

WFNMB Announces Santiago Meeting 2002



New WFNMB executive committee members visit President of Chile. From left: Patricio Gonzalez, MD, secretary general, Pilar Orellana, MD, treasurer (shaking hands with Chilean President Eduardo Frei), Horacio Amaral, MD, WFNMB president, and Eduardo Bobadilla, MD, president of Chilean Nuclear Energy Commission.

After a well-organized campaign on the part of the ad hoc Planning Committee of the Chilean Society of Nuclear Medicine, the Assembly of Delegates of the World Federation Of Nuclear Medicine & Biology (WFNMB) has chosen the city of Santiago as the site for the Eighth World Congress of Nuclear Medicine, to be held in the year 2002. The choice of Santiago was fully supported by all the Latin-American countries and by many others from America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Oceania.

At the assembly, Horacio Amaral, MD (Santiago, Chile), was unanimously appointed as the new president of the WFNMB by delegates representing 51 countries. Patricio Gonzalez, MD, and Pilar Orellana, MD, were appointed secretary general and treasurer of the Federation, respectively.

At the closing ceremony of the Seventh World Congress held in Berlin last September, Hans Biersack, MD, former president of the WFNMB, transferred his duties to Amaral and his team, whose terms will expire in 2002. In keeping with tradition, the new president rang the Federation's carved bronze bell eight times to ensure good fortune for the Eighth World Congress. The symbol of WFNMB, the bell was donated by the Japanese Society of Nuclear Medicine during the First World Congress held in Tokyo in 1974. Since then it has travelled to Washington DC, Paris, Buenos Aires, Montreal, Sidney, and Berlin. It is now in Santiago awaiting its next home at the venue of the Ninth Congress, to be determined next year.

Although the main task of the WFNMB is to

organize the World Congress, there are many other activities in the field of nuclear medicine that will be addressed by the present administration. For example, the Federation has developed strong relationships with the International Atomic Energy Agency, the World Health Organization, SNM, the Association of Latin American Societies of Nuclear Medicine and Biology (ALASBIMN), the European Association of Nuclear Medicine (EANM) and others. Recently in fact, the president and the secretary general of the WFNMB were kindly invited by President James Fletcher, MD, to participate in the SNM 1999 Mid-Winter Meeting in Fort Lauderdale, FL. This occasion was especially fruitful in establishing a closer relationship between the two organizations.

The Eighth World Congress is fully supported by the government of Chile, represented by Eduardo Frei, President of the Republic, who received the Executive Committee in a special meeting at the Government Palace in Santiago. It is symbolic that the first congress of the third millennium will take place in one of the world's emerging zones, a region that is working hard to reach an optimum level of development during the next century.

Following the Berlin precedent in 1998, a joint WFNMB and EANM Congress will take place in 2002. In an effort to join resources, the 18th Congress of ALASBIMN will also occur at the joint Congress. The Congress's scientific program is under the leadership of Secretary General Patricio Gonzalez. The Scientific Committee will comprise three components: the International Committee, chaired by Ismael Mena, MD (Chile), with Hans J. Biersack, MD (Germany), Peter J. Ell, MD (UK), Mario Iturralde, MD (South Africa), Junji Konishi, MD (Japan), and H. William Strauss, MD (US); the Regional Committee, chaired by Edwaldo Camargo, MD (Brazil); and the Local Committee, led by Teresa Massardo, MD (Chile).

An attractive extramural program is also planned to ensure that all participants and those who accompany them will enjoy their stay in Latin America. The city of Santiago and its countryside have many fascinating attractions.

For more information about the World Federation of Nuclear Medicine & Biology, please visit its web site: www.wfnmb.cl