



Newsletter

The Association of Former Staff Members

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At the Annual Staff Awards Ceremony, Dr. Socorro Gross, PAHO Assistant Director, presents the Outstanding Team Award to the PAHO/WHO Health Insurance Committee represented by Jaime Ayalde, Leone Visse and Mario Boyer of AFSM.

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Message from the President



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As we enter the year 2010 we of the AFSM Board in Washington DC resolve to keep in closer touch with you

by publishing the Newsletter with greater frequency. We ask that you continue to contact us if you have information to share with your former colleagues or if you require the assistance of the Board. This is a brief message, but it is filled with the very best wishes from the AFSM Board that you and your families enjoy a year ahead filled with Health, Happiness, and Prosperity.

Nancy Berinstein
President

Coming Soon!

AFSM'S Fourth International Reunion

Lima, Peru, 1-4 November 2010

AFSM's Board of Directors has approved Lima, Peru, as the site for the Fourth International AFSM Reunion, to be held 1-4 November 2010. We want you to know well in advance so that you can make plans and reserve time to join with friends and colleagues in this fascinating city.

Lima itself is a mecca for exploration, and the country offers other interesting visits such as Cuzco, Machu Picchu, and the Amazon Region. So save your money and your frequent flyer miles. We want to see you there!

We are in the process of negotiating with hotels and hope to have more details for you in the very near future. We will be sending out flyers as soon as plans are consolidated.

National Meeting of the Colombia AFSM Chapter

4-5 June 2009



Colombia Chapter members enjoying an outing to Girón, a beautiful colonial town near Bucaramanga

The first country chapter of the Association owes its genesis to the dynamic leadership of its president, Helena Espinosa de Restrepo, and to the support of an enthusiastic group of retirees. The organizational capabilities of our Colombian colleagues were evident in the success of the International Reunion held in 2008 in Cartagena. This time, the provincial capital of Bucaramanga provided the welcoming setting for the fourth national meeting of the Colombian chapter, with Italo Barragán as local coordinator. The event started with a poolside cocktail reception and dinner at the meeting site, the hotel Chicamocha, where excellent wines and lively conversations ensured the warm, informal atmosphere of the following days.

Opening Session: The formal session was opened by Helena Restrepo, who thanked the participants for their expressions of sympathy after the death of her husband. Following the election of Carlos Davila as Chairman of the meeting, Enrique Fefer, Secretary of the HQ AFSM, greeted the 19 participants on behalf of the Regional President, Nancy Berinstein, and briefly reviewed the priorities of the Regional Association, highlighting the importance of promoting and supporting additional local chapters. As approved by the AFSM Board of Directors, he delivered a \$1,000 check to support Colombian activities, a timely gesture greatly appreciated by the Chapter.

Election of Local Board of Directors: After a brief discussion of various candidates, Julio Burbano was elected President, with Elmer Escobar, Vice-president, Susana de Jiménez, Treasurer, and Aurora de Gonzalez, Secretary. A special feature was the election of regional coordinators, with the Bogota coordinator serving as liaison between the PWR and the Chapter.

Cooperation between PWR Office and AFSM: A positive sign for this cooperation was the presence and presentation of Dr. Roberto Sempértegui, international consultant (and later acting PWR). After presenting an overview of the Organization's strategies for technical cooperation, he addressed the recommendations in the 7 May 2009 memorandum from the PAHO Director, which listed the concerns of AFSM. The memorandum urged the Representatives to work with local AFSM members, involving former staff members in social and technical activities and designating an Administration focal point. The participants welcomed the PWR's positive response to the Director's memorandum and made specific suggestions for its implementation, including the designation of a technical focal point, in addition to the administrative contact.

Prevention of cardiovascular disease in the third age, with emphasis on women: A special guest, Victor Castillo Mantilla, Director of the prestigious Cardiovascular Foundation of Colombia, presented the latest information on risk factors and prevention with excellent visual material and responded to the numerous questions on this most relevant topic.



Colombia, the first country chapter, receives support from AFSM/Washington. (Left to right) Julio Jiménez, Italo Barragán, Helena Restrepo, Marta Fajardo, Enrique Fefer, and Carlos Dávila.

Analysis of reflections presented by Helena Restrepo in Cartagena: After approving the budget and selecting Medellín as the venue for the next national meeting in June 2010, the group turned to the philosophical-political thoughts expressed in Helena's paper presented at the 2008 International Reunion. In this paper she reflected on the purpose of the Colombian Chapter, concluding that a main goal is to promote solidarity and participation with specific ethical objectives and a new sense of community. She challenged the group to go beyond discussing their situation as retirees and to start to look upon the Chapter "as a place for sharing friendship, affection, social commitment, art, and culture." The members agreed that the content provides the Chapter guidance for its priorities and activities and recommended that interested individuals contribute their views for discussion at the next meeting.

Action Plan 2009-2011: The meeting approved an action plan aligned with the four objectives of the local Association: a) promote friendship and solidarity; b) promote the health and well-being of retirees and their families; c) support PAHO programs; and d) represent members in administrative and economic matters that may impact their lives.

The meeting was adjourned by Carlos Davila at noon on Friday. He thanked the local hosts and the participants for their contributions and reminded all of a local truism, "quien pisa tierra santandereana es santandereano," making us all native sons of this welcoming land.

The afternoon and the following day were days of becoming acquainted with the city and its lovely surroundings. An afternoon tour of Bucaramanga was complemented by a visit to the nearby town of Giron, a postcard-perfect colonial town considered a "National Monument." The next day a visit to Panachi provided views that rival those of the Grand Canyon—all-in-all, a great finish to a successful meeting. The Regional AFSM congratulates the local Chapter and looks forward to further strengthening our ties. ■

Note: An official report of the meeting is available from Julio Burbano at juburdi@hotmail.com, and a lovely essay on the city and its surroundings written by Alvaro Uribe, a poet at heart, can be seen at auribe@isoft.net.

Welcome to New AFSM Members in 2009

From the Washington DC, US Area

Antolines-Ryon, Ligia
Beckner, Linda Alcalde
Betencourt, Raquel
Bobenrieth, Manuel
De Quadros, Ciro
Fernandez, Mariesther
Friesen, Marlin
Fuller, Laura
Gersky, Jesse
Gomez-Calcaño, Eleana
Hernandez, Ma. Teresa McFarlane
Hernandez, Nelly
Khonde, Aena L.
Latiri, Habib
Libel, Mario
Navarro, Judith
Oliva, Carlos
Palazuelos, Ma. Victoria
Wrigley, Le Le Sin

From Other Parts of the US

Aldis, Williams L. – NC
Andre, Maria-Therese – CA
Bahnemann, Mary Eloise – MI
Bright, Nancy G. – FL
Duale, Elmi A. – NY
Esparza, José – WA
Fisher, Orville – VA
Glorioso, Olinda – VA
Goodall, Douglas W. – AZ
Hirano, Akio Pierre – NM
Kandarpa, Sarashwathi – MA
Kuo, Theresa – CA
Lanoix, Sophie – FL
Maini, Devidra D. – TX
Pelaez, Martha – FL
Quiros, Edna – VA
Russell, James – MD
Spina Helmholtz, Robert – NM
Stalker, Teresa – FL
Subramanian, Muthu – NJ
Tabibzaden, Iraj – CA
Tecklemichael, Nerayo – WA
Verano, Celinda – NJ
Ward, Anadina – MD

From Other Countries

Belotto, Albino - Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Bermudes, Carmen – Mexico, DF Mexico
Cherney, Suzabbe – Nyon, Switzerland
De Almeida, Helena – Brasilia, Brazil
Feil, Susana – Mendoza, Argentina
Genovese, Miguel Angel – Brasilia, Brazil
Isaac Nieto, Pablo – Bogotá, Colombia
Rodriguez Fernandez, Rodrigo – Bogotá, Colombia
Roschke, Sergio – Florianopolis, Brazil
Sanchez, Temistocles – Lima, Peru
Serrano, Carmen Rosa – Santa Cruz, Bolivia
Singh, Jamit – Ontario, Canada
Taylor, David – Christ Church, Barbados

AFICS/NY Annual Meeting

The Association of PAHO/WHO Former Staff Members (AFSM) and the Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS) complement each other's missions. AFICS supports and promotes the programs of the United Nations. It strongly represents the pension rights and benefits of all international civil servants who were once associated with an organization or agency belonging to the UN system. AFSM supports and promotes the interests, benefits, and rights that apply specifically to PAHO/WHO former staff members, with a special interest and involvement in health insurance coverage. Many people hold membership in both organizations.

In May 2009 Nancy Berinstein, President of AFSM as well as a member of AFICS, attended the 2009 AFICS/NY

Annual Meeting at the United Nations, along with Paul Belanga, President of AFICS/Washington, and David Waugh, Secretary of AFICS/Washington. More than 200 retirees were in attendance. Netta Avedon, Chief of UN Human Resources, greeted those present on behalf of Secretary General H. E. Ban Ki-Moon, and Norman Miranda delivered the official greeting on behalf of the President of the UN General Assembly.

Current AFICS/NY President Edward Omotoso introduced its office and board members (a recent AFICS/NY Bulletin has a complete listing). He also announced that a new web site had been established for AFICS/NY.

Former PAHO/WHO staff members receive their pension from the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF). For this reason, the most anxiously awaited moment was when Bernard Cocheme, CEO of UNJSPF, presented his report. He assured the assembly that the Fund is sound and all signs are positive.

Retirees should feel comfortable in the prospect that all commitments made to them will be honored. The present income to the Fund from dividends and interest make available most of the funds required for the drawdowns in the form of retiree and beneficiary checks. Therefore, there is no need to sell any of the Fund's assets. Mr. Cocheme advised that some 172,000 persons receive benefits; there were 15,000 new retirees added in 2008 while 9,000 names were removed from the list. Since 1998 the list grew by 44,000.

The Fund has operated for 49 years and is considered a mature fund. The means of transfer of funds to retirees and beneficiaries is examined regularly and improved, giving confidence that this process is safe and reliable. Diligent attention has been paid to the integrity of the Fund to avoid fraudulent schemes promising high returns. As a point of information, there are no immediate plans for changes in the contribution or payment systems.

There were a number of questions dealing with UNJSPF. Currency fluctuations across the globe were mentioned as an issue. In response, it was reported that 30 percent of retirees and beneficiaries receive their pension income in local currencies and not in dollars, so fluctuations do not apply to these retirees. We were assured that there are no plans for the outsourcing of management and various aspects of administration of the Fund. In answer to a question about the long-term sustainability of the Fund, we were told that the UN family is a growing universe of active staff and increased by 7 percent in 2008.

In summary, the AFICS/NY Annual Meeting was extremely informative. It was particularly reassuring to note the competency of the UN officials who look after retiree interests and to hear from them that support for their work goes up through the ranks and includes the UN Secretary General.

Attendance at the meeting reinforced the idea that AFISM and AFICS both play important roles in protecting and defending the rights and privileges of former staff—those from PAHO/WHO as well as those from other UN agencies. ■

— *David Waugh, Secretary of AFICS/Washington and Nancy Berinstein, President of AFISM, contributed to this article*

Workshop of Associations of Retirees of International Organizations

A workshop convened by the 1818 Society, the Association of World Bank Group Alumni, took place at the World Bank Group in Washington DC on 24 September 2009. Participants were drawn from seven associations of retirees and one of pensioners, represented as follows:

- AFICS/W - Association of Former International Civil Servants/Washington Chapter (and AFICS/NY)
- AFISM - Association of Former PAHO/WHO Staff Members
- AROAS - Association of Retirees of the Organization of American States (OAS)
- ASPEN - Association of Pensioners of the Retirement and Pension Fund of the OAS
- IDB - Association of Retirees of the Inter-American Development Bank
- IMFRA - International Monetary Fund Retirees Association
- AFE-ADB - Association of Former Employees of the Asian Development Bank
- 1818 Society - Association of World Bank Group Alumni



World Bank Workshop: Leaders of International Retiree Associations. (Left to right) Edward Omotoso, AFICS; Alfonso Munevar, OAS; Hans-Juergen Springer, AFE-ADB (Asian Development Bank); Nancy Berinstein, PAHO/WHO AFISM; James Taylor, IDB; Klaus Boese, IMF

AFSM had representatives on each of the four working groups: Association Governance, Pensions, Health Insurance, and Social Networking/Credit. Summarized below are the findings of three of the groups. If you wish more information on any topic, please contact Nancy Berinstein.

Association Governance

Topics covered included dues, recruitment of members and board officers, coordination with chapters, relations with parent organization, and improvement and amendment of governing documents.

Dues: The amounts varied widely (e.g., life memberships went from \$30 to \$300).

Recruitment: Most associations invest time and effort into recruitment of new members as well as into seeking volunteers to work on the various committees. The World Bank recommended utilizing secretarial help to carry out more activities as well as appointing someone whose only responsibility is the recruitment of new members.

Coordination with Chapters: Retirees can and are being used by various associations to advocate for the parent organization.

Support and Relations with Parent Organizations: Some associations are provided office space and secretarial help, some receive financial support from their parent organization, and others receive goods in kind such as printing, parking privileges, and phone service.

Improvement and Amendment of Governing Documents: Most of the associations are currently reviewing and amending bylaws.

— *Nancy Berinstein prepared this section*

Pensions

The group focused on presentations and discussions about the benefits extended to retirees and pensioners of international organizations and agencies.

Although there were no formal presentations, the group stimulated interest and input from everyone due to its excellent selection of subjects for discussion. Two of those subjects were topical.

The first was the status of the pension funds in light of the significant declines in stock markets in all of the countries. It was noted that current expenditures for the payments of pensions and retirements come from the contributions of active members. Accordingly, the decline in assets of the pension funds would not negatively influence payments to retirees in the medium term. Furthermore, history suggests that assets of the pension funds would recover as the markets recover from the global crisis.



World Bank Workshop

The second topic was the decline in the remunerations of pensioners who collect in US dollars (due to depreciation of the dollar) in comparison with pensioners who collect in a local currency (for example Chile, Brazil, etc.). It was noted that, to date, the decline in the local value of the US dollar has always been transitory, as seen when examining five-year averages in the values of local currencies against the US dollar. Although several agencies allow a one-time change in the currency in which a pension is received, this runs the danger of the inverse situation occurring, that is, the re-strengthening of the US dollar.

Another subject discussed, which only affects retirees from certain agencies with residence or citizenship in specific countries, was the payment of taxes on pensions when no taxes are paid on wages. It was concluded that actions that could be taken to remedy this

situation would have to be handled through negotiations between the agencies in question and the local authorities in charge of tax collection.

The subject that was approached from different angles was that of the participation of retirees in the management of pension funds. Although pensioners have representatives on the respective pension fund boards, the power that retirees have in decisions by those boards is limited. It was agreed that the subject would be discussed further at upcoming meetings.

— *Gabriel Schmunis prepared this section*

Health Insurance

Attendees discussed a range of topics related to the health benefits and insurance plans in their various organizations. These included coverage, financing (including premiums and co-pay provisions), administration, interface with other insurers such as Medicare for those residing in the US, participation in decision-making, grievance resolution, and identified issues. Some of the more salient aspects covered were:

1. Nature of the insurance plans and how funded:

- Most organizations have self-insured plans funded by the institution and retirees.
- Several different insurance companies are used as administrators of the plans.
- Retiree premiums are generally linked to pension amounts at retirement; some are linked to retirees' final salaries.
- Specific plan coverages, co-pays, and whether retirees are combined with active staff or have a separate retiree insurance plan vary by organization.

2. Requirement to join Medicare:

- Only three of the seven institutions require members to join Medicare when eligible.
- It appears that most of the savings benefit the institution rather than the participants; therefore consideration should be given to bringing the costs of Medicare premiums into the calculation of insurance premiums.

3. Grievance processes:

- Treatment of grievances varies widely, from internal institutional review to review only by the administrator with no recourse for appeal.

4. Beneficiary participation in decision-making and plan changes:

- Beneficiary participation in decision-making and plan changes varied among the institutions.

The participants in Group 3 concluded that the opportunity afforded by the conference to exchange views on each organization's medical insurance plan was extremely helpful and agreed that the group should continue to maintain contact virtually, sharing experiences and issues as they arose. Several members of the group are developing a matrix which will allow sharing and comparison of the different plans and aspects. The Group agreed that it would be useful to meet periodically in similar conferences in the future to keep abreast of the evolving health care issues that affect us all. ■

— *Pat King, World Bank Group, Secretary of Group 3, and Carol Collado, AFSM, contributed to this section*



World Bank Workshop

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Epidemiologist **Dr. Rubén Figueroa**, an official with many years of experience in the Organization, recently assumed the position of PAHO/WHO Representative in Paraguay. As one of his official acts, Dr. Figueroa invited former PAHO retirees who reside in Asunción to a meeting in his office.



Mrs. Mirian de Gomez and Dr. Ruben Figueroa

He offered them his support and facilities to meet at representation headquarters and designated Mrs. Mirian de Gómez as a focal point on matters of interest to the retirees. Five retirees attended the meeting and three

others could not attend for various reasons. Among those who could not attend was the only Paraguayan who is a member of the Association. Those present at the meeting included Jaime Ayalde, who offered a welcome on behalf of the Board of Directors of the AFSM, explained the rationale of the Association, and invited those present to become members. Jaime contacted the three absent retirees by telephone and visited in person the colleague—an AFSM member—who could not attend for reasons of health.

The following retirees attended the meeting:

- Dr. Emigdio Andrés Balbuena Valdez
- Dr. Roberto Kriskovich Prevedoni
- Eng. Roger Augusto Gamboa M.
- Dr. Eduardo Aquino del Puerto
- Dr. Sinfioriano Rodríguez

Responding by telephone were:

- Jorge Arestivo
- Bernardino Villagra
- Joaquín Walter (WHO retiree)



Jorge Arestivo

Jorge Arestivo (91 years old) received a Doctorate in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Asunción School of Medicine in 1944 and his Masters in Public Health from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore in 1954. He is currently a member of AFSM and continues to follow the activities of the Association with interest, accompanied by his wife, Laura, and his daughter, Gladis. His family includes three children, eight grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren who live in various countries, in line with his status as a retiree of PAHO/WHO. Many colleagues will recall Jorge and his refined sense of humor in duty stations in Peru, Brazil, and Venezuela where he contributed to the extension of health services between 1963 and 1978. ■



Group of participants at the meeting held at PAHO/Asunción

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

Please write and let us know how you spend your time. Tell us of recent special trips. Motivate the rest of us with your achievements. Share with other AFSM members these interesting post-PAHO events!

The 49th PAHO Directing Council

The 49th PAHO Directing Council, held from 28 September to 2 October 2009, was presided over by the Minister of Health of Paraguay, Dr. Esperanza Martinez. Over the course of the week, the Council took up an exhaustive agenda, which resulted in the adoption of 22 resolutions. While considering the International Health Regulations, and with the participation of Dr. Margaret Chan, Director General of WHO, a very wide-ranging discussion of the current situation of the H1N1 influenza virus took place.

There was a long and impassioned debate over the new assessment scale for the Member States. The Pan American Sanitary Code establishes that PAHO must base its scale of assessments on that of the OAS. In 2007 the OAS adopted a new scale, which was set to be introduced into PAHO with the 2010-2011 budget cycle. The new scale impacts countries unevenly, with some seeing a dramatic increase in their assessments (for example, Chile, with an almost 100% increase), and others seeing a significant decrease. A compromise was reached by which PAHO will introduce the new OAS scale in two steps, the transitional OAS scale in 2010 and the definitive OAS scale in 2011 (Resolution CD49.R7). That cleared the way for adop-

tion of the PAHO budget for 2010-2011, which was approved at the level of US\$339,852,341, representing a 3.5% increase over 2008-2009 (Resolution CD49.R8).

Among the decisions taken by the Council, of particular interest was the Plan of Action on the Health of Older Persons, Including Active and Healthy Aging (Resolution CD49.R15). Among other things, it urges Member States to “consider the United Nations Principles for Older Persons (independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity) as the foundation for public policies on aging and health, and the need to include older persons when designing and executing these policies.” It also calls for governments to collaborate with the OAS to set up “a special meeting of national representatives and experts from the academic sector and civil society, as well as from international organizations, for the purpose of sharing information and best practices and also of examining the feasibility of preparing an inter-American convention on the rights of older persons.” ■

The documents and resolutions of the 49th Directing Council can be found on the PAHO website:

<http://paho.org>

(click on Governing Bodies on the left hand drop-down menu).

Swearing in Deputy Director and Assistant Director



Swearing in of the PAHO Deputy Director, Dr. Jon Kim Andrus, and the PAHO Assistant Director, Dr. Socorro Gross on 2 December 2009.

Health Insurance Information for Members

Your AFSM representatives have continued to work with the PAHO Staff Health Insurance office (SHI) and with Aetna to try and resolve difficulties and make the system more user-friendly. AFSM has assisted several members in dealing with difficulties in resolving problems with health insurance. They also continue to meet monthly with SHI as well as on an as-needed basis with both SHI and Aetna to further your interests.

Constructive actions by Aetna include their assignment of a team dedicated to working with PAHO users and also providing additional training for the customer

care representatives to respond more effectively and knowledgeably. Most comments that we have received acknowledge improvement in Aetna's handling of claims and correction of complaints.

Reminders:

New rules which expand coverage went into effect this year in the following categories: vision, psychotherapy, infertility, medical checkups and immunizations, long-term nursing care, and hearing aids. Details can be found in memos sent out previously by AFSM and PAHO/SHI. Contact Giovanna Martinez at martineg@paho.org or extension 3341 for further information.

Health insurance rates are scheduled to increase 2% for the year 2010. This will be calculated on the amount of pension received in the previous year (prorated for new retirees). ■

★ Important Notices for International Travelers! ★

1. Together with the increased security for international travel, there are often new requirements for visas or for demonstrating health insurance coverage when traveling outside of a country of residence. AFSM Board members Mario Boyer and Carol Collado, Chair and Member, respectively, of the AFSM Health Insurance Committee; and Nancy Berinstein, President of AFSM, met recently with Giovanna Martinez, Chief, Health Insurance, and Chris Saenz, Chief, Pension, Payroll and Taxes. The Health Insurance Unit (SHI) is quite aware of this situation and informed the group that they have prepared relevant documents which can be sent by fax or through the PWR if requested.

SHI can send a letter on PAHO letterhead verifying insurance coverage if one is needed to obtain a visa. It lists benefits and provides an ID number and a PAHO/SHI telephone number for confirmation.

Everyone who travels outside their country of residence should first request a letter from SHI which verifies coverage in case it is needed. This letter should always be kept with the passport so that unfortunate situations can be avoided. For residents in the United States this will come as a letter from

Aetna Global Benefits specifying to the institution giving care the way to obtain payment, along with general terms of coverage. For those residing outside the United States, PAHO/SHI will send a similar letter under its letterhead.

2. For those traveling from other countries to the United States for medical treatment, please provide your US-based address to SHI in advance in order to provide time for a response to your request.

Note: While SHI will make every effort to respond promptly to requests, it would be prudent to ask for these documents at least 15 days before the travel date.

SHI Contact Information

Giovanna Martinez	202-974-3341 martineg@paho.org
Chris Saenz	202-974-3443 saenzchr@paho.org
Norma Larraga, Retirees' Health Representative	202-974-3537 larragan@paho.org
SHI Fax:	202-974-3661

Un Pension Fund Certificate of Entitlement

You should by now have received and returned the United Nations Pension Fund Certificate of Entitlement in order to assure that your pension will continue. If you have not received the Certificate, or if you have misplaced it, you should ask for another form immediately (tel. 212-963-6931) and mail it to:

The Secretary
United Nations Joint Staff
Pension Fund
Room S-635
New York NY 10017, USA

years of struggle), yet not for men? Why does that discrimination exist? What interests are aligned against it? Upon analysis of the national scenario, we find that many men do not have the opportunity to obtain the services of a physician due either to a lack of time, because adequate and accessible medical service is not available, or to a lack of money or the incentive to seek out such services. What can be confirmed is that there is a large difference in the statistics between men and women: In 2007, 2.5 million men and 17 million women—almost seven times more women than men—obtained health services. Also in 2007, the National Cancer Institute (Brazil) recorded 45,400 women with cancer and 49,530 men with prostate cancer.

The Ministry of Health also points out that issues of masculinity (Brazilian “machismo”) constrain men from seeking specific medical services for disease prevention and health promotion. Many men refuse to allow examinations of the prostate, penis, their sexuality, etc., which means that statistical data are not representative of the reality. What exacerbates the situation is the knowledge that men have more deficient nutrition, do less physical exercise, suffer more stress, are less religious and social, and love and cry less than women. More significant yet is that men drink alcoholic beverages and smoke much more than women. Alcohol consumption in Fortaleza, for example, stands at 35.9% of men and 10.6% of women.

On 14–15 August 2009, the Brazilian Society of Urology organized the International Men’s Health Symposium in São Paulo with a very varied and comprehensive program, articulating healthy life in terms of quality, sexuality, and living with urologic diseases. In opening remarks at the conference, former President Fernando Henrique Cardoso discussed this theme and provided an analysis of the Brazilian medical scenario.

And it now gives us great pleasure to report that President Lula is by our side. In the program “Coffee with the President” last August 10, he stated: “In addition to using health services less, men drink and smoke more and do less exercise than women. Hence the importance of maintaining healthy habits and having routine preventative exams in order to prevent or detect diseases in time, thus facilitating their treatment and cure.” ■

Men’s Health in Brazil

by Antero Coelho Neto

We are proud to officially recognize the Brazil National Integration Project as part of Men’s Health Promotion and Care. For many years we have written about and struggled for “equality” in a health policy directed toward men in a global and integrated manner, articulating the fundamental elements and principles of men’s health in terms of the body, the mind, and the spirit. The spirit is understood as the set of principles and feelings dependent on the human dimensions that characterize the life of each person: solidarity, friendship, freedom, commitments, participation in the environment in which one lives, etc.

Why is there great development in the health of women, children, and the elderly (the latter a result of many

Luncheon at Bretton Woods

by **Cecilia Jibaja**

On 30 June AFSM held a luncheon at the Bretton Woods Recreation Center that was attended by more than 40 members and nonmembers.

The occasion afforded the opportunity to interact with all the colleagues who attended. The luncheon was held in a cordial and pleasant environment, with all of us sharing the joy of being united once again with colleagues with whom we have worked for many years. Although we had not seen each other in a long time, there was no doubt that the camaraderie was unabated, and we immediately updated one another about our families and social events.

In addition to the social aspect of the event, Nancy Berinstein, President of the Association, brought us up to date on topics of mutual interest, including health insurance and pensions. Her presentation addressed my concerns and surely those of all the participants. I did not even have to ask questions!

And, as usual, kudos to Hortensia Saginor for arranging another great function.



(left to right) Hortensia Saginor, Mercedes Lorenzana, Patricia Peterson, and Mercedes Vargas



(left to right) Brenda Simons Gilliam, Angie Freeman, Tony Farrington, and Melinda Arambulo



Jean Surgi and Jim Milam



(left to right) Angie Freeman and Irma Jacks



(left to right) Fredy Burgos, Luzmaria Esparza, and Amanda Ellauri



(left to right) Amalia Castro Ponce, Bill Muldoon, and Elsa Ochoa



Primo Arambulo and Janice Barahona



(left to right) Gabriel Schmunis, Ligia Antolinez-Ryon, Janice Barahona, and Jenny Eybers



Hortensia Saginor – with our appreciation!

Remembering Our Colleagues

Daniel Joly



1921-2009

from AFICS/ARG

Dr. Daniel Joly passed away on 26 January 2009 at the age of 88. A physician and surgeon who was first an oncologist and later an epidemiologist, he spent many years in the service of PAHO/WHO. A cultured, principled, ethical, and humanistic man, he traveled all over Latin America and also served at Washington Headquarters transmitting his professional knowledge. He was then appointed the Organization's Representative in Cuba, a country that remembers him as a friend and almost a fellow countryman. On his return to Argentina, he remained active as a teacher and graduate thesis adviser into his 80s.

In his early professional years, Dr. Joly was a Fellow at the Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard University Medical School and then Chief Resident at the Memorial Hospital for Cancer and Allied Diseases/Sloan Kettering Institute, New York.

From 1958 to 1960 he served as Cancer Adviser to the Argentine Ministry of Public Health and, from 1960 to

1964, as Professor of Surgery at the University Hospital of the Andes in Mérida, Venezuela. He earned a PhD in Public Health at The Johns Hopkins University.

In 1968, by now a PAHO/WHO staff member, he was appointed Regional Adviser on Cancer Control for Latin America and later, PAHO/WHO Representative in Cuba. From 1987 to 1992, he was Adviser to Cuba's Ministry of Public Health. From 1992 to 2009, he served as Secretary of the Rumbos Foundation (a non-governmental organization specializing in disability), an adviser in research methodology, a visiting instructor at the Foundation for the Study of Childhood Problems, an instructor in the epidemiology of chronic diseases, and a thesis adviser and member of the epidemiology thesis jury at the National University of Rosario Medical School. In 2008, he designed a study on HIV/AIDS to be conducted in Rosario. He was a member of the PAHO/WHO Expert Committee on the teaching of surgery in Latin American medical schools and the author of numerous books and research, especially on cancer.

Dr. Antonio Pagés, PAHO/WHO Representative in Argentina, who collaborated with Dr. Joly, told us: "Daniel was a master teacher. His commitment to the education of leaders devoted to public health, scientific excellence, and social justice will be remembered always. As a public health expert and researcher, he has left us the best legacy."

Dr. Joly's late wife Olga was a distinguished teacher and researcher in public health. She is remembered as a kind and friendly person who was a gracious hostess in their homes in Havana, Washington, DC and Buenos Aires. He is survived by his children—Eduardo, who lives in Buenos Aires, and Daniel, who resides in France—as well as his grandchildren Pablo, Daniel and Isabel. ■

Juan Carlos Veronelli



1933–2008

by Simon Feld

Physician, health planner, political scientist, researcher, educator, man of letters, and, above all, a good man—that is how we can describe Juan Carlos Veronelli upon his passing.

A native of Buenos Aires, he received a medical degree with honors from that city's university in 1956. He started in the clinic and in cardiology, and then studied for a teaching career at the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), developing his vocation through research and teaching that he would continue throughout his life. After a decade of intense professional practice, his social concerns took him to the UBA School of Public Health, from which he graduated in 1966. He carried out the International Course in Health Planning in Chile (1967) organized by PAHO-ILPES-ECLAC and earned a Certificate of Studies from the National Foundation for Political Studies of the University of Paris (1972).

He applied his knowledge in the Secretariat of Health of Morón in the Province of Buenos Aires; in the Ministry of Health of the Municipality of Buenos Aires; and in the national Ministry of Public Health. He became a consultant in the development of health services for PAHO in Santiago, Chile (1977). In 1980, he was transferred to Mexico and in 1984 he was

called to serve at headquarters in Washington as a Regional Adviser in Health Planning.

With the return to democracy in Argentina, his services were soon required by the first elected government. He did not hesitate to resign his post at PAHO/WHO and return to his country in 1986 to become the Secretary of Public Health and Environment for the City of Buenos Aires. Once those functions were completed, PAHO called on him once again to serve on missions in Bolivia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela, until 1992, when he was appointed as Representative in Uruguay, his final post before retiring in 1997.

Dr. Veronelli's achievements would not have been possible without the strong and affectionate support of his family, which accepted the itinerant career of an international consultant: his wife, Magali Correch, his children Magali, Paula, and María Gracia—today all professionals—and Carlos, who died prematurely, constituted a family united by love. Today, seven grandchildren in three countries remember their grandfather Juan Carlos with fondness. It was very easy to be a friend of the Veronelli family, which is why a legion of friends on our continent mourn the death of Juan Carlos. Today he rests in peace in Montevideo together with his son Carlos. ■

In Memoriam

Lidia Diaz	2 November 2008
Georgina Soto	16 May 2009
Amar Singh Thakur	24 October 2009
Jose Maria Guerricagoitia	15 November 2009
Eric Nicholls	15 November 2009
Maria Do Rosario Dos Santos	30 November 2009

The Back Page

The AFSM Board and committee coordinators would like to know about the needs of its members. We might not be able to solve all your problems but we have resources that could be utilized. Also, we encourage your contributions to the Newsletter, either in the form of articles for publication or in comments about its contents.

To reach us, write to:

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Washington DC 20037-2895

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Please refer to your 2009 AFSM Directory and be certain that all your personal contact information is correct. We also encourage you to provide us with your email address so that important and pertinent information can be electronically mailed to you. Any changes or additions to your address should be sent to Amalia Castro Ponce (AFSM) by routine mail to PAHO Headquarters in Washington DC or, preferably, by email to ponceama@gmail.com



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