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Osaka (Japan)

TREASURER

John Denstedt, M.D.
London (Canada)

OFFICE MANAGER

Sonja van Rees Vellinga
Amsterdam (The Netherlands)
info@croesoffice.org

MISSION

Through worldwide collaboration, CROES seeks to assess, using evidence based scientific methodology, the various aspects of clinical endourology.

VISION

By applying rigorous scientific evaluation to the field of clinical endourology, CROES will enable all urologic surgeons to bring to their patients the most effective and efficient care possible.

PROJECTS

- Global PCNL study
- Global URS study
- Global Greenlight Laser study
- Global Renal Mass study
- Global NBI study

CONTACT

For more information please contact Sonja van Rees Vellinga (info@croesoffice.org).



PAUL J. VAN CANGH: FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jean de la Rosette and Stavros Gravas

The Clinical Research Office of the Endourological Society (CROES) was founded during the 2008 WCE meeting in Shanghai, China. Its aim was to promote and support high-quality international patient-centered research in all fields of endourology, laparoscopy, and emerging technologies under the umbrella of our Society and to facilitate the implementation of research projects by creating a global network and providing the infrastructure to conduct such multicenter studies, including evaluation of the quality of the project, data collection, statistical analysis and preparation of manuscripts.¹

During these two years CROES has embarked on 5 studies: the Global PCNL study (concluded December 31, 2009), the Global URS study, the Greenlight Laser study, the Renal Mass study and the NBI study for urothelial bladder cancer. Two years represent a sufficient time period for a person recognized as an authority in the field, with a full view of this effort, to provide a first evaluation of CROES, the progress that has been made so far, and the potential of this concept.

Therefore, Prof. Paul Van Cangh, past president of the Endourological Society, was invited to share his opinion on CROES. His thoughts are presented below and are of great value for all the members of the Society:

"One of the major challenges we are facing as endourologists is the validation of our innovations and new technologies. There is an urgent need for evidence-based policy (EBM). Much of the present debates about our new technologies originate from the absence of robust data. A good example is the present controversy about robot-assisted surgery.*

It is not enough to indulge in self-satisfaction, lamenting that randomized clinical trials (RCT) are impossible to conduct and that better observational studies are unpractical. Irrefutable data must be produced.

In addition, a shift in emphasis toward more value-conscious innovation is necessary instead of fostering 'progress at any price;' we must consider ourselves the true value of our investments.

*At the present time, a solution is at hand. CROES, the Clinical Research Office of the Endourological Society, offers the unique opportunity to obtain those indispensable data. The PCNL study that collected 6000 cases in a short period of time is a good illustration of an excellent observational study; it is already reporting data published in the peer-reviewed literature. Moreover, randomized multicenter studies (RCTs), the gold standard of EBM expected from scientists, are underway. The NBI study** now in progress has already included 100 cases since it was launched a few months ago.*

I encourage you to actively participate in this vital mission of consolidating the credibility of modern endourology."

Paul J. Van Cangh

*"In my understanding, endourologist is the family name of all urologists using endoscopy. This includes upper and lower tract endoscopy, diagnostic as well as therapeutic, percutaneous surgery, and laparoscopy, with or without robotic assistance".

** The global randomized NBI Bladder Cancer Study is a multicenter international study to compare the use of narrow band imaging (NBI) versus white light during transurethral resection of bladder cancer.²

References

1. de la Rosette J. A platform for global endourological research. J Endourol 2009;23:1551–1553.
2. de la Rosette J, Gravas S. A Multi-Center, randomized international study to compare the impact of narrow band imaging versus white light cystoscopy in the recurrence of bladder cancer. J Endourol 2010;24:659–661.

- Ongoing projects are: the Global Greenlight Laser observational study, the Global Ureteroscopy study, the Global Renal Mass study and the randomized study on narrow band imaging versus white light imaging in bladder carcinoma.
- For further information please visit: www.croesoffice.org or contact the Executive Office Manager of CROES, Mrs. Sonja van Rees Vellinga (info@croesoffice.org).

