May 2006

CHANGES IN PROPOSED OFFICER SLATE

When representatives of national member societies convene at the biennial session of the International Committee on Wednesday, 13 September in CapeTown, they will be presented with an amended slate of new officers recommended by the ISR nominating committee.

In the original nominating committee proposal, Holger Pettersson of Lund, Sweden, was due to move from the president-elect position to the presidency. Because of a serious illness, Dr. Pettersson has agreed to continue as president-elect. Instead, the committee will propose as president Claude Manelfe of Toulouse, France, the current secretary-general and proposed president-elect.

The other proposed officers remain as chosen originally by the nominating committee and confirmed by the Executive Committee for presentation to the International Committee. Hans Ringertz of Stockholm, Sweden, the current treasurer, is the nominee for secretary-general. Jan Labuscagne of Pretoria, South Africa is the nominee for treasurer.

The International Committee also votes on five members of the Executive Committee representing national societies. A request for societies to respond indicating their interest in sponsoring a member of the Executive Committee was sent earlier in the spring. If more than five societies respond, then the International Committee is asked to vote with the five societies receiving the most votes at the meeting being asked to name a member of the Executive Committee. The five seats currently are held by Canada, Britain, South Africa, Australia and Italy. All of those societies are eligible to continue sponsoring a member, if chosen by the vote of societies represented.

“We have been served well by those societies whose members currently sit on the Executive Committee, said ISR President Francisco Arredondo. “But we welcome offers from other societies to propose members and add to the diversity of our representation.” He reminded societies that to propose a member and to vote on other matters before the International Committee, a society must be in good standing with its dues paid.
The five-day scientific program for ISR 2006, to be held 12-16 September of this year in CapeTown, Republic of South Africa, will feature a broad array of scientific topics ranging from applications of CT and MR technology to women’s imaging and radiology of tropical diseases. Four track segments each day will give participants an opportunity to concentrate on areas of special interest or to select from the range of presentations.

The congress will begin on the morning of Tuesday, 12 September, with full day sessions on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and a half day on Saturday. The opening session and a welcoming reception will occur late on Tuesday afternoon and the closing session will be at midday on Saturday.

The featured Beclere lecture by Hedvig Hricak of New York will be on Wednesday, 13 September and the Fuchs lecture by Guy Frija of Paris, France, will be on Friday, 15 September.

The program chairman, Jan Labuscagne of Cresta, South Africa, said that more than 100 speakers will participate in the featured presentations. Completion of sessions with proffered papers will come early in the summer. He has arranged special sessions with the cooperation of the International Society of Radiographers and Radiologic Technologists and with the International Organization of Medical Physicists.

The meeting of the ISR International Committee, consisting of representatives of national society delegates will be held on Wednesday, 13 September. “We ask each society to advise us of the names of their appointed delegates,” said Francisco Arredondo of Guatemala, president of the ISR.

The registration fee and hotel charges are priced in South African rand (R) explained the congress chairman, Richard Tuft of CapeTown, president of the host Radiological Society of South Africa. “That was necessary to account for fluctuations in the conversion of rands from dollars and euros,” he said. As of late April, the conversion rate was 6.16 R to the US dollar and 7.71 R to the euro.

The registration fee before 30 June is 3900 R for radiologists and after that 4300 R for radiologists. Fees for residents, radiographers and accompanying persons are 1500 R before July and 1650R after that. He suggested the use of major credit cards to pay for both registration and hotel reservations to ease the complexities of currency conversion.

Dr. Tuft also suggested that registrants make hotel reservations through the congress secretariat to take advantage of negotiated meeting rates. Ten CapeTown hotels are participating, including the headquarters Arabella Sheraton, adjacent to the convention center. Double rates range from 315 euro or $380 US to 80 euro or $95 US. The quoted rates for each includes breakfast and a 14 percent VAT. The hotels demand a 50 percent deposit at time of reservation and payment of the other 50 percent by 5 June.

Most registrants will not need a visa for travel to South Africa. However, Dr. Tuft urged that registrants check with the South African embassy in their countries to resolve any uncertainty.

The congress secretariat can be reached at: Global Conferences, Box 44503, Claremont 7735, South Africa, by phone: 27 21 762 8600 – by fax: 27 21 762 8606 – by email: isr2006globalconf.co.za. The congress website is www.isr2006.co.za.
At the opening session of the JPR, the head table included (left to right) Jorge Curi, president of the Paulista Association of Medicine; Renato Mendonca, scientific manager of JPR 2006; Arthur Soares de Souza, Jr., president of JPR 2006; Miguel Stoopen, president for the InterAmerican College of Radiology; Jorge Bomhausen, senator from Sao Paulo; Andre Scatigno, president of the Society of Paulista Radiology; Fernando Alves Moreira, president of the Brazilian College of Radiology; Francisco Arredondo, president of ISR; Antonio Soares de Souza, patron of JPR 2006; and Desiree Callegari, president of the Regional Council of Medicine of the State of Sao Paulo.

PRESIDENTIAL PEN

Elsewhere in this issue is a story about the program and social events arranged for ISR 2006 this September in CapeTown, Republic of South Africa. This is our first congress in Africa and it promises to be an excellent one. I mention that the next one will be at the other end of Africa in Morocco in 2008.

An important part of this congress and every one is the biennial meeting of the ISR International Committee, composed of representatives of our national society members. This is the occasion when the Executive Committee reports to all of you about our stewardship over the past two years and our intentions for the next two. It is the time when five members of the Executive Committee representing national societies are elected for two-year terms. It also is the time when a slate of officers is proposed for ratification. So, it important that each society appoint a representative to attend this meeting, which will be on the second day of the congress.

Also noted in this issue is a story about our new cooperation with the Radiology Outreach Foundation. Like ISR, the ROF has difficulty keeping current mailing lists. In our case, it is the officers and address of each of our societies. For the ROF, it is the contacts for teaching centers which can use the teaching materials collected and distributed by ROF from donors around the world. If there is a teaching center in your country which is not involved with ROF, please send us the title, address and name of the director and ROF will follow up.

We are asked what the ISR does for radiology. In the past two years, we have developed our website portal, we have participated with the World Health Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency in developing standards and monographs, we have organized the first regional conference, in my home territory of Central America, with plans for others. We have emphasized our two main areas of activity, education and radiation protection. Our growth is slow but sure. In all of this, we remember that the body and strength of the ISR is in our national member societies.

—Francisco Arredondo
ROF — ISR COMBINE ON TEACHING PACKAGES

The ISR has agreed to work with the Radiology Outreach Foundation on the collection and distribution of educational materials on diagnostic radiology to teaching centers around the world.

For the past several years, the ROF has collected materials for about 100 centers. However, a 2005 survey by ROF got responses from only about 60 of those which had been receiving packages. To expand and verify the center list, the ROF and ISR with the assistance of the Radiological Society of North America have asked for help in getting current mailing addresses for teaching centers which would like to participate in the ROF distribution program.

“I hope that the officers of our national member societies will help with this effort,” said Francisco Arredondo, president of the ISR. “If centers in your country would benefit from receiving teaching materials for use with residents and medical students, please take a few minutes to send us information about them. We need the name of the center, the mailing address, FAX and email, plus the responsible person. The information can be sent to the ISR secretariat or directly to the ROF president, Barry Goldberg, at Barry.Goldberg@Jefferson.edu.”

Dr. Goldberg said that with the help of several manufacturers, the ROF has arranged for the donation of equipment, particularly ultrasound devices, to several teaching centers. The ROF also is planning a limited visiting professor program.

The Radiology Outreach Foundation was organized in 1988 by Charles Gooding of the University of California at San Francisco. Dr. Goldberg, of the Thomas Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA, became president in 2002.
ARREDONDO REPRESENTS ISR AT KUWAIT, BRAZIL MEETINGS

ISR President Francisco Arredondo represented the society at 2006 meetings of the Jornada Paulista de Radiologica (JPR) in Sao Paulo, Brazil, with more than 4,000 registrants, and at the first conference of the Gulf Radiological Society in Kuwait. The new society includes radiologists from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. Earlier in the spring, he had attended the European Congress of Radiology in Vienna.

In the exhibit section at the JPR: ( left to right) Aldemir Soares, past president of the Brazilian College of Radiology; Francisco Arredondo of ISR; Alves Moreira, current president of the Brazilian College of Radiology; and Miguel Stoopen, president of the InterAmerican College of Radiology.

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

• The 11th Asian and Oceanian Congress of Radiology will be held 6-9 August at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center. Registration for radiologists is $400 US and for radiographers, physicists and nurses, $250 US. The program allows 31 CME credit points.

• On line registration can be accomplished via http://wwwAOCR2006.org or by mail to the meeting organizer, Swire Travel Ltd., 6th floor, Cambridge House, Taikoo Place, 979 King’s Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong SAR, China mentioning AOCR, or finally at the meeting site, the Hongcong Convention center.

• The 10th International Symposium on Radiation Physics (ISRP-10) is scheduled for 17-22 September at the University of Coimbra in Portugal. Its program will feature current trends in radiation physics research. The symposium will be preceded on 15-17 September by a two day workshop on the use of Monte Carlo techniques for design and analysis of radiation detectors.

• Information about the meeting and its program can be obtained from isrp10@pollux.fis.uc.pt.
IACR MEETS IN SPAIN

The InterAmerican College of Radiology will hold its 2006 congress 26-29 May in Zaragoza, Spain. This is the first time the IACR has met outside of the American continents. The program includes some 80 training course, 40 reports on new advances and 40 debates on polemical and controversial topics in diagnostic radiology plus 10 simultaneous on radiology subspecialties. In all, the program will include more than 250 presentations. Some 32 invited faculty members will participate.

NEW IAEA MANUAL ON NUCLEAR MEDICINE

A resources manual providing comprehensive guidance on nuclear medicine practice from the International Atomic Energy Agency contains advice on how to set up a practice, developing operational protocols, creating a radiopharmacy, handling radioisotopes safely and selecting equipment. It can be ordered from the IAEA at: sales.publications@iaea.org. The listing is ISBN: 92-0-107504-9. The price is 65 euros plus shipping.