

### **XXXI World Congress of Internal Medicine “Internal medicine, art and science in the Third Millennium”**

The *XXXI World Congress of Internal Medicine* took place in Santiago, Chile, November 11-15, 2012. The meeting place was *Espacio Riesco*, with administrative management provided by *Kenés Latin America*.

#### **Executive Committee:**

Félix Muñoz, MD, FACP (Congress Chairman and Committee President)

Héctor Ugalde, MD, FACP (Congress Executive Secretary)

William Hall, MD, FACP (Congress Vice-President)

Guillermo Acuña, MD, FACP (Congress Vice-President and President of *Sociedad Médica de Santiago-Chilean Society of Internal Medicine*)

Jorge Vega, MD, FACP (Congress Vice-President and Vice-President of *Sociedad Médica de Santiago-Chilean Society of Internal Medicine*)

#### **General Organizing Committee:**

Félix Muñoz, MD (President) (Hospital San Borja-Arriarán, Santiago)

Guillermo Acuña, MD (Clínica Las Condes, Santiago)

Rodolfo Armas, MD (President of the *Chilean Academy of Medicine*)

Rodrigo Hernández, MD (Chilean Air Force Hospital)

Pedro Paulo Marín, MD (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

José Adolfo Rodríguez, MD (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

Héctor Ugalde, MD (Universidad de Chile Clinical Hospital)

#### **International Advisory Committee:**

José Luis Akaki, México

Rodolfo Bado, Argentina

Pedro Conthe, Spain

William J. Hall, U.S.A.

Virginia L. Hood, U.S.A.

María Cristina Jiménez, Paraguay

Hans Peter Kohler, Switzerland

Antonio Martins, Portugal

Eduardo Penny, Perú

Ramón Pujol, Spain

Roberto Reussi, Argentina

Linda S. Snell, U.S.A.

Napier Thomson, Australia

David Alejandro Yaxal, Guatemala

#### **Scientific Committee:**

Héctor Ugalde, MD (President) (Universidad de Chile Clinical Hospital)

Miguel Fodor, MD (Ministry of Health, Chile)

Luz María Letelier, MD (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

Miguel Oyonarte, MD (Hospital San Borja-Arriarán, Santiago)

María Eugenia Pinto (Universidad de Chile Clinical Hospital)

Néstor Soto, MD (Hospital San Borja-Arriarán, Santiago)

Eduardo Valenzuela, MD (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile)

The Opening Ceremony took place on Sunday, November 11, being José Adolfo Rodríguez, MD the Master of Ceremony. The Welcome Speeches were delivered by Félix Muñoz, MD, Congress Chairman, followed by William J. Hall, MD, President of the *International Society of Internal Medicine*, and by Mr. Sebastián Piñera, President of the Republic of Chile. Subsequently, Jaime Mañalich, MD, Chilean Minister of Health, delivered a lecture describing the rescue of miners after the catastrophe on Northern Chile, in August 2010. The renowned *Antumapu Chilean Folkloric Dance Group* closed the ceremony, leading the way to a welcome cocktail for all guests and attendants.

One hundred and forty four guests from Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, México, Paraguay, Perú, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela and Chile, participated in this Congress.

The number of registered attendants reached to 3248, coming from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran Islamic Republic, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, México, Morocco, Netherland, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Romania,

Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom, Uruguay, USA, Venezuela and Chile.

The Scientific Committee received 1168 abstracts: 60 were selected for oral presentation and 906 for poster presentation.

Parallel sessions, symposia, poster sessions and lectures by invited speakers stimulated wide discussions of multiple topics dealing with the emblematic motto given to this World Congress: "*Internal Medicine, art and science in the Third Millennium*".

During the Congress, the Governing Board of the *International Society of Internal Medicine* ratified Rodolfo Bado, MD, from Argentina, as its President for the forthcoming two-year period. The future *World Congresses in Internal Medicine* will take place in Seoul, Korea, in 2014; in Bali, Indonesia, in 2016; and in South Africa, in 2018.

The *Sociedad Latinoamericana de Medicina Interna (SOLAMI)* presented two Symposia during

the Congress and María Cristina Jiménez, MD, from Paraguay, became the new President of this organization.

The Congress ended on Thursday, November 15, with the Closing Conference "*Medicine as an increasingly globalized profession*" delivered by Professor Richard V. Lee, MD (Buffalo, NY, USA), followed by deliverance of awards to authors of abstracts selected from poster or oral presentations, and diplomas and souvenirs given to prominent lecturers. Representatives of the Republic of Korea invited to attend the next *World Congress of Internal Medicine* that will take place in Seoul, in 2014. Finally, Felix Muñoz, MD, Chairman of this *XXXI World Congress of Internal Medicine*, gave the concluding remarks, thanking the organizers, participants and attendants for their contributions, with a final farewell to everyone.

The Editors of *Revista Médica de Chile* thank Héctor Ugalde, MD, Congress Executive Secretary, for providing the information included in this chronicle.