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# President's Message

## A Year of Growth and a New Year of Promise

Welcome to 2019 – a new year to look forward to all that is in store for our profession and the Association, including this newly-renamed magazine, which we're excited to unveil to all you loyal readers! The new year is also a great time to reflect on the previous year and all that we accomplished within IAHCSSM for the betterment of our membership and the collective profession.

We have many reasons to be proud. As I think back on the successes and challenges of 2018, I reflect on the following: Life or work may seem demanding from time to time, but there is always something we can do to improve it. What matters is that we never give up and always keep pushing forward. In 2018, I'm happy to report that our Association did just that. One of the primary initiatives was to update our organizational Bylaws, which will help ensure IAHCSSM continues functioning at its best for many years to come.

Here are just some of the other notable statistics from our very productive 2018:

- 1,326 attendees in Phoenix for our Annual Conference & Expo;
- 200 attendees participated in the pre-conference Endoscope Workshops;
- 629 people currently hold the new Certified Endoscope Repressor (CER) credential;
- 895 people currently hold Triple Crown Certification (CRCST, CIS, CHL);
- 164 people hold the Golden Crown (CRCST, CIS, CHL and CER);
- IAHCSSM currently represents more than 30,000 Central Service/Sterile Processing (CS/SP) professionals worldwide;
- We released new educational manuals, including the IAHCSSM Instrument Resource Manual (officially available in 2018) and the Endoscope Reprocessing Manual & Workbook;
- Our Education team developed 17 educational webinars (offered free of charge to members) and more webinars are currently underway;

Given this tremendous amount of work and progress in 2018, it's understandable why I have so much optimism for 2019 and beyond – not only for our organization, but for our profession and everyone who works day in and day out to provide our doctors, nurses, scrub techs (and, most importantly, our patients) with the best in instrument reprocessing. We are the oft-unseen professionals who are the masters of our craft, and we are undeniably on the front lines of patient safety and infection prevention. I know we will all continue to challenge and educate ourselves, and lead by example. With that commitment and dedication, we can help make 2019 even more successful and impactful than any year in the past.

While many New Year resolutions are easy to promise and tough to keep, I will share with you my resolution for 2019. I resolve to start this year with promise and carry that optimism throughout the year. I vow to work hard, stay positive, manage people upwardly, and focus on the great things that make CS/SP one of the best and most valuable professions. I challenge each of us to set our own professional resolutions and live and work everyday to become our personal best and bring out the very best in others.

Together, we are strong!

Damien S. Berg