

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Carlos A. C. Baptista, MD, PhD

Dear Fellow Plastinators,

The 11th International Interim Conference on Plastination, held in Vitória, Brazil was a new and exciting experience. This was the first Interim Meeting sponsored by the ISP held in Latin America.

The origin of Plastination in Latin America goes back almost to the origin of plastination itself. In 1983 Dr. Santiago Aja Guardiola, of Mexico, brought plastination to his laboratory at the Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias y Zootecnia, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México D. F. In 1984, after a visit to the United States I set up the first laboratory of Plastination in Brazil in the University of São Paulo. It was located in a small room at the school of Medicine. It was improvised because I did not have a lot of resources at that time. The silicone was given to me by a friend and colleague Dr. Philip Conran, Professor at the Medical College of Ohio who bought S10/S3/S6 from Biodur and shipped it to Brazil. I was joined by a colleague of the Department of Anatomy, Dr. Esem Cerqueira and both of us produced our first plastinated specimens. What an exciting time!

In 1990 during the 5th International Conference on Plastination held in Heidelberg, Germany I was happy to encounter two colleagues from Brazil (I was already living in the USA). They went to Heidelberg to learn the art of plastination from Dr. Von Hagens: Professor Susanne Queiroz, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Professor Aldo Junqueira Rodrigues Jr, Faculdade de Medicina, Universidade de São Paulo. Both professors were very active in plastination. Professor Queiroz retired recently (but continues plastinating) and Professor Rodrigues unfortunately passed away in 2009.

The laboratory of Dr. Athelson Bittencourt (Universidade Federal do Espírito Santo) is the first state-of-the-art plastination laboratory built in Brazil since Dr. Queiroz and Rodrigues built their laboratories. In fact Dr. Bittencourt's laboratory is equipped to perform the three basic plastination techniques, that is, silicone, epoxy and polyester.

For almost 30 years plastination was dormant in Brazil. I am delighted to see so much interest for plastination in Brazil. The attendance at the Interim Conference in Vitoria was superb and it was a testament to the renewed interest in the technique. The success of the Interim Meeting was a tribute to Dr. Bittencourt, his staff and students who organized an amazing meeting.

Plastination in Latin America is flourishing. Since 1983 and 1984 many laboratories of plastination have been created. Here is a list (please forgive me if

the list is not complete) of laboratories by country: (list courtesy of Dr. Nicolas Ottone):

Argentina: Instituto de Morfología J. J. Naón, Facultad de Medicina, Universidad de Buenos Aires ; Cátedra de Anatomía, Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad de Buenos Aires.

Brazil: Universidad Federal de Espirito Santo, Vitoria, Espirito Santo; Universidad de Sao Paulo, Sao Paulo; Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro; Universidade Federal Fluminense, Niteroi, Rio de Janeiro ; Universidade de Campinas, Sao Paulo.

Chile: Laboratorio de Plastinación y Técnicas Anatómicas, Facultad de Odontología ; Universidad de La Frontera, Temuco ; Facultad de Veterinaria, Universidad Santo Tomás, Santiago de Chile ; Universidad de los Andes, Santiago de Chile ; Universidad Austral, Valdivia.

Colombia: Fundación Universitaria Autónoma de las Américas, Pereira ; Universidad de Antioquía, Medellín; Universidad del Cauca, Popayán.

Costa Rica: Instituto Nacional de Anatomía, San José.

México: Facultad de Ciencias Veterinarias y Zootecnia, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México D. F. ; Facultad de Medicina, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México D. F.; Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes, Aguascalientes ; Instituto Politécnico Nacional, México D. F.

Facultad de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia, Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, Mexico D. F. ; Escuela de Medicina Veterinaria y Zootecnia ; Universidad Autónoma B. Juárez de Oaxaca. Oaxaca ; Escuela Nacional Preparatoria Miguel E. Schulz Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, México D. F.

Perú: Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima; Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cusco, Cusco; Universidad Particular Andina del Cusco, Cusco. Universidad Alas Peruanas, Lima.

I am looking forward to our next conference, the 18th International conference on Plastination that will be held in the city of Toledo, Ohio, USA. Like the Interim Meeting in Vitoria it will be an excellent opportunity for the exchange of ideas and promotion of plastination.

The family of plastinators is growing! Isn't that Great!

Warmest Regards



Carlos A. C. Baptista

President