

LA FEDERACIÓN DE MANO



Uniting Hand Care Professionals Throughout North and Central America and the Caribbean

www.demano.org

ASHT MESSAGE: Please enjoy the attached newsletter. Along with current ASHT president, Stacey Doyon, I welcome you to La Fed. As a member of ASHT, you are already a member of La Fed, which joins hand therapists with hand surgeons across the Americas in an effort to foster education and understanding. This newly formed organization, founded in 2005 under the leadership of Dr. Richard Berger and organizations such as ASHT, ASSH and AASH, has recently completed its Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. Please feel free to offer any comments and/or questions at any time! I can be reached by email: dbreger@samuelmerritt.edu. Thank you so much!

Donna Breger Stanton, Secretary, La Federacion de Mano.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No 1 Fall 2007

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Haven't heard of La Fed yet?

You will. This vital international organization fosters Hand Societies throughout central America and the Caribbean, bringing them into the fold of already-existing North American organizations. Surgeons, therapists, and volunteers throughout North and Central America now have a way of communicating, educating, and

partnering to better serve their local populations.

Born from similar ideas to IFESSH, La Fed is uniting hand societies from Canada to Panama. La Fed shall support the highest level of care for patients with upper extremity disorders through an exchange of ideas and resources and increased cooperation and understanding among hand care professionals.

Dr. Richard Berger's enthusiasm and energy had much to do with the successful birth of the organization. Over the last few years, hosted under the umbrella of the American Association for Hand Surgery AASH, and the American Society for Surgery of the Hand ASSH, La Fed has become a reality.

Founding members include the American Association for Hand Sur-

gery, the American Society of Hand Therapists, the American Society for Surgery of the Hand, Asociación Mexicana de Cirugía de Mano, the Canadian Society of Hand Therapists, the Guatemalan Association for Hand Surgery, MANUS Canada, and Sociedad Mexicana de Cirugía de Mano de Occidente.

Bylaws Completed

The bylaws have been completed. The Board of Directors, comprised of two representatives from each founding hand society, agreed to the final version on June 26, 2007.



Current Federation President Eduardo Gonzalez-Hernandez, M.D. looks forward to continued relationships with each founding society, as well as fostering new growth throughout the Americas.

Mexico City, September 2007

The Federation of Latin American Orthopedic and Trauma Societies celebrated its XX Congress in Mexico City, on September 5-9. The Congress

was the first combined SLAOT-AAOS Congress. As such, the enthusiasm was great for the coming together of most academic orthopedic societies in the Americas. The excitement was palpable, as ideas were exchanged and future projects discussed. Representatives for hand surgery from the AAOS included Jessie Jupiter and Lee Osterman, among others.



In an extra-official role, carrying forth the name of the newly formed Federation, Dr. Gonzalez, in collaboration with the American Fracture Association, presided as Chairman over a series of twenty-four lectures delivered over four days. Invited hand surgeons from the United States included Chris Pederson (President, The Hand Center of San Antonio) and David Fuller (President, Orthopedic Rehabilitation Association). Dr Jorge Clifton from the Sociedad Mexicana de Cirugia de Mano de Occidente was also an invited lecturer. Drs. Dianne Carr, Steve Rabin, Alfonso Pino, and Jose Ramon were, among others, participants and organizers for the AFA. Lectures were delivered to a large, eager audience utilizing real-time translation. The international character of the meeting was further highlighted by Dr Alejandro Espinosa and Dr Eduardo Zancolli III, who combined their efforts with SLAOT. Dr. Gon-

zalez expresses his sincere gratitude to the AFA and the SLAOT for the opportunity.



Outreach

La Fed offers numerous opportunities for surgeons to connect, educate, and serve. The most recent journal issue of *Techniques in Hand and Upper Extremity Surgery* (Sept 07, Vol. 11, No. 3) profiles the efforts of several surgeons who have become "ambassadors" of good will to underdeveloped countries. The section on Surgeons Beyond Borders Symposium includes articles by Dr Leonard Bodell and Miguel Pirela-Cruz who will be participating in the upcoming Guatemala Mission this October. Dr Scott Kozin is also a veteran in such efforts. Visit www.techhandsurg.com for more insight about the volunteer process as a physician.

Guatemala Healing Hands Foundation

The Guatemala Healing Hands Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality and availability of health care in Gua-

temala through education, surgery, and therapy. Specializing in the treatment of congenital and hand injuries, we aim to reach Guatemalan children and adults through medical missions led by a team of specialized and skilled surgeons, therapists, and volunteers.



This year we were able to screen over 75 children at the Pediatric Foundation of Guatemala and we operated on 44 children, many of whom received multiple procedures.

Since 2004:

- Over 250 children have been evaluated for surgery
- 113 children have received surgery
- 220 therapy patients have been seen
- 236 Splints have been fabricated
- Over 1100 doctors, therapists, and nurses have attended our educational conferences

We also held our third annual International Educational Conference in Guatemala City on July 14 and 15 in conjunction with the Pediatric Foundation, the Guatemala Hand Therapy

Society, and the Guatemala Hand Surgery Society. Over 400 local doctors, therapists, and nurses attended. We would like to thank and acknowledge Dr. Gustavo Lopez and Dr. Lionel Foncea Kroker for their hard work and assistance in facilitating this successful educational collaboration. Their energy and support has been crucial for helping GHHF reach its goals. We would also like to thank Ileana Aguilar, the 2005 Freeland Award winner, for her dedication and tireless efforts at making this conference a successful event.



The Guatemala Healing Hands Foundation was also proud to award Marta Beatriz Pineda with the 2006 Freeland Award. This award is given annually to a qualified Guatemalan therapist who demonstrates determination and passion and excels in the area of hand therapy. The winner will attend the American Association for Hand Surgery's yearly scientific meeting and will travel throughout the United States visiting and volunteering at hand therapy clinics. This award was established in 2005 in honor of Dr. Alan Freeland's relentless and selfless

dedication to promoting the best in hand surgery and hand therapy care around the world.

The Guatemala Healing Hands Foundation would also like to congratulate Dr. Lourdes Santiso and Dr. Carlos Quintero of Guatemala City, on winning the first GHHF clinical and/or scientific paper presentation award. Winners received a monetary prize and their winning papers will also be submitted to participate in a scientific annual meeting in the United States.

Although we worked relentlessly during our stay in Guatemala, most of our team managed to find time to visit the beautiful towns of Antigua, Chichicastenango, Tikal, and Lake Atitlan. We ate well, shopped hard, and enjoyed the harmonious melodies of the native marimbas.

Our continuing efforts to improve hand surgery and therapy in Guatemala have already begun to form revolutionary changes. With your continued support, the prospect of Guatemalan hand care has a very promising future. (reproduced with permission from guatemalahands.org)

Guadala- jara, 2007

Looking for an opportunity to get involved? La Sociedad Mexicana de Cirugia de Mano de Occidente is celebrating its second international Congress. The land of Tequila and Maria-

chis, Guadalajara is rich in folklore and traditions and will provide the backdrop for this much-anticipated event. The symposium is designed around a cadaver workshop on peripheral nerve surgery including plexus and nerve transfers.

November 15-17, 2007

For further information, contact:
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Jorge Clifton, Congress Chairman
Oscar F. Orozco Romo, President,
SMCMO

care for patients with upper extremity disorders, to continuously to improve our understanding of those disorders, and to exchange ideas and resources and foster increased cooperation and understanding among hand care professionals in the Americas". The ASSH believes that by encouraging the growth and success of this new federation in partnership with other established professional hand societies in North America, the resources to provide care for the upper extremity can be significantly improved across the entire hemisphere. The Society will also explore ways in which to provide ASSH volunteer services and educational opportunities for all members and countries represented by La Federacion.

A S S H MESSAGE:

ASSH Council approves administrative assistance to La Fed: At its recent meeting in Seattle, the ASSH Council approved a request from La Fed to provide administrative assistance and personnel support for the next three years. The Council vote permits the ASSH front office to continue support for the excellent website and member's List Serv created last year, to arrange for legal representation when required, to establish a membership registry and to provide other critical administrative services during La Fed's initial start up period. Dr. David Lichtman, past ASSH President and Current La Fed Vice President, presented Council with an overview of the new organization, stressing its mission: "To continuously provide the highest level of



ASSH

Washington 2007

La Fed Board of Directors Meeting

Friday, September 28th 4:30-5:30 pm

Room 209 Washington State Convention and Trade Center (same center as where the ASSH General Session will take place)

Board Meeting update:

ASSH agrees to provide in-house administrative support for La Fed.

Plans for ASSH Chicago 2008 meeting to include a pre-conference congress for La Fed, highlighting flexor tendon injuries (where we are and where we are going). The leadership of La Fed will also request time for an instructional course during the regular meeting.

Guatemala 2007

Annual mission to Guatemala, October 18-27.

A week long surgical/clinical mission is followed by a two day scientific conference on Friday and Saturday October 26th and 27th. Registration for the event is free and surgeons and therapist are encouraged to join.

La Federation will host a luncheon on Friday the 26th to mark its official participation in what will become a very important venue for activities of our organization in Central America.



AAHS

Beverly Hills 2008

La Fed Board of Directors Meeting

Date and Location TBA



Sociedad Mexicana de Cirugia de Mano de Occidente

Guadalajara 2007

Second International Symposium and Cadaver Workshop

November 15-17, 2007

Agenda will include:

Brachial Plexus updates

Nerve Transfers



GuatemalaHealing Hands Foundation