Dear Member Societies,

It is with a mixture of great pride and even greater humility that I take up the position of President of the International Society of Andrology. The Society has a long and distinguished history and has been led by a succession of highly distinguished andrologists whose footsteps will be difficult to follow. I should particularly like to acknowledge the important contribution made to our Society by our outgoing President, Christina Wang, who has led ISA with a characteristic mixture of determination, intelligence, grace and charm over the past 4 years. Throughout this period she has been supported by Stefan Schlatt (Secretary), Csilla Krausz (Treasurer) and Monica Vazquez-Levin (Editor) and I am delighted that all 3 of these Society officers have agreed to continue for another term. I could not wish for a more eminent and able Executive.

The activities orchestrated under the auspices of the ISA culminate every 4 years in the International Congress of Andrology. The meeting we have just had in Melbourne was an outstanding success, not least due to the energy and quiet efficiency with which Paty Cuasnicu, Chair of the POC, arranged such an interesting, well-balanced and highly successful program. On behalf of the Society, I should also thank the local Organizing committee, chaired by Rob McLachlan, for their unstinting efforts in delivering such a successful meeting in the face of significant adversity – the end result was a triumph for everyone involved.

For those of you who were not in Melbourne, I am delighted to announce that the next (11th) ICA meeting will be held in Copenhagen in 2017. I am extremely grateful to Niels Jorgensen and his team taking on the responsibility for organizing this Congress in a location that is synonymous with research excellence in andrological science. I am also delighted to inform you that the Chair of the Program Organizing Committee for the 11th ICA will be, Gail Cornwell, a highly distinguished scientist from Texas Tech University. I look forward to working with Gail, Niels and the ISA Executive to deliver a meeting in 2017, which will further establish Andrology as an internationally recognized clinical and scientific discipline.

Outside of the next quadrennial meeting, the ISA will continue in its current mission to encourage and support young scientists and clinical trainees entering the andrological arena. We are also keen to work with our member societies to deliver workshops and practical training sessions that will aid in the international standardization of laboratory and clinical practice in Andrology. In addition we have a strong desire to promote the growth of Andrology throughout Asia, particularly China.
Finally, the International Society of Andrology has, I feel, an important responsibility to support those working in the intensely competitive area of animal breeding. Male infertility in commercially valuable species is a major cause of lost productivity and we may learn important lessons in resolving the underlying mechanisms that will ultimately translate into clinical practice. This theme will be reflected in the upcoming Spermatology Conference, which will be held next year in Newcastle, Australia (Aug 10-14, 2014), the first session of which will be shared with AAAA, the Association representing Applied Animal Andrology.

There has never been a more exciting time to be involved in this discipline and I shall do my utmost to promote and support the International Society of Andrology over the coming 4 years. If any of the member Societies have suggestions, questions or comments they would like to bring to my attention, please do not hesitate to contact me.

All best wishes,

Yours Sincerely,

Laureate Professor R. John Aitken ScD, FSRB, FRSE, FAA
President, International Society of Andrology