

2025 Inaugural Joint Symposium Celebrating the Launch of the SSAT Taiwan Chapter

Welcome Address



Distinguished guests, **Professor Liana Tsikitis, SSAT Program Chair** and esteemed colleagues from the SSAT, and friends from Taiwan, **good afternoon.**

On behalf of the Taiwan Surgical Society of Gastroenterology (TSSG). It is a profound honor to welcome you all to Taipei for a truly historic milestone: the official launch of the **SSAT Taiwan Chapter.**

As we all know, the Society for Surgery of the Alimentary Tract (SSAT) stands as a global leader in surgical excellence. Our program over these two days is exceptionally rich. We will explore cutting-edge topics ranging from the **gut microbiome's role in colonic neoplasia** to the **shifting paradigms of MIS in hepatobiliary malignancy**. We are also honored to have experts from world-renowned institutions, including **MD Anderson Cancer Center, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU), Weill Cornell Medicine, and the University of Tokyo**, to share their insights. For Taiwan, establishing this official Chapter is not only a recognition of our clinical and research achievements in advances of surgery, including minimally invasive surgery and robotic techniques in different fields, and multi-omics oncology but also a bridge for deeper collaboration with experts from SSAT.

One of the highlights I personally look forward to is tomorrow's luncheon symposium, where we will discuss the **training pathways for GI surgery across Asia and North America**. This exchange of educational philosophy is vital for the future of our profession.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to **Professor Liana Tsikitis**, the SSAT Program Chair, for her instrumental role in making this partnership a reality. My thanks also go to all the speakers and committee members who have worked tirelessly to organize this inaugural event. I will say thanks to Ching-Wei and Tina, without their devotion, the Taiwan Chapter cannot run smoothly and successfully.

I hope you find the academic sessions inspiring and the networking fruitful. Please also look forward to our **Welcome Dinner on the Tamsui River Boat Cruise** tonight, a perfect setting to celebrate our new beginning.

After two days' symposium, our esteemed experts will have a short trip to different hospitals from Taipei to Kaohsiung for more deepening discussion with our young colleagues.

Now, I declare the 2025 SSAT Taiwan Chapter Symposium officially open.



Yan-Shen Shan

Chairman, SSAT Taiwan Chapter