



ICOPA XIII - POST CONGRESS REPORT

The XIII International Congress of Parasitology was held at the Hotel Camino Real in Mexico City from August 10 to 15, 2014. This report is published on the World Federation of Parasitology (WFP) and the ICOPA 2014 website in order to inform the delegates at ICOPA XIII, for reference for future congress organizers and for anyone interested in the outcome of this important and successful event.

1. Conference Statistics

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| Early Registration | 383 |
| Full Registration | 537 |
| Student Registration | 366 |
| Daily Registration | 33 |
| Trade/Sponsor Pass | 35 |
| Total Participants | 1354 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Scholarships | 296 |
| Invited Speakers (registration fee waived, 3 hotel nights, breakfast) | 403 |
| Invited Speakers (registration fee waived) | 61 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Total number of countries | 81 |
| Oral Presentations | 331 |
| Poster Presentations | 1047 |
| Invited Symposia Presentations | 490 |
| Total Submitted Abstracts | 1868 |

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Welcome Reception | 900 |
| Gala Dinner | 220 |
| Farewell lunch | 181 |
| Lunch for all participants | 5416 |

Sponsors

National Council of Science and Technology (CONACYT)
 National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
 Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
 Slim Health Foundation
 Center for Research and Advanced Studies (CINVESTAV)
 Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative (DNDi)

Ministry of Public Education (SEP)
Burroughs Welcome Foundation
National Polytechnic Institute (IPN)
UNU-BIOLAC
World Federation of Parasitology
National Institute of Pediatrics (INPed)
TELMEX
Samsung

Section 2: Conference Summary

ICOPA, the International Congress of Parasitology, is the most important world summit for parasitology; it gathers over 1000 scientists interested in research and teaching. ICOPA takes place each four years, this was the thirteenth edition and the first one held in a Latin American country.

Mexico had the honor of being selected as the venue for this important event by the vote of the countries that are members of the World Federation of Parasitologists; to all of them our gratitude. The Mexican Society of Parasitology selected Mexico City because it has all the possibilities to host, attend and entertain visitors from all over the world; it has good weather, good security, best living standards in the country and a variety of cultural and commercial offers and prices. Furthermore, Mexico City congregates most individuals performing research and teaching of parasitology in the country and is the oldest capital of the American continent; it has beautiful architecture, pre-Hispanic sites and museums that jointly with Mexican gastronomy are a delight for tourists. Our logo: Ancient parasites, old hosts, new knowledge ... speaks for itself

ICOPA XIII also was the venue of the 22nd congress of the Latin American Federation of Parasitologists (FLAP) and of the 20th National Congress of Parasitology of the Mexican Society of Parasitology.

Twelve outstanding scientists presented plenary conferences during the opening and closing of ICOPA XIII and at the beginning and end of each day's events. Several published an article related to their plenary conference in the International Journal of Parasitology, 44 (9) 2014.

ICOPA XIII had 4 unique and special features: 1) symposia with 464 invited speakers 2) a green paperless program 3) electronic trees for poster presentations and 4) an app.

There were 127 symposia with four invited speakers on each one, who came from 48 countries and presented their work, related to 26 parasites and 23 topics, along 4 days in 11 simultaneous sessions, three per day. Each symposium was held for 90 minutes, 20 for each presentation and 10 at the end for discussion. Also the 4 days 331 free oral papers were presented in 11 simultaneous sessions

Electronic trees were indeed a technological innovation. There were nine electronic trees in the exhibition area, with four 55" screens hanged on each tree. Posters were received in a power point format; each poster was shown for one hour; 1047 different posters were presented along the four days. Leafs painted in the trees displayed all our sponsors to whom we are utmost grateful.

The app (www.icopa2014.org/app) included: the detailed program, where notes could be taken and forwarded by email, the proceedings with all the 1868 abstracts and the possibility to download and print the certificates of attendance.

Section 3: Special Features

The main attraction for scientists and students in this decade of electronic information was to organize an outstanding scientific program. The local scientific committee, which included Ana Flisser (UNAM) Guadalupe Ortega-Pierres (CINVESTAV), Patricia Talamas (CINVESTAV), Fidel Hernandez (CINVESTAV) and Dolores Correa (INPed), identified 80 renowned national and international scientists. We sent them and the three Past-Presidents as well as to 40 National Societies of Parasitology an invitation to suggest one or more symposia with 4 speakers each. We received around 100 proposals with 400 scientists recommended and their scientific productivity was analyzed using the Scopus

database. Speakers had in average 34 publications in the last 5 years and an *h* index of 21 each. These, together with those recommended by us, were included in the final 127 symposia. The selection of plenary speakers was based on state of the art of scientists that work with different parasites and topics, live in cities on 5 continents and have more than 250 publications.

The International Scientific Committee was formed by: Werner Apt (Chile), Consuelo Almazan (France), Vern Carruthers (USA), Sergio Cimerman (Brazil), Alan Cowman (Australia), Jean Dupuy-Camet (France), Felipe Guhl (Colombia), Shimon Harrus (Israel), Peter Hotez (USA), Ikuo Igarashi (Japan), Marshall Lightowlers (Australia), Alex Loukas (Australia), Santiago Mas Coma (Spain), Don McManus (Australia), Antonio Osuna (Spain), Magdalena Plebanski (Australia), David Rollinson (UK) and Juan Timi (Argentina).

The local organizing committee was conformed by Aurora Candil (UNAM) treasurer, Rebeca Manning (CINVESTAV), Guadalupe Ortega (CINVESTAV), Juan Pedro Laclette (UNAM) and Ana Flisser fundraising; Fidel Hernandez and Rebeca Manning, pre-congress courses; Raul Bobes (UNAM), scholarship program; Pablo Martinez Labat (UNAM), communication; and Juan Carlos Montiel Egremy, who transformed the idea of electronic trees for posters into a reality. Further support was obtained from Fela Mendlovic, Mayra Cruz, Guillermina Avila, Barbara Moguel, Yolanda Garcia, Manuel Gutierrez, Raul Romero and Martha Ponce (all from UNAM), Arturo Perez-Taylor (CINVESTAV) and David Moreno Candil. Juan David Ramirez (NIH and Colombia) obtained the funds from UNU-BIOLAC and was part of the organization of the molecular parasitology course. The Professional Congress Organizer (PCO) was Business Congress Mexico (btc), an efficient, responsible and sustainable local company.

Section 4: Scholarships

Up to 296 scholarships for registration fees were provided for students and young scientists from different countries, mostly from developing areas. These included Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Czech Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Iran, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Senegal, Slovakia, Spain, Sudan, United Kingdom and Venezuela. Also, in Mexico the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Sciences and the Faculty of Upper Studies, Cuautitlan UNAM, provided scholarships to undergraduate students.

Section 5: Pre-Congress courses and satellite meetings (August 10)

1. Molecular Parasitology (dry and wet lab workshop). Juan David Ramirez, Fidel Hernandez and Rebeca Manning. 16 students, August 7-10
2. Up date on Chagas Disease. Werner Apt, Felipe Guhl and Ines Zulantay. 33 participants.
3. Extracellular vesicles and parasites. Hernando del Portillo, Antonio Osuna and Antonio Marcilla. 13 participants.
4. How to write a scientific paper. Alfonso Rodriguez-Morales and Ana Flisser. 10 participants.
5. TaRG satellite meeting: Recent advancement of *Taenia asiatica* researches. Keeseon S. Eom and Maria Teresa Galan-Puchades.
6. WFP, EFP, FLAP, AMPAVE and Chagas vectors satellite meetings were held along all ICOPA

Section 6: Miscellaneous

- The opening ceremony was presided by Dr. José Narro, Dean of the National University of Mexico and other Mexican academic personalities.
- During the opening cocktail around 1,000 scientists and students enjoyed meeting new colleagues. Students could search for to look for future post-doctoral positions.
- The gala dinner was vibrant with Mariachi music, disco dancing and good Tequila. Attendees comprised renowned scientists and future generations of parasitologists.
- Accompanying persons enjoyed the visit to the Teotihuacan pyramids and a turibus trip to downtown Mexico City, while scientists escaped to visit the worldwide known Museum of Anthropology located at walking distance from the venue.
- At the closing ceremony the new venue for ICOPA was announced: it will be held in Daegu, South Korea, **September 9-13, 2018**. The new President of the WFP is Jørgen Kurtzhals from Copenhagen.