

Buenos Aires, 12th of april, 2026.

Dear ISS/SIC Administrative Office,

I would like to sincerely thank the ISS/SIC for granting me the travel award to attend the International Surgical Week (ISW) 2026. Participating in this meeting was an extremely valuable academic and professional experience that significantly contributed to my development as a young surgeon.

Attending ISW 2026 allowed me to expand my knowledge in several areas of gastrointestinal and minimally invasive surgery through high-quality scientific sessions, expert lectures, and discussions regarding current advances in surgical practice. In particular, I had the opportunity to learn about contemporary approaches in esophageal and gastric surgery, perioperative management, and ongoing international research initiatives that will positively influence my future clinical practice and academic interests.

One of the most meaningful aspects of the meeting was the opportunity to interact and network with surgeons from different countries. These exchanges provided valuable perspectives regarding surgical training, research collaboration, and patient management in diverse healthcare systems. I was also able to establish professional connections that I hope will lead to future international opportunities.

As a young surgeon from Argentina currently pursuing advanced training in upper gastrointestinal surgery, this experience further reinforced my career goals in academic surgery and minimally invasive esophageal and gastric surgery. The exposure to international leaders in the field was highly inspiring and motivated me to continue pursuing research, surgical education, and international collaboration.

I am truly grateful for the support provided by the ISS/SIC, which made this experience possible. I am confident that the knowledge and professional relationships developed during ISW 2026 will have a lasting positive impact on my career and on the surgical community in which I work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sofía Bertona

Servicio de cirugía general

Hospital Aleman