

The VII World Congress of Echocardiography and Vascular Ultrasound, Buenos Aires, Argentina, October 10th-12th, 2003.

Dear Editor;

The VII World Congress of Echocardiography and Vascular Ultrasound was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from October 10th-12th, 2003. It took place in conjunction with the XXX Congress of the Argentinean Society of Cardiology. The Congress was sponsored by the International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound and organized by the Argentine Society of Cardiology.

Over 9000 people from all over the world attended the meeting with more than 2000 registered attendees for the World Echo Conference. Over the three-day period, a comprehensive coverage of echocardiography and vascular ultrasound was accomplished. Sessions were in the form of symposia, posters and abstracts, lectures, roundtable discussions and luncheon groups. Valvular heart disease, heart failure, endocarditis, 3-D echocardiography, new technologies, transesophageal echocardiography, intra-operative echocardiography, stress echocardiography, diastolic dysfunction, contrast echocardiography, pediatric echocardiography, renovascular disease, carotid artery disease and atherosclerosis were covered. Special sessions on MRI and CT scanning were also featured. Echo X-Games: The Echocardiography Masters World Contest was a fun session on the last day of the conference. A total of approximately 260 faculty members participated and of those 140 were from countries other than Argentina. International faculty included speakers from Belgium, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Ecuador, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, Macedonia, Netherlands, Paragu-

ay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Uruguay, USA, Switzerland, Turkey and Venezuela. There were several concurrent sessions for the echo sessions and most sessions were heavily attended exceeding seating capacity. Conferences were conducted in English and Spanish and attendees were provided excellent live instantaneous translation between English and Spanish.

Gala night and dinner were celebrated on Saturday October 11th, 2003. The president of the International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound, Dr. Navin Nanda from the University of Alabama, Birmingham, USA and the president of the VII World Conference Dr Luis Maria Amuchastegui addressed the gathering. Dr. Navin Nanda was presented several awards including the Echocardiographer of the Millennium by the Organizing Committee of the Argentinean Society of Cardiology, "Illustrious visitor" to the City of Buenos Aires by the City of Buenos Aires and "Honorary Professor" by the Dean of the University of Buenos Aires in recognition of his contributions to the field of echocardiography and his efforts in ensuring success of the Congress. Dr. Luis Maria Amuchastegui, the President of the Congress, was inducted as a Distinguished Fellow of the International Society of Cardiovascular Ultrasound and Dr. Daniel Pineiro as a Fellow. In addition, both Dr. Miguel Bustamante Labarta, Chairman of the Scientific Committee and Dr. Jorge Roisinblit, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, were given special Merit Awards on behalf of the International Society for outstanding contributions to the Congress. The faculty had the occasion to meet with old friends and to exchange ideas with experts in the field of echocardiography from all over the world.

The weather in Argentina was gorgeous with spring temperatures of 60 to 70 degrees and mostly sunny. Faculty and attendees made pre-conference or post-conference short trips to some of the many

beautiful attractions in that area. Aside from the city of Buenos Aires and its famous La Boca neighbourhood famous for its brightly colored homes and tango shows (this area being the birthplace of the tango dance), many attendees visited the spectacular Iguazu falls located in the North separating Argentina from Brazil. Larger than Niagara falls in size, these falls can be viewed from the Argentinean and Brazilian sides. Other attendees traveled south to the "end of the world" at Terra del Feugo and Ushuaia (the southernmost inhabited town in the world) or to El Calafate where there are many glaciers including the Moreno Glacier. Uruguay and Rio de Janeiro were other popular destinations. Food was plentiful, people hospitable and polite and there were numerous shopping destinations in the City of Buenos Aires.

It was the most interesting, successful and educational meeting. The next World Congress of Echocardiography and Vascular Ultrasound will be held in Antalya, Turkey from May 7th to 10th, 2004 and it promises to be another exciting meeting in a wonderful location.

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Prof. Dr. Navin Nanda and his colleagues.

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