ILDLT Congress in Kaohsiung, Taiwan) but also “versatility”. How to cope with unforeseen, pre- or intra-operative, difficulties, difficulties needs knowledge, experience and flexibility.

Without any doubt modern hepatobiliary surgery has taken profit from the “cross-fertilisation” between liver surgery, living donor hepatectomy and liver transplantation. In order to optimize the treatment of liver diseased patients an interplay between liver surgeons and liver transplant surgeons must be developed in order to get acquainted with each others potentials. Liver resection and liver transplantation should not any longer been seen as competitors but as collaborators! For these reasons several sessions related to implementation of modern technology, to advanced liver surgery and to hepatobiliary oncology have been included in the program.

An international, transcontinental and both Eastern and Western, top-faculty will gather in Brussels to deal with almost all aspects, including the treatment of complications, of LDLT and advanced liver surgery.
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

To learn the liver transplantation community about the actual state of LDLT. This meeting is also meant to foster the development of LDLT in the Western world and so to expand its usage especially in the field of hepatobiliary oncology. Indeed LDLT represents the only modality to allow a substantial increase of liver allograft pool.

To improve technical skills of every hepatobiliary surgeon in relation to biliary and especially vascular reconstructions.

To sensitize hepatobiliary surgeons for the potential of liver transplantation in the field of oncology.

LEARNER OUTCOMES

Update the knowledge about

- LDLT and extended liver surgery.
- different types of living donor hepatectomy and alternative transplantation techniques;
- extended liver resection surgery by applying techniques of LDLT and LT.
- implementation of modern technology in liver transplantation and surgery
- learn about ethical problems in LDLT and LT
- the advantages and disadvantages of respectively LDLT/LT and liver resection in the treatment of primary and secondary hepatobiliary tumors
- management of postoperative problems in both donor and recipient
- management of unexpected vascular and biliary problems in LDLT and LT

ACCREDITATION

EACCME and Belgian accreditation for categories 4 and 6 (Ethics) have been requested.