

Mena Honored in Auvergne

In a ceremony on January 15 in Clermont-Ferrand, France, Ismael Mena, MD, Emeritus Professor of Radiological Sciences at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Medicine, was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa by the Université d'Auvergne. Jean Maublant, MD, vice-president in charge of public relations policies for the university, presented the title and delivered the presentation address. In addition to reviewing the honoree's life work, he noted the influence Mena has had both on training French physicians in nuclear medicine and on the development of the specialty in France. Maublant himself worked with Mena at UCLA in the 1980s and recalled both the high quality of his mentorship and the warm welcome he extended to visiting scholars and their families. According to sources at the Université d'Auvergne, the January ceremony marked the first time that a French university had bestowed an honorary doctorate on a nuclear medicine physician.

Mena told Newsline, "This doctorate is for me a crowning achievement after many years of teaching a large number of French nuclear physicians at the UCLA School of Medicine, a number of whom now occupy leading positions in important French universities and medical centers. This honor is a sign of their loyalty and



At the ceremony honoring Mena: Guy Darcourt, MD, Professor of Psychiatry, Université de Nice; Gaston Meyniel, MD, former dean of the Université d'Auvergne School of Medicine; Ismael Mena, MD; and Professor Alain Bouvier, Chancellor of the Université d'Auvergne. Reproduced with permission from the editor-in-chief, *ALASBIMN Journal*.

friendship, which I treasure." Mena lives in Santiago, Chile, and remains active in nuclear medicine and in international organizations. He serves as the editor-in-chief of the *ALASBIMN Journal: Revista de Medicina Nuclear*, published by the Latin American Association of Societies of Nuclear Medicine and Biology, of which Mena was a founding member. ❀

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and resources, but we're privileged to have excellent communication with each other through meetings, publications, and other venues—all of which are more difficult for people from developing countries to come by. Whether as teachers or students, we are constantly reinforced, whereas they are more isolated. Hopefully, many contacts established at the symposium will be maintained and the ties strengthened."

Maynard agreed that the benefits of the symposium are likely to live on well into the future. "By being in at the beginning of planning for this meeting, we were true participants. We soon had companies coming to us asking what they could do to help," he said, citing the support of MDS Nordion and Amersham as important elements in the SNM delegation's participation. As ties among both individuals and international nuclear medicine organizations are strengthened, support from industry, academia, and government groups will be galvanized to expand the focus and range of similar meetings in the future.

"One of the delightful elements of the meeting was a true sense of fraternity—the world of nuclear medicine coming together to share expertise, experience, and problems—independent of political and other differences among governments," said Goldsmith. "In fact, in one stirring experience, international attendees were asked to bring CDs with music from their homelands to be played at one of the evening dinners. Each person first explained the background of the music and either sang along or demonstrated the steps of a dance. Then, on replay, everyone joined in." Goldsmith also noted a memorable moment on the last evening when a band played John Lennon's "Imagine," and attendees sang as one about "No need for greed or hunger. . . a brotherhood of man."

Publication of the proceedings of the International Symposium on Nuclear Oncology are planned for later this year. A full copy of the program can be accessed through the IAEA site at www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/Meetings/PDFplus/2004/cn117prog.pdf. ❀