



Thomas Reiser

Thomas (Tom) Reiser has been serving as the Executive Director of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) since May 2011. In this role as the chief staff person for ISTH, he is responsible for working closely with the ISTH Council to set the Society's strategy, organizational development, professional execution of ISTH's program and initiatives and corporate relations.

With business and hospitality management degrees as background and throughout his 20+ year career in Austria, Belgium and the USA, Tom has led over 10 international scientific-medical professional organizations with ultimate responsibility for strategy, fundraising, programs and meetings around the world. The medical/scientific specialties of the organizations led by Tom include nephrology, osteoporosis, hematology, liver cancer, psychiatry, orthopedics, prosthetics and orthotics and psychiatry.



Cathy Persidis

Cathy Persidis is the Director of Operations based in Basel, Switzerland and is the Head of the Global Operations Centre of Excellence at DIA. She has over 20 years experience in healthcare events and has led congresses across Europe, Africa and Central America at Medtronic, International AIDS Society and EASD. Cathy Persidis was awarded the 2020 Association Executive of the Year Award by the Association of Association Executives (AAE) for her work to pivot to virtual events last year at DIA.



Iain Bitran

Iain Bitran is the Executive Director of The International Society for Professional Innovation Management (ISPIM) and has overseen the association's growth since 2003. Iain has organised many international conferences, developing strong networks in the process. He has been involved in many innovation-related projects and has also edited and published numerous journal issues and articles in the field of innovation management.

As a business graduate with more than 30 years of experience, Iain has worked with a variety of enterprises and cultures worldwide. Prior to joining ISPIM, Iain co-founded Enterprizer Technologies where he developed decision-support tools for the management community and worked on many projects for national and regional development agencies and for the European Commission and United Nations.





Laetitia Delzenne

Laetitia Delzenne joined UITP in 2010. She was recently appointed Head of Event Management, after acting as Senior Project Manager of the UITP Global Public Transport Summit, UITP's flagship event and other major events and publications. Prior to UITP, Laetitia worked for several temporary art projects and Biennales worldwide. She graduated from France and Australia. She lives in Brussels since 2009.



Liliane Y. Yan

Liliane Y. Yan has been with the World Federation of Hemophilia since 2013. She has led numerous in-person and virtual domestic and global events with attention to details, and advanced skills in problem-solving and cost-cutting strategies. Previous to WFH, Liliane worked for other NGOs and participated in major international events including the ICAO General Assembly and the World Expos.

As a Certified Meeting Professional (CMP) and Digital Event Strategist (DES) with over 8 years' experience in the event industry, Liliane has been trusted as the "go-to" planner with a talent for event management and her ability of high levels of professional judgment, diplomacy, as well as the ability to anticipate problems and create innovative solutions.



Mireia Iglesias

Mireia Iglesias is Communications and Events Coordinator in the World Leisure Organization (WLO) since 2016.

Independent and eager to learn critical thinker, she has studied and worked in a multi-cultural and international environment since the start of her professional career in the event's industry in 2010. She holds a degree in Advertising and Public Relations and a master's degree in Congress, Events and Trade Fair Management. Her knowledge and expertise pivots, also as materialised in her PhD dissertation, around three main areas: educational events; event experience and design; and knowledge transfer. As an open minded, flexible and fascinated about human factor, she is passionate about traveling globally and learning from different cultures.





Patrick Debus

Patrick Debus is the Chief of Cabinet of the President's Office of FICAC aisbl - World Federation of Consuls. Patrick coordinates between all the members of the Board of Directors (15 honorary consuls located all around the world) and between all the members (consular associations in 80+ countries). Patrick organizes the meetings of the Board (5+/year); the World Congress of Consuls & General Assembly (1/every 3 years); Regional Conferences (2-3/year), Special Events research of the venues; the hotels; the Guest-Speakers; the partners. Patrick contacts and visits to the Ministries of Foreign Affairs & Officials, Embassies & Consulates; and follows up and contacts with the International Institutions (UN, EU, OAS,...). Patrick researches the most adequate destinations and partners for all FICAC events.



Sarash de Wilde

Sarash has been with ISME for over 14 years. When she first started in 2007 she took over the society's secretariat, which was formerly outsourced to a PCO.

Simultaneously the society just launched its first scientific magazine - The ISME Journal- for which she managed the editorial workflow. In 2008 ISME took charge of their own symposia (2000 delegates on average) and today ISME is a thriving and active charity society in a rapidly growing field.



Steen Jakobsen

Steen Jakobsen is assistant vice president at Dubai Tourism where he oversees Dubai Business Events & City Operations – the official convention bureau of Dubai. Prior to joining Dubai Tourism in 2013, Steen held a role as director of Copenhagen Convention Bureau for 8 years. Steen served on the Board of Directors of International Congress & Convention Association (ICCA) from 2008 - 2014. He also served on the Board of Directors of Green Meeting Industry Council (GMIC). From 2003 – 2007, Steen was chair of BestCities Global Alliance and today he serves on the Board of Directors of BestCities Global Alliance.

Steen sits on the Executive Committee of Dubai Association Centre which is an initiative between the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing, Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Dubai World Trade Centre supporting international associations establish themselves in Dubai.





Aileen Crawford

Aileen is Head of Conventions at the award-winning Glasgow Convention Bureau, responsible for the successful positioning of Glasgow as a conference destination for national and international association meetings.

As a keen supporter of the meetings industry, Aileen has served as a board member for a number of meetings industry associations. Currently, Aileen is the lead for the Business Tourism Workstream within Glasgow's Tourism & Visitor Plan to 2023 and ICCA Destination Sector Co-Chair.

For Aileen, collaboration is key, it's all about Glasgow's team approach, where working together, building alliances and successful partnerships benefits the client and ultimately this enhances the delegate experience.



Marta Gomes

Marta has nearly 20 years of experience in the events industry, and manages a team in charge of sales and business development for the 10 convention and exhibition centres which form the Viparis group.

She is also 1st Vice President of ICCA, and represents the European Region on the ICCA Board for the last 5 years, having previously served as Chapter Chair for the France-Benelux Region. She is active in many international groups and alliances, and has been a regular attendee and speaker at international industry events.

