

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Interventional Pulmonology Institute (IPI) of the WABIP Inaugurated in Istanbul, Turkiye



Meri İstiroti, CEO of the LIV hospital system, and Dr. Ali Musani, chair of the Interventional Pulmonology Institute, signed the landmark contract between the two institutions before outlining their visions in front of the audience.

On Sunday, April 30th, 2023, during a beautiful ceremony in Istanbul, the leaderships of the World Association for Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (WABIP) and the LIV hospital, Istanbul (Vadistanbul) signed the first-of-its-kind agreement to inaugurate the first Interventional Pulmonology Institute (IPI). This remarkable contract between a non-profit conglomerate of more than 50 national interventional pulmonology societies (WABIP) and a private hospital chain in Istanbul Turkiye was signed by Meri İstiroti, CEO of LIV hospital system, and Dr. Ali Musani, chairman of the 1st Interventional Pulmonology Institute. This collaboration starts a new chapter in medical teaching and training of doctors from developing countries by the hundreds of IP faculty from dozens of countries worldwide to disseminate science and skills of IP without geographical or political restrictions.

The ceremony was followed by the first IPI conference, where Dr. Musani presented the mission, vision, organizational structure, educational goals, and details of the partnership between the two organizations. He outlined the short-term and long-term plans of the IPI and introduced the different committees, including the fellowship selection committee, education/curriculum committee, and IPI committee. He emphasized that IPI's fundamental goal is to train pulmonologists from the developing parts of the world in IP, free of charge, so they can go back and serve their countries and educate/train others in the IP field. Soon after the ceremony and introductory speeches from Meri İstiroti and Dr. Musani, the academic portion of the conference started.



The front desk of the LIV Hospital, Vadistanbul Turkiye

The conference had several international speakers from Europe and the USA representing the WABIP. Attendees from different parts of Turkiye participated in the conference and brought complex IP cases to seek expert opinions from the international faculty.



IPI faculty and attendees at the first IPI conference on 4/30/2023 in Istanbul, Turkiye



Dr. Levent Dalar, Director IPI Istanbul

**FELLOWSHIP:**

This day also marks the official announcement of the beginning of the IP fellowship at the IPI. Pulmonologists and thoracic surgeons worldwide are welcome to apply for the WABIP-IPI Interventional Pulmonology (IP) fellowship starting Oct 1st, 2023. Please fill out the **application forms** and send them to Dr. Javier Flandes, chair of the fellowship selection committee ([jflandes@quironosalud.es](mailto:jflandes@quironosalud.es)), and Dr. Levent Dalar, director for the IPI Istanbul ([leventdalar@gmail.com](mailto:leventdalar@gmail.com)) at least four months before the start date of the fellowship. Please see below for the fellowship application deadline. Please review the IP **fellowship requirements and curriculum** details before applying for the fellowship.

**Application Deadlines:**

<b>Fellowship Start Date</b>	<b>Application Deadline The application and supporting material should be received by</b>
<b>Oct 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>July 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>Jan 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>September 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>April 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>December 1<sup>st</sup></b>
<b>July 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>March 1<sup>st</sup></b>

The selection committee will respond to your application in three weeks to allow you ample time to finalize your travel preparations. The IPI will happily provide you with a letter of acceptance to help you obtain a Turkish visa. You should not engage in any employment or illegal activities in Turkiye. IPI will fully cooperate with the legal authorities in providing information regarding you if asked. IPI does not pay salary or any kind of financial support to trainees and fellows. You should not expect any financial support from IPI or the LIV hospital.

**EDUCATION AND TRAINING:**

The fellowship will be three months long, starting Oct 1st, 2023. As outlined above, one or two new fellows will start every three months. The fellows will be required to stay in Istanbul for three months and work with the local and international visiting faculty of the WABIP. They will be provided with limited malpractice coverage by the LIV hospital and a temporary trainee license from Istinye University, Istanbul, to perform procedures under the supervision of the local IP faculty. The fellows will be expected to work six days a week, including Saturday, and go to other hospitals with the IP faculty to perform procedures.

IPI will provide a **reading list, library of procedural videos** and **review material**. We expect every fellow to study all the pre-fellowship training material prior to starting the fellowship. All fellows will undergo pretesting in theory and skills of IP procedures. The purpose of the pretest is to gauge their improvement after the fellowship with a posttest/certification test. The pretest will not be used to select or reject candidates from the fellowship.

If your budget allows, we would like you to travel to Athens, Greece, Florence, Italy, or Ancona Italy for a week of free simulation training with high-fidelity simulators, and cadavers under

WABIP faculty. We hope to do this training in the early weeks of each fellowship period. This training is not mandatory but will help you get comfortable with more complex procedures, such as rigid bronchoscopy, airway stenting, etc.

1. Levent Dalar (Turkiye)	2. Shaheen ul Islam (USA)	3. Javier Flandes (Spain)	4. Mohammed <u>Munavar</u> (UK)	5. Grigoris Stratakos (Greece)
6. Lorenzo Corbetta (Italy)	7. Stefano Gasparini (Italy)	8. Atul Mehta (USA)	9. Semra Bilaceroglu (Turkey)	11. Ali Musani (USA)
12. Sinem Nedime Sökücü (Turkiye)	13. Cengiz <u>Ozdemir</u> (Turkiye)	14. Daniela Gompelmann (Austria)		

IPI Faculty

### **FEE and EXPENSES:**

The IPI will not charge any fee for training fellows, but the fellows will be responsible for all their expenses, including flights, stay for three months in Istanbul, and food during their fellowship. WABIP is trying to raise funds with donations and scholarships to support a few fellows yearly, but we don't expect any support for at least one year. We encourage fellows to obtain health insurance in Turkey to avoid unnecessary charges if they get sick while training in Istanbul. IPI does not pay trainees and fellows. You should not expect any financial support from IPI. We encourage you to seek support from your respective governments, hospitals, industry grants, scholarships, etc. We will gladly furnish supporting documents to help you obtain these grants if needed.

### **VISA:**

IPI will help you obtain a visa by providing a letter of acceptance by the WABIP-IPI Istanbul. You are expected to apply for the visa at least three months in advance so that in case of your inability to obtain a visa in a timely fashion, we can offer the fellowship spot to other candidates. We expect you to have your visa and tickets ready and emailed to the selection committee at least three months before your fellowship start date.

### **Certification:**

Each fellow will be tested during the last week of their three months of training. This test will comprise of didactic and skills testing. Please see the [skills testing document](#). You will be trained in skills and steps of IP procedures the same way as you will be tested. Each fellow must pass both didactic and skills test to obtain the certificate of completion of IP fellowship at the WABIP-IPI. This certificate does not give you a license to practice IP/bronchoscopic and pleural procedures at your institute or in your country or any other country. You will still need to fulfill your country's and institution's requirements, such as local credentialing and licensing, to practice these procedures. Due to a relatively short training period, we cannot guarantee that you will be fully competent in your skills to perform IP procedures independently after just three months of training. The required number of procedures for IPI training is reduced substantially to allow you to finish the training in three months.

You will be more than welcome to apply for the same fellowship again to obtain more experience. You must undergo the same selection process as the first time. You may need to do some supervised procedures at your home intuition to be comfortable doing them and fulfill your national and institutional credentialing and licensing requirements. We strongly recommend some supervised training before performing IP procedures independently. We also strongly recommend at least 1-2 years of practice with four times or a greater number of procedures done/required during the IPI fellowship before teaching others in your country or starting a formal training program. WABIP-IPI will gladly stay in touch with all its graduates and provide continued education and guidance. We will try to organize a symposium for all the IPI fellows at the World Congress of Bronchology and Interventional Pulmonology (WCBIP) every other year.

### **Code of Conduct:**

The fellows will be required to follow the code of conduct of the LIV hospital in their day-to-day work and social interactions while training there. The fellows must follow the hospital's and IP program's rules and policies. The IPI director and the chair reserve the right to expel any fellow who misbehaves and does not follow the rules and regulations of the institution or is disrespectful and disruptive. In case of expulsion from the program, the fellow must return to their home country within two weeks, and they will be deemed incompetent to receive IPI certification. IPI also reserves the right to inform immigration authorities of any illegal activities and take legal action if any criminal activity is suspected. IPI fellows are supposed to refrain from engaging in any employment while in Turkiye for training at the IPI. They will be reported to immigration if any such activity is brought to IPI's attention.

In conclusion, IPI training will give you a strong foundation to build your IP career. Our faculty of world experts has developed a robust training program to train you in as many skills as possible in a very short time. We will stay engaged with you long after your fellowship to provide you with mentors, educational opportunities, and advice when asked to make sure that you have all the professional and moral support you need to start a successful program in your home country and educate the next generation of doctors and continue the mission of elevating the level of health care in your country.

Sincerely,  
The Interventional Pulmonology Institute Committee of the WABIP



Useful links:

- [IPI fellowship application forms](#)
- [Fellowship requirements and curriculum](#)
- [Reading list](#)
- [Skills testing document](#)