

complicated by adhesions. There are patients who have needed 10, 20 or even 30 operations due to adhesions.

Adhesions are an almost inevitable outcome of surgery, and although they may be cut during a subsequent operation, relief is often fleeting, because the adhesions form again.

For anyone who has had surgery, the consequences of adhesions can strike within days of surgery, or sometimes scores of years. They strike men and women, young and old.

Every time another surgery is performed, the problem can get worse, and new complications introduced. Countless patients have died from problems stemming from adhesions.

ARD may become so severe that patients are unable to work. Obtaining health care or disability is difficult. Family life is destroyed and patients report that nobody believes that they are really sick. These problems magnify the basic problem to the point of suicide.

[The INTERNATIONAL ADHESIONS SOCIETY \(IAS\)](#) was formed in 1996 to promote awareness of adhesions and adhesions related disorders, provide patient support, current information regarding adhesions for patients and members of the medical community and to encourage research for improved products for the treatment of adhesions.

The lack of awareness about adhesions and ARD means that many doctors are unable to tackle adhesions, insurance companies are unwilling to pay for treatment and patients are consigned to a life of misery, poverty and alienation.

Accordingly we are delighted that the NY State Assembly is today addressing the problem of Adhesions and ARD.

Today's deliberations could not have been possible without the efforts of State Assemblyman, Steve Engelbright, whose Assembly Citation regarding adhesions was passed in August of 2001.

Today marks a further milestone in the plight of all those suffering from ARD, including Augusta Sisler, who appears before you today.

We therefore thank and applaud your efforts and trust that they will be instrumental in raising awareness about the disease, and through better funding, we hope they will ultimately lead to a cure.

We respectfully invite the Honorable Members of this chamber to visit our web site at www.adhesions.org.

Sincerely,

David M. Wiseman, Ph.D., M.R. Pharm.S.
Founder, International Adhesions Society (IAS)
www.adhesions.org
david.wiseman@adhesions.org