

WELCOME LETTER FROM THE NEW PRESIDENT



Rafael Latorre

Dear Friends and Plastinators,

On behalf of the International Society for Plastination (ISP) I would like to thank all of you who participated in the 18th International Conference on Plastination in Toledo, Ohio (June 27- July1, 2016). The organization, in charge of Dr. Baptista, was successful in spite of the short time available for re-arranging the Conference due to the special circumstances that determined a last-minute change in the hosting institution. Participation attracted 50 delegates from 17 different countries. The quality of the lectures and communications was excellent as can be verified in the abstracts contained in this issue of the Journal of Plastination. Special thanks to Ms. Kathy McVicker, Conference Coordinator, for her dedication to making everything in this meeting a big success.

In the General Meeting of the ISP held on June 30, 2016 the new Officers and Councilors of the International Society for Plastination for the years 2016-2018 were announced: President: Rafael Latorre, Vice-president: Dmitry Starchik, Secretary: Selcuk Tunali, Treasurer: Carlos Baptista, Councilors: Robert Henry, Athelson Bittencourt, Ming Zhang, Telma Masuko, and Nicolas Ottone. I would like to thank the great work made by the previous Officers and congratulate the new team.

It is a great challenge for me to be President of the ISP in this period. I am sure everything will be easy with the help of all ISP members, especially those mentioned above. I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Carlos Baptista on behalf of all members of the ISP. During the past eight years Carlos has done a great job in charge of the ISP, he has not only served as President but also has commissioned when necessary to push the Journal of Plastination forward, facilitating its publication and dissemination. Our Society is deeply grateful to Dr Baptista, so in the General Meeting, he was appointed as Honorary Member and for this he received a memorable gift with the following engraved inscription: *"To Carlos Baptista, President and Distinguished Member of the International Society for Plastination, thanks for all your efforts during these years to keep our Society in the highest standard"*.

Participants in the General Meeting of the ISP decided on Dalian, China, to host the 19th International Conference on Plastination to be held in 2018. My best congratulations to Prof Hong-Jin Sui. The other candidate, Durban, South Africa, was invited to host the 11th Interim Meeting of the ISP in 2017, and Dr. Onyemaechi Azu has already presented the official acceptance.

Also, I would like to welcome all new members of the ISP and to invite them as well as the rest of member to participate in the forthcoming different activities organized or hosted by the ISP.

Finally, I want to express my appreciation and gratitude to Philip Adds for the initial organization of this issue.

With the kindest regards from Murcia, Spain,

Rafael Latorre
President