

## FAREWELL LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Carlos A. C. Baptista, MD, PhD

Dear Friends and Plastinators:

For the past eight years I have had the privilege and the honor to serve as president of the International Society for Plastination. My journey and inspiration started in 2008 in Heidelberg when we celebrated the 30th anniversary of the creation of plastination. It was the 14th International Conference on Plastination. It was a memorable meeting.

In 2016 we commemorated the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the International Society for Plastination. The society was created by Dr. Harmon Bickley with the intention to unite a selected group of individuals interested in something new called plastination.

Thirty years later we have a society that is fulfilling its promise and the dream of Harmon Bickley. Today our membership is comprised of individuals in all continents. The ISP biennial meetings have traveled from San Antonio, Texas, United States (1986) to Macon, Georgia, USA (1988), to Heidelberg, Germany, (1990), to Kingston, Canada (1992), to Graz, Austria (1994), to Brisbane, Australia (1996), to Quebec, Canada (1998), to St Etienne, France (2000), to San Juan, Porto Rico (2002), to Murcia, Spain (2004), to Vienna, Austria (2006), to Heidelberg/Guben, Germany (2008), to Hawaii, USA (2010), to Beijing/Dalian, China (2012), to St Petersburg, Russia (2014) and finally to Toledo, Ohio, USA (2016).

So where will we go from here? The future of the Society is in good hands with the new team under the leadership of Rafael Latorre and Dmitry Starchik, who are distinguished plastinators and have a passion for the continued growth of the Society. With the new board comprising individuals from many countries, the Society now is well represented with the true meaning of being international. I hope there will be more participation by members in the future so the health of the Society is guaranteed.

I am delighted that plastination is still flourishing all over the world. A recent example of this is Brazil where there has been an increased interest in plastination over the past few years thanks to the leadership of Athelton Bittencourt. The hosting of the 11th Interim Meeting in Brazil energized the interest for plastination in Latin America. My hope is that the hosting of the 12th Interim Meeting in Durban, South Africa, will ignite the same interest for plastination in Africa.

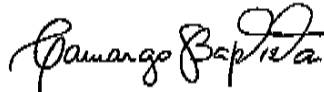
For this past eight years I was able to direct the Society with the help of many individuals. My special thanks goes to my dear friend, Bob Henry, who is the heart and soul of the ISP. Without his counseling and encouragement nothing could have been done. I am grateful for the continued support of those

individuals who served with me on the Executive Board: Rafael Latorre, Joshua Lopez, Ameer Raouf, Selcuk Tunali and Christoph von Horst. In addition, my special thanks to Constantin Sora, Kees de Jong, Athelton Bittencourt, Telma Masuko and many others for their support.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge Philip Addis for his dedication to make the Journal of Plastination an outstanding publication. It is not easy to be the editor of a journal. I encourage all of the membership to submit papers for publication if we want to continue to have a journal. Thank you, Phil, for your outstanding work.

Thank you to those individuals who attended the 18th International Conference in Toledo. Although it was an unexpectedly turbulent time for me personally, it was a pleasure for me to host this meeting at the University of Toledo. I owe a debt of gratitude to those individuals who put forth extra effort to assure the success of the meeting. My appreciation to the students Vipul Shukla, Akhil Gangisetty, Daniel Le, and Ali EL-Tatawy. My gratitude to my dear friend, Kathy McVicker, for her constant support and help with the Journal, meetings and with the affairs of the society.

Warmest Regards

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