

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Carlos A. C. Baptista, MD, PhD

Dear Fellow Plastinators:

Since our meeting in Saint Petersburg last summer, several changes have taken place within our society and with the Journal of Plastination. These are exciting times for the ISP and the Journal. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the good news.

The Society membership continues to grow. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new members. Thank you for joining the ISP. The sources for recruiting new members have been workshops on plastination. Currently we have three workshops available: Murcia, Dalian and Toledo. Each of these three locations covers a distinct geographical area: Europe, Asia and North America, respectively. I am grateful for the knowledge and dedication of Rafael Latorre, Bob Henry and Hong Jin Sui, who provide a constant source of information used for training in the workshops.

The interest in plastination has been growing rapidly. This is especially true in Brazil and Africa. In Brazil there are at least a dozen plastination labs currently being built. In the past three years I have been invited to minister theoretical courses on plastination in Brazil. The attendance at these courses is growing quickly. Last September I attended the Brazilian Congress of Anatomy in the city of Curitiba, and there were more than 150 participants in a plastination course. For this reason the time has come for a practical course on plastination in Brazil. Professor Athelson Bittencourt, from the Federal University of Espirito Santo, is organizing The 11th Interim Conference on Plastination that will take place in the city of Vitoria from July 13-16, 2015.

In 2016 we will be heading to Colombia for the 18th International Conference on Plastination and our biennial meeting of the ISP. Start now to plan your trip to the city of Pereira, Colombia. The meeting is being organized by Dr. Ricardo Jimenez. It will be an extraordinary meeting. Please refer to page 34 of this issue for an announcement about the meeting.

During the ISP Business meeting in Saint Petersburg, it was suggested that we create a student membership category. To qualify for this type of membership, a student must be sponsored by an ISP member in good standing. Please nominate your student to be a member of the ISP. There is no cost associated with this type of membership.

I am pleased to announce that there were several nominations for the position of Council. The elections will be held in January 2015. The new governance of the

ISP will be composed of the President, Vice-President, immediate Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer and four Council members. I would like to encourage you to become actively involved in our society.

I am delighted to announce that a new design for the Plastination Index is up and running on the ISP website. The Index has been updated thanks to Gilles Grondin who came out of his retirement to help with the task of updating the index. The changes are not yet complete. Soon you will be able to search the database for articles. The Index will serve as a more robust source of information to our readers and authors.

Finally, as mentioned in his Letter from the Editor, Philip Adds has set a target for 2015 for the indexing of the Journal of Plastination in PubMed. This indexation will be an important landmark for our Journal. My hope is that more articles will be submitted for publication because of the journal Impact Factor that will come with the indexing. I am very proud of our journal. If you perform a search in Google Scholar you will notice that all the issues of our journal are available. The Journal of Plastination was the idea of Harmon Bickley (the "father" of the journal) and has been, for almost 30 years, a shining source of information for scientists and plastinators. More importantly, the indexing and impact factor are signs of the commitment of the Journal to maintain quality and its international reputation for excellence.

Happy New Year!

With my warmest regards from Toledo, Ohio, USA

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlos A. C. Baptista". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carlos A. C. Baptista
President