



# Newsletter

The Association of Former PAHO/WHO Staff Members

VOL XXV, NO. 1

JANUARY 2014



*The new UN City complex in Copenhagen*

## C O N T E N T S

Message from the President .....	2	Creation of AFSM Manila .....	13
AFSM Twenty-Fourth General Meeting.....	3	Workshop of Associations of Retirees/Alumni .....	14
New PAHO/WHO Assistant Director .....	7	Welcome to New AFSM Members .....	15
AFSM Colombia Chapter .....	7	Miguel Boluda - PAHO Federal Credit Union .....	16
Where Are They Now? .....	8	New Ambassador to Brazil .....	16
AFSM Website .....	9	Health Information Tips .....	17
Visit to AFSM Geneva .....	10	Remembering Our Colleagues:	
Staff Health Insurance (SHI) News.....	10	Kuang Chi Liang .....	18
Reminder about UN Pension Letters .....	11	<i>In Memoriam</i> .....	19
A Trip Down Memory Lane .....	12	The Back page .....	20
Inauguration of UN City Campus in Copenhagen..	13		

## Message from the President



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We start the New Year with warm wishes for health and happiness for you and your loved ones. The Association of PAHO/WHO Former Staff Members begins 2014 with many ideas, plans and programs. We are working on an improved newsletter, a dynamic website, a Facebook site filled with offerings from friends and colleagues, luncheons, field trips, and educational programs. And yes, a 25<sup>th</sup> AFSM anniversary celebration.

PAHO/AFSM is growing in numbers and geography. A close communication with Geneva/AFSM has been established. The global voting for representation on the new Global Oversight (GOC) and Global Standing (GSC) Committees in Geneva brought far flung former staff closer together to have a strong voice in decisions that directly impact our future wellbeing. This past year has seen the emergence of Manila/AFSM in WPRO and the promise of better communication with former staff in EMRO and SEARO.

Collaboration between PAHO/AFSM and the Associations of Retirees and Alumni of International Organizations (ARAIO) was reinforced in October when the AFSM Board hosted a daylong workshop on Social Media. The World Bank (1818 Society), International Monetary Fund (IMFRA), Association of International Civil Servants (AFICS/Washington and AFICS/New York), the AROAS, and the Asian Development Bank (AFE-ADB) took part. Speakers from PAHO/KMC, Columbia University, and private industry demonstrated many new ways of strengthening communication with our members.

During the past year AFSM held several events and many of our members participated. Former staff recognized World Health Day and the annual Walk for Health by joining Director Carissa Etienne, active staff, and others from the Administration to publicize hypertension and to “know your numbers”.

An Albrecht Durer exhibition at the National Gallery of Art brought together members who enjoyed the day viewing the masterpieces. In addition, a summer luncheon by the waterfront was enthusiastically attended by many local members.

A PAHO/AFSM Website will go on-line early in 2014. There will be a section for photographs and we

are hoping that you send those that you’d like to see included to Cristina Torres for consideration. Both AFSM Facebook and the new Website will be a source of information for upcoming activities. News about the reunion, scheduled for October or November, will also be posted as plans develop. The Website will house copies of many past Newsletters as well as this current Newsletter. Printing and mailing Newsletters is time consuming and expensive. The last printed hardcopy will be published at the end of 2014. Beginning in 2015 copies will mainly be available online.

We do recognize that there may be members without access to the Internet or those who might be computer illiterate. In those cases, we will print a black and white version of the Newsletter and mail it upon request.

PAHO, along with many international organizations, is experiencing financial strains and, as a result, our Association has had a few changes in our privileges. We no longer have use of the Translation Unit for the three Newsletters that we publish yearly. Board members and volunteers will do their best — beginning with this issue — to do the job and we do not think that it will impinge on our ability to function. Such a cutback is minor compared with the difficulties facing PAHO in general.

The question of Medicare coverage for eligible former staff is still before the Administration. The former Director of Administration left before taking action on this issue. The President and Vice President of AFSM therefore held a meeting with the new acting Director of Administration, Sharon Frahler, who already has some familiarity with the subject. We proposed that eligible staff take Medicare as the primary insurer, Aetna as secondary insurer, and that PAHO pay their Medicare premiums. This arrangement would lower health care costs, almost always provide total reimbursement to the participant and create a significant savings to the Organization. We are currently awaiting a response from the Administration to our very important proposal.

All in all, 2013 was a very busy year and we are hopeful that we all will see the positive benefits as we move along in 2014. As always, we welcome your suggestions, critiques and thoughts.

Best Wishes and Happy New Year!

Nancy Berinstein  
*President*

## AFSM Twenty-Fourth General Meeting

Washington, D.C., 5 December 2013

by Enrique Feffer



The Twenty-fourth General Meeting of the AFSM was held at PAHO Headquarters on Thursday, 5 December, an unusually mild December day, with holding snow, sleet and rain until the weekend.

The annual event brought together nearly 70 former staff and invited guests from the Administration, the PAHO Staff Association, the World Bank, the Association of Former International Civil Servants (AFICS/Washington) and the PAHO Staff Association. Early arrivals mingled in the lobby, sipping coffee, exchanging abrazos and kisses with former colleagues and meeting new members that achieved the coveted status of retirees. The agenda included the perennial subjects of pension and health insurance, matters that directly impact members' welfare and are undergoing significant changes. A highlight of the agenda was the presence of the PAHO Director, Dr. Carissa Etienne, who graciously agreed not only to make a presentation but to stay for questions and answers.



### Opening of the Meeting



**Welcome by President Nancy Berinstein:** Ms. Berinstein welcomed the participants with special recognition of representatives from sister organizations and virtual participants in Colombia, Brazil, Chile and Guatemala. She thanked Dr. Etienne for attending and agreeing to address the meeting.

**Presentation by Dr. Carissa Etienne:** In her wide ranging talk, Dr. Etienne provided an update on the first year of her administration which, facing a shortfall of \$50 million, has the challenge of working more effectively with

reduced resources. With new organizational structures implemented in July, Dr. Etienne emphasized the need to maintain a level of stability and avoid unnecessary disruptions. Staffing, being a major cost, will have to undergo changes. A significant achievement has been the definition of a strategic plan for 2014-2019, with 6 categories from communicable and non-communicable diseases to emergency preparedness. Other subjects briefly reviewed were the latest Directing Council, PAHEF, the Revolving Fund, and South-South cooperation.

In the Q&A session, the Director stressed that PAHO is not the only public health institution active in the countries. The Organization has a critical need for country representatives to be able to effectively interact with other sectors and to tap into the expertise and resources available in Member Countries. PAHO must develop networks and define what it will do as well as what it will not do. Future staffing will require flexibility, extending contracts for specific products for a specific period, and limiting long-term appointments. The need for technical excellence has to be balanced with the need for a core staff to provide continuity and stability.

In closing, Dr. Etienne recognized the retirees as a valuable resource and challenged AFSM to explore ways to support PAHO's mission and work. Ms. Berinstein thanked the Director for her participation and extended an invitation to attend the AFSM's next General Meeting.

### Business Meeting

**Designation of Chairperson:** Antonio Hernandez, with extensive experience in leading conferences and workshops, was designated as Chairperson by the Board. He requested a minute of silence in memory of colleagues who had passed away during the year. The list was particularly long with 36 names, a strong reminder of the gift of life and our mortality.

The agenda and the minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup>



General Meeting (2012) were approved following Ms. Berinstein's explanation that the presentation on social media was cancelled since PAHO was having a special event on LinkedIn at noon in the lobby.

**Report of the Treasurer:** Ms. Sylvia Schultz presented the *Income and Expenditure Report* and the Balance Sheet documenting the positive balance of over \$60,000. The Independent Auditor's Report was also made available at the meeting

**Report from the President of the Colombia Chapter:** Raúl Londoño, present via Illuminate, reported on the group's activities, focusing on their November meeting at the PWR's office where they had the opportunity to hear about the technical cooperation activities carried out by the PWR and his staff. Focal points have been designated to facilitate future activities.

**Report from the President of AFSM:** A detailed review of Ms. Berinstein's presentation can be found in her "Message from the President" article in this newsletter. Therefore, only a brief summary is presented here.

Ms. Berinstein reviewed some of the activities carried out during the year. Participation in World Health Day, the AFSM presence at the Director's breakfast with new staff, participation in pre-retirement seminars and the well attended summer luncheon were highlighted.

She thanked Cristina Torres for her work on the AFSM website which can now be accessed by all members. They were requested to contribute photos and other items to ensure the site's ongoing relevance. She also gave special thanks to Carol Collado for her work with the SHI Global Standing Committee (GSC).

The periodic luncheons held with the presidents of the sister organizations have resulted in a series of workshops with topics of mutual interest. PAHO hosted this year's meeting with excellent presentations on social media and discussions on how to better work together. The inter-agency group now has an acronym, ARAIO, and a Yahoo Group site.

AFSM's vigorous lobbying managed to retain the Regional Surveillance Committees amidst the changes in WHO's Staff Health Insurance Program and will continue to monitor the performance of the recently established governance bodies. A related item was the potential benefit of reimbursing staff for Medicare contributions. The United Nations and the World Bank have found that having eligible staff on Medicare results in significant savings. AFSM has high hopes that PAHO will soon adopt this approach.



## Election of Board Members

There were no nominations from the floor. The meeting unanimously voted for the re-election of the current three Board members who agreed to serve another three-year term: Sylvia Schultz, Hernan Rosenberg and Enrique Fefer.

## Update on UN Pension fund (UNJSPF)

Ms. Sharon Frahler, Director of Administration, a.i, is not only a member of AFSM but also the Chairperson of the UNJSPF Audit Committee which assists the Pension Board in its oversight responsibility. Thus it was encouraging to hear from such an informed source that our pensions are fully funded. The Fund, with



assets close to 450 billion, covers 120,000 active staff and 67,000 retirees. Its long-term investment expectations are for a 3.5% return above inflation. For over 50 years it has outperformed this benchmark by 0.06%, an excellent achievement for a large fund.

## WHO Health Insurance Governance

Chris Saenz, Staff Benefits/Financial Resources Management, reminded the attendees that the new structure for governance of the Staff Health Insurance (SHI) is now working. The Global Oversight Committee (GOC), meeting twice yearly, is similar to the Joint Meetings which had representatives from every Region and met in Geneva every 3 years. The GOC is to be the primary decision-making body for the Plan. The Global Standing Committee (GSC), meeting monthly, replaces the Headquarters Surveillance Committee, and expands responsibilities to include: case review for applying SHI Rules, proposing changes to the GOC, reporting on work, reviewing costs, and providing guidelines for Regional Surveillance Committees. Some of the major issues for our Region are long term care, inadequate mental health benefits and the high cost of hospitalization. There will be a study that looks at the potential for savings by requiring participation in national health plans such as the United States Medicare.

For the next two years PAHO has two representatives on the GOC: Dr. Jon Andrus, Deputy Director

representing the PAHO administration and Dr. Reynaldo Holder representing the regional staff committee. Membership on the GOC is rotating, therefore at the conclusion of the first two years it is doubtful that PAHO will have a representative sitting on the GOC Committee for a period of up to 10 years. Carol Collado, PAHO/WHO AFSM Vice President, has been elected as an alternate on the GSC Committee, representing the retirees globally.

Since the Regional Surveillance Committees continue to exist, Chris does not expect many visible changes in the PAHO management of SHI. He does think that the present structure might make it difficult to make proposals directly to the new policy making body, since they would need to be presented first to the GSC before being seen by the GOC.

## Credit Union (CU)

Miguel Boluda, CEO, was pleased to tell the meeting that the CU had a good year: 13% growth in loans, 4% in deposits and a decrease in delinquencies. With over \$200 million in assets, it is well capitalized at 17.6%, well above the 7% benchmark. New developments include membership expansion to PAHO contractors, higher limits on mortgage loans and credit cards, and enhanced home and mobile banking. As in previous years, door prizes were generously offered by the CU. Ms. Berinstein thanked Mr. Boluda and the CU staff for their continuing support.



## Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1P.M.. The President thanked all for their presence and invited them to the Delegates Lounge where a buffet lunch (with wine!) provided an opportunity to continue conversations started earlier in the lobby or to inquire about colleagues' wellbeing and whereabouts. As we departed, wishes for happy holidays and a good year were exchanged and promises to keep in touch lingered in the air. ■

## New PAHO/WHO Assistant Director



Mexican researcher Dr. Francisco Becerra Posada was appointed PAHO/WHO Assistant Director effective 26 September 2013.

Dr. Becerra Posada, of Mexico, holds a Medical Degree from the Universidad Nacional de Mexico, a Masters of Public Health Degree from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore MD, USA, and a Doctorate in Public Health from the Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública de México.

He has served in many important positions in the field of public health and in the area of health research and development over a career that spans more than 30 years. Since November 2008, he has held several senior positions at the Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED), Switzerland, namely-Senior Consultant for Latin America, Head of Projects and Programs, and Senior Advisor/Coordinator for regional activities. This latter position is based in Mexico City, Mexico. Prior to his tenure with COHRED, he worked in Mexico as Director General for the State of Morelos' Health Services; the Joint Director General of the General Directorate for Federal Hospitals in the Ministry of Health; and Linkage Director responsible for Coordination for the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Becerra Posada has also worked as a consultant for numerous national and international organizations including PAHO and WHO, as well as non-governmental organizations throughout the world. He has authored many articles on public health and research and has contributed to numerous academic publications. ■

## AFSM Colombia Chapter

The Eighth Meeting of the AFSM Colombia Chapter, held in Bogotá on 17-18 October 2013, was deemed a success. The key factor was the new PAHO Representative, Dr Gina Watson, and her team; they provided full and enthusiastic support. Also partic-

ipating were members of ASOPENUC (former UN staff members). Dr. Raúl Londoño was elected as Chapter President, Dr. Maria C. Taborda as Secretary, and Aurora Montoya will continue on as Treasurer. ■



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

### DR. JOSÉ ROBERTO FERREIRA



**D**r. José Roberto Ferreira was a surgeon during the first decade of his professional life, working in that capacity until 1966. This activity, in Brazil, was combined with an intensive academic orientation, including planning and administration of medical education, offering technical advice for the establishment of several new schools in the cities of Rio de Janeiro, Londrina, Pelotas, Campos, and Niteroi, among others. He cooperated with WHO to organize the Medical School of Cameroon (Africa) and became Vice-Chancellor at the University of Brasilia.

He was invited to join PAHO in 1969 in the Department of Human Resources Development (HR) where, after a few years, he assumed the coordination, a position that he held for 20 years, launching public health programs emphasizing aspects related to development, research coordination, and international technical cooperation with the Member States of the Region. He oversaw the Fellowship Program of the Organization and the Journal of Medical Education and Health, and created the Residence Program in International Health. In 1974, he accompanied the first mission of the World Health Organization to the People's Republic of China to learn about the health services system of that country, and later on he took a group of experts to Russia to analyze their policies on HR training.

In 1996 he retired from PAHO and returned to Brazil where he was invited to work at the Oswaldo Cruz Foundation (FIOCRUZ), an important research

and educational institution under the Ministry of Health, where he assumed the position of Advisor to the Presidency in International Health. He also advised the Ministry of Health on the development of human resources, and he coordinated committees of new projects in this area.

Initially the program was directed at reorienting medical education in the majority of schools in the country, emphasizing primary health care (PRO-MED), but the program evolved to eventually cover all

health professions, including medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy, physiotherapy, and health technicians, among others (PRO-SAÚDE). Finally, another program, Programa de Educação pelo Trabalho (PET-SAÚDE) was established, dedicated to training students of those same professions directly at the level of the health services. It promoted research and training at this level with broad coverage, not only of diseases being treated but also addressing the social determinants of health.

Parallel to this activity he continued to work at FIOCRUZ, getting involved with the north-south cooperation from developed countries with the 22 Institutes of the Foundation, and he dedicated a great deal of effort to promoting technical cooperation with developing countries (south-south cooperation), mainly with South American countries and those of Portuguese-speaking Africa (the PALOPS). In 2009, his office was formally designated as the FIOCRUZ Global Health Centre (CRIS), growing from a small group of four people to 32 staff members, covering a great number

of programs. This cooperation followed a new approach in international relations through its close association with diplomacy, in which, instead of offering pre-determined assistance, it was based upon joint strategic planning together with the partner country.

Following the recommendations of the Paris Declaration, including harmonization with other donors, alignment was developed with the partners who most appreciated the new advances and who wanted to evaluate their efficacy. The emphasis of that cooperation was on improvement of the health systems, avoiding concentration on specific diseases. Support was given to the National Institutes of Health of partner countries, as well as to their schools of public health and schools of health technicians, to improve epidemiological surveillance, training of staff, promotion of innovations, and raising awareness about the social determinants of health.

Dr. Ferreira lives in Rio de Janeiro with his wife Beatriz. His sons live and work in Sao Paulo; his older daughter lives in the Washington, DC area and the younger one in Campo Grande, Mato Grosso do Sul. He also has five grandchildren and still hopes to have more. He has no particular hobbies, having lost his habit of entertaining and trying exotic foods, but maintains great interest in writing and publishing technical and scientific papers, which now total approximately 150.

During his professional career Dr. Ferreira was granted numerous national and international awards, among them the Oswaldo Cruz Gold Medal, a special recognition from the Ministry of Health of Brazil, and honorary professorships of several academic institutions, including among others, the Cayetano Heredia Peruvian University, the FIOCRUZ National School of Public Health, the University of Sucre, Bolivia, and the University of Brasilia. In 2002 he received the PAHO award of Public Health Hero of the Americas for his invaluable contribution to public health, medical education and global health. ■

## AFSM Website

AFSM is pleased to inform you that, with PAHO's support, it is making a number of virtual communication tools available to its membership. To keep communications secure, certain of these programs require an ID and password.

The first tool is the Association's **Website**. It can be accessed at: <http://afsmpano.com>.

When you go to this link, it opens the Website on the Home page, and you can navigate by clicking different tabs. There you will find the Newsletters in English, the By-Laws and other core documents of the Association. The Membership Directory, the Board of Directors, and the list of committees with their terms of reference are also included.

To honor the AFSM security policy, you will be asked to register using your e-mail address as it is listed in the AFSM Directory. Your email address will be used as your ID. It is therefore very important that you contact Hortensia Saginor to advise her if you have changed your e-mail address.

For the password you should use: Paho1902!. Be certain to include the exclamation point as it is part of the password.

Both members and non members may access the Webpage but, in accordance with AFSM security policy, only members who have registered can access the Directory and Virtual Room.

If you should have a "smart phone" you can gain access through the following "QR" (Quick Response) code:



In our last Newsletter we announced that AFSM has also launched its Facebook, to help members share information, comments and pictures. To log on, type: <http://www.facebook.com/groups/230159803692834/>. You must then request access as a "friend" and the

Moderator will allow access only after verifying that you are a member of the Association. Through Facebook you also can use the Virtual Room which provides long distance virtual meetings with PowerPoint presentations, as well as joint work on the same document by multiple people. Instructions on how to do these things can be found under the Virtual Room tab at the Association's Website.

For more information please contact Cristina Torres at [torres.tina.08@gmail.com](mailto:torres.tina.08@gmail.com). ■

## Visit to AFSM Geneva

by Nancy Berinstein

Many AFSM members living in the Washington area and those participants at the International Reunion in Panama will probably remember meeting Jean-Paul Menu (President of AFSM/Geneva) and his wife Chantal. My husband Herb and I recently accepted an invitation from the Menus to visit them in Lyon, France, and to attend a luncheon at WHO Headquarters in Geneva. It was our first visit to Lyon, and we could not have hoped for more knowledgeable and gracious hosts



Sue Block Tyrrell, Vice-President AFSM/Geneva, Jean-Paul Menu, President AFSM/Geneva, Nancy Berinstein, President, AFSM/Washington

After a few days of enjoying wonderful walks through the old section of Lyon and sampling chocolate croissants every morning for breakfast, we drove to Geneva for a meeting with AFSM colleagues. Jean-Paul had thoughtfully arranged a luncheon at WHO Headquarters, and it was there that I was introduced to many individuals whose names were familiar but who I had never before had an opportunity to meet.

During a casual and yet very informative conversation I learned how they continually update their Directory, how they plan their international reunions, and how they promote AFSM membership. I also learned of the productive relationship between AFSM and the Headquarters administration.

Much conversation revolved around the new Health Insurance Governance System, and I took the opportunity to urge greater transparency and involvement for the benefit of Regional Offices. It was generally agreed that we all gain by these personal exchanges, and a lively interest was expressed by several Board members to visit Washington next year when we celebrate the AFSM/Washington 25th anniversary. I happily agreed to do my best to make this happen. Indeed, this is something to which we may all look forward! ■



From left to right: Sue Block Tyrrell, Yves Beigbeder, Herb Rosenthal, Roger Fontana, David Cohen, Anne Yamada, Chantal Menu, Nancy Berinstein, Ann Van Hulle

## Staff Health Insurance (SHI) News

The good news is that the new governance system approved at the end of 2011 is finally up and running. The General Oversight Committee met in October with Ann Van Hulle attending as the retiree representative (Clas Sandstrom as alternate). PAHO was also represented on this Committee by Dr. Jon Andrus, Deputy Director and Dr. Reynaldo Holder representing the Regional Staff Association. This Committee attends to policy matters and rules changes, looks after the financial health of the system as well as other general matters, recommending justified changes to the Director General. Its next meeting is scheduled for the Spring of 2014. The

General Standing Committee, which attends to more operational matters, including the functioning of the Regional Surveillance Committees, meets monthly and has met several times since November. It reviews cases needing special authorization that are not dealt with by either SHI or the RSCs. It also suggests, based on trends, positive changes to the system. Jean-Paul Menu and Marjory Dam are the elected retiree representatives with Francoise Hery-Persin and Carol Collado as alternates.

The retiree representatives were elected through a global voting process. They are charged with identifying issues of interest to the retiree population and they now have an e-mail address through which all covered retirees may contact them: [shi.retrep@gmail.com](mailto:shi.retrep@gmail.com). Issues identified include: better communication and access to SHI information for retirees, recognition of WHO insurance by health institutions, compensation for payments to national health systems, catastrophic management, among others. Please feel free to contact the members individually or through the common email.

Financially, the Fund balance on 31 December 2012 was USD 601 million, which represented an increase of USD 73 million (14%) compared to the end of 2011. While this is good news, there are several other factors. Retirees are responsible for a deficit and the number of retirees compared to staff is increasing. In addition, WHO has agreed to abide by the accounting practices advocated by the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS), which obligate a reserve equal to estimated claims for a 30 year advance period. Under those standards, WHO could be considered in deficit and it will have to contribute a significant amount yearly for some time to the reserve fund to be in compliance.

The breakdown of costs is as follows: hospital-related expenses account for 34.9% of total expenses; physicians' fees account for 19%, medicines 17% and dental care 9.6%. Domiciliary and institutional nursing care now accounts for 3.4% of total expenses.<sup>1</sup> As the insured population ages and as a result of an increase in the benefits for long-term care that were introduced a few years ago, expenses related to this category of care is likely to continue to increase. Expenditure under all categories needs to be closely and constantly monitored and analyzed in order to avoid having to further increase contributions to meet expenses. Because the SHI is self-funded and self-administered, it is in everyone's interest to do their best to preserve the health of the system and insure our opportunity to continue to enjoy one of the best coverages in the world. ■

<sup>1</sup>Staff Health Insurance Report for the year 2012. World Health Organization Geneva, Switzerland

## Reminder about UN Pension Letters

The payment of pension benefits is linked to the receipt by the Fund's New York office of a statement of survival known as the Certificate of Entitlement (CE). Beneficiaries should have received their CEs in late October 2013, and they should have been sent back, duly completed, by the end of the year.

You must allow up to two months after mailing your CE for the online system to be updated, so February and March are the key months for you to make sure that the certificate arrived at its destination. The reason is that in April the wheels of fortune are turned one more notch, and if the certificate has not arrived the stop-payment order is given, a shocking fact that may come to your attention when you receive your bank deposit statement early in May.

**Here are the steps you need to follow to access the Fund's website and view your account:**

- Go to [www.unjspf.org](http://www.unjspf.org).
- Click Welcome (for English).
- Click Beneficiary.
- On the left side you can see the CE Tracking System.
- On the rest of the screen there are interesting articles, such as the Annual Letter of the CEO and a new quarterly report on investments, presented in English, French and Spanish. These are for general information, open to any reader.
- Click on CE Tracking System in the left-hand column and log into the Secure Documents page.
- If you are a new user, click Beneficiaries to register and follow the instructions provided.
- If you are an established user, enter your Retirement Number and Password (or PIN). ■

## A Trip Down Memory Lane

by Nancy Berinstein



In the latest newsletter from Geneva, Jill Conway-Fell has written about EURO's new home in Copenhagen. It seems that, after many years, the WHO Regional Office for Europe has joined sister UN Agencies and international organizations and moved into UN City. We are told that this new complex is a cutting-edge, environmentally friendly hub for UN agency operations in Copenhagen. Left behind is the EURO building complex at 8 Scherfigsvej, which had been in operation since 1961.

8 Scherfigsvej had a history. It used to be a private home and estate for a wealthy Danish industrialist. In time, the home was opened to and used by the needy. During the winter the home served the elderly in the Copenhagen community. And during the summer it was used as an international student hostel. Students flocked there from countries all over the world. They were attracted by the less than US\$1.00 per evening price for a clean bed and full breakfast. Of course, the boys' and girls' bedrooms were segregated, but the living room area permitted evenings of great conversation. Bicycles were made available for trips into town. The backyard had a volleyball net and a walkway down to the water.

Your writer was fortunate enough to spend part of her summer at the hostel in the summer of '61. It was so lovely that a planned three-day visit expanded to ten days before I reluctantly continued my tour of the continent. Before departing, however, I

learned that the doors would soon be closing and the home would be taken over by some unnamed international organization. Imagine my delight, many years later, to return to 8 Scherfigsvej and stroll through former bedrooms which were now used as EURO office space!

So now, on to UN City – but it will never have the memories of the old EURO building at 8 Scherfigsvej!

It was on the same trip in 1961 that I visited Geneva and was particularly drawn to the United Nations building. I stood to have my photo taken in its courtyard. On my recent trip to Geneva I learned that, for security reasons, it is no longer possible for casual visitors to enter the building.

Nevertheless, I think back to my visit to the hostel in Copenhagen and to the United Nations building in Geneva and wonder if it were really my college education and experience that brought me to my position at PAHO/WHO.

## Inauguration of UN City Campus in Copenhagen

On 4 July 2013, UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, together with H.M. Queen Margrethe II of Denmark, cut the ribbon officially opening UN City in Copenhagen.

Mr Ban Ki-moon thanked the Government of Denmark for its generous investment and support, stating that the UN City would act as “a cutting-edge, environmentally friendly hub for United Nations’ agency operations”.

The concept of a more efficient and coherent UN was first strongly emphasized in “The Millennium Declaration” adopted by world leaders in 2000. The Danish Government, wishing to lend its support to the idea in practical terms, decided soon afterwards to investigate the possibility of moving the Copenhagen-based

UN agencies into one single compound. The 8 agencies are UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UNICEF (moving 250 staff from present temporary premises at the beginning of this year), UNOPS, UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) WFP, and WHO. Bringing so many UN organizations together in one location allows, inter alia, for enhanced cooperation and ability to “Deliver as ONE”.

In the words of Mr. Ban, the work carried out by the UN agencies in Copenhagen “makes a real difference to the lives of the poor and vulnerable”, and Denmark should be “rightly proud” of its contribution. ■

— Extracted from Jill Conway-Fell's article in the AFSM Geneva newsletter published October 2013.

## Creation of AFSM Manila

**On 16 May 2013, a Grand Fellowship Reunion of WHO Retirees based in the Philippines was held at the WPRO lounge.**

A formerly loose association of retirees has been formally organized into AFSM (Manila). It has about 120 members (including retirees from other WHO offices and surviving spouses who are now based in the Philippines), and membership is expected to increase as others are invited to join. At present, the membership fee is on a voluntary basis but will be reviewed at the next meeting. Former WHO staff members having retired in the Philippines and retirees having worked in the Regional Office for the Western Pacific Region are welcomed, but not yet former WHO staff Members who reside in other countries of the WPR. They may wish to set up their own association. Members are expected to enjoy their retirement and live longer if they are together.

The Bureau team comprises the following (two-year term of office):

President: Romy Murillo; Vice Presidents: Thelma Ballat and Pilar Topacio; Secretary: Cora Omega and Elsie Ventura (Alternate); Liaison with AFICS-Philippines: Diane Regudo; General Programme

Coordination: Nita Redondo; Treasurer: Lily Balinghasay and Lou Rodriguez (Alternate); Photos & Publications: Carm Uhde.

On 23 May 2013 a Yahoo Group was created inviting every member with an email address to join in order to facilitate posting of messages intended for all members. The web page is [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/afsm\\_Manila](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/afsm_Manila). Connect with the official Facebook Fan Page, [www.facebook.com/AfsmManila](http://www.facebook.com/AfsmManila).

The Bureau met on 25 June 2013 to discuss a courtesy call with the RD to strengthen their relationship, the possibility of sharing an office with the staff association, and a link on the WPRO website. It was also decided to hold an annual Christmas party on 12 December 2013. The Directory will be updated regularly to improve communication with members. Additionally, a meeting will be scheduled with the officers of the Mutual Benefit Fund (MBF), giving tributes to retirees who pass away, a newsletter, SHI, and pension matters, etc.

At the moment there is an email address for posting messages ([afsm\\_Manila@yahoo.com](mailto:afsm_Manila@yahoo.com)), but no telephone number nor mail address. The possibility of a website link to WPRO and mail/office address will be brought up in the pending courtesy call with the RD. Members are contacted through SMS, which is the most

common and effective way to communicate as all of them are equipped with a mobile telephone.

While in Geneva, President Romulo (Romy) Murillo had the privilege of meeting with members of the Bureau of AFSM on 18 July 2013 and discussing briefly AFSM (Manila). This was followed by a hearty lunch at the WHO restaurant, with thanks to Jean-Paul Menu, Anne Yamada, Sue Block Tyrrell and Dev Ray for their warm reception. Having worked with Anne and Jean-Paul in Manila, it was also a time of reminiscing about work experiences and memories. The idea of having free anti-flu vaccination in WPRO, as enjoyed by retirees living around Geneva, for those retirees with SHI

coverage was brought up to reduce SHI costs and improve the health of retirees. ■

— *Written by Romulo Murillo for the AFSM Geneva Newsletter, October 2013*

**Note:** AFSM/Washington has written Romulo Morillo to congratulate the WPRO former staff and to welcome them into the AFSM family. We have also expressed our dismay and concern for the countless numbers of Filipinos who have been terribly affected by the powerful Typhoon Haiyan, which brought mass destruction to all those in its path.

“alumni” in some associations) changes matters as well, as the more traditional topics of health insurance and pension plans may not affect them at all. These topics will, of course, continue being important for retirees, but “alumni” are more interested in networking and job-related issues than retirees. So far, with one or two exceptions, the associations have not accommodated them very well.

Most associations rely on the mother organization for their information technology (IT) and other communication hardware. This raises issues of passwords and security matters. Some information could be shared openly (e.g., social events), other information should be restricted (e.g., directories). Members tend to get discouraged about using the platforms if too many passwords are needed. Associations were strongly advised to stick to the simplest platforms, with links to other social networks, in a manner that will make it as easy as possible to utilize them.

The other working group looked at similarities and differences in the associations and found that the most important ones were the common values and interests that link us and the possibilities that our coming together would offer for sharing information, issues, concerns, and opportunities.

Differences were identified, principally in the membership criteria, with some agencies moving towards “alumni” status and younger participation and others focusing only on retirees. This difference is also reflected in the goals, with those focusing on retirees being more oriented towards pension, health, and social venues and those involving “alumni” having additional interests focused on professional issues and networking for finding employment.

Another topic discussed in this area was that some of the organizations have sites or chapters better organized than others but that where they do exist, they should be given a general framework and bylaws guidelines, while having the possibility of developing their own work plans and agendas.

It was concluded that annual meetings are useful for providing opportunities for general review, the presentation of new themes, and discussion of common issues. It was decided that an effort will be made to share social and educational events and to make them open to other organizations. Greater effort is needed to improve the synergy among the groups and to maintain contact during the year through face-to-face meetings and social media.

Better communication was seen as the key to helping to improve sharing on a continuous basis. Special interest meetings, web sharing, and social and educational event-sharing were all mentioned as possibilities.

A goal to develop a cost-effective and efficient communications strategy which would permit rapid and easy access was established. Several means of accomplishing this were discussed:

- a) A specific Facebook page would initially connect the key people in each organization and could be expanded to others if deemed interesting.
- b) The development of a collaborative federation was discussed, but eventually it was felt that this might duplicate efforts of other groups such as AFICS of FAFICS.
- c) Opening websites to others which at present is not possible for IMFRA or AFSM/PAHO/ WHO since they are imbedded in the host organizations.

IMFRA offered to identify a person/persons who could further look at establishing a Facebook or other form of continual communication among the officers of the organizations that would stimulate future sharing and to notify the organizations in the near future on this development.

At the end of the day we all joined together again to share the results of our discussions and to come up with some final conclusions. We have been struggling for a short name to call ourselves, and for the time being it was decided to keep the name Associations of Retirees/Alumni of International Organizations (ARAIIO). ■

## Workshop of Associations of Retirees/Alumni



In the afternoon the group was divided into two working groups. One addressed how our associations might use social media to communicate with and better serve our respective members. A very lively exchange took place. Almost all associations indicated that about 30% of their members do not have access to or use computers. Accepting that snail mail will have to continue does not mean that it should be the main communications route. For speed and cost, we should all move towards making electronics the main conduit for information. As the cohorts of membership evolve in time, computer literacy will no doubt increase.

Some associations receive members automatically on retirement. Others require them to formally enlist. The number of new members as a percentage of eligible staff seems to be decreasing. Many associations make the spouse of a deceased member a full member, which requires adjustments in communications.

Electronics also allows for two-way communication. This would be a major change in philosophy: instead of communications being used only to inform the membership on issues considered important by the Boards, it will also allow the Boards to listen to members, a process hitherto complicated. Such a change is expected to make participation in the associations much more appealing for members. In any event, there was agreement that the most important issue is that of content. What topics should be part of communications between the associations and their members? The means for that communication are, of course, important, and should be selected to facilitate exchanges, but more effort should go into content.

It was also agreed that the emergence of an important class of non-retiree former staff members (called

On Friday, 18 October, our own AFSM hosted the Fifth Annual Workshop of Associations of Retirees/ Alumni of International Organizations (ARAIIO), with participants from AFICS/W and AFICS/NY, AROAS, IMFRA, AFE-ADB, the 1818 Society, IDB, and PAHO/WHO. The main focus was on using social media to improve services both for our members and for communication and collaboration among all the associations. In the morning there were three sets of presentations: Shanagh Delay and Cristian Young from Columbia University spoke about the different types of social media available today, how they can be used, and what are critical elements for their successes; Paulo Lyra from PAHO shared experiences from PAHO and from AFSM in using social media successfully; and Andy Steggles, CEO of Higher Logic, spoke about using private social media for better engaging members of associations.

### Welcome to New AFSM Members July to December 2013

#### From the Washington, DC Area

Elena Chambers  
Julia M. Claudio  
Lucía I. Jimenez

#### From Other Countries

Eliane de Young Olive Moura – Brazil  
Zoila Razuri de Ponce – Peru  
Hugo Prado Monje – Bolivia



## Miguel Boluda - PAHO Federal Credit Union



Since 1949, the PAHO/WHO Federal Credit Union has been serving the employees, retirees, and family members of the Pan American Health Organization. From its modest beginnings of offering savings accounts and small loans, the credit union today offers a full

array of financial products to its nearly 5,000 members.

As a member-owned financial cooperative the credit union is led by a 9-member Board of Directors that is committed to its mission of providing quality products and personalized services at fair prices. A key part of living up to this mission is the board's commitment to hiring experienced professionals to manage the day-to-day affairs of what is considered to be a complex financial institution. Since May 2003 this professional leadership has been provided by Mr. Miguel Boluda, Jr., the credit union's Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Miguel is a native of Havana, Cuba who immigrated to the United States with his parents and siblings in 1962. Eventually, the family settled in the Washington, DC area where Miguel was raised and received his elementary and high school education. As a graduate of the University of Maryland College Park he began his banking career working as a part-time bank teller during his college years. Shortly after receiving his undergraduate business degree he began his credit union career at Justice Federal Credit Union (JFCU) as a Member Service Representative. Over the next 21 years Miguel held many staff, departmental, supervisory, and senior leadership positions with JFCU. Upon deciding to take that next step in his career Miguel was intrigued by the opportunity to lead a credit union that served an international membership and had such a strong relationship with its member-owners. Miguel believes the credit union's commitment to developing trust, confidence and reliability in its services, demonstrating integrity and soundness in the way it conducts business and being an integral part of the PAHO/WHO community, were key factors in his decision to accept the Chief Executive Officer position.

During Miguel's 10 years as CEO, the credit union has grown approximately \$70 million in assets, \$23 million in loans and 1,300 in membership. The credit union also expanded its physical operations in 2010 by

opening a full service branch office located across the street from PAHO HQ in the Columbia Plaza apartment and retail complex. In addition,... the credit union has increased its support and sponsorship of many PAHO and AFISM activities and events.

Miguel is also quite involved with the credit union community in the Metropolitan Washington area. Since 2006 he has been a member of the Maryland & District of Columbia Credit Union Association (MDDCCUA) Board of Directors. During his tenure on the association board he has served in the positions of Secretary, Vice Chairman and Chairman. His commitment to the credit union industry and his leadership were recognized in June 2012 when he was named the MDDCCUA Professional of the Year. In addition to his professional commitments Miguel has an active family life with his wife and four children. ■

## New Ambassador to Brazil

On 12 September 2013 our friend and colleague, Jaime Ayalde and his wife Mercedes, had the great pleasure of watching their daughter Liliana sworn in as the U. S. Ambassador to Brazil. Ambassador Ayalde grew up as part of the PAHO family and accompanied her parents on their assignments to various Latin American and Caribbean countries where her father served as a malariologist for the organization.

She began her Foreign Service career by joining the U.S. Agency for International Development in 1981 and since that time has served with distinction in several Latin American countries. She has most recently served as U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere. Between 2008 and 2011 she was the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Paraguay.

Ambassador Ayalde is a native of Maryland and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the School of International Studies at American University in Washington, DC and a Master of Public Health from Tulane University in Louisiana. She is married and has two daughters.

Liliana Ayalde is the recipient of numerous honors and awards and has made her parents very proud! ■

## Health Information Tips

### Never too old to plan or to change\*

by Martha Pelaez

No one wants to grow too old to enjoy things we love. I learned this from a 95-year-old woman who told me, "The moment I am too old to enjoy life I want to be dead." This person's vitality is still engraved in my memory. She suffered from multiple chronic conditions, and life was not easy by any stretch of the imagination. However, she had learned to be in control of those things that often accompany chronic health problems.

So how can we vaccinate ourselves against inactivity? The challenge is to learn how to function at our best regardless of the difficulties life and illness present. The goal of healthy aging is to continue to do the things we enjoy. Unfortunately, there is no simple solution to inactivity in old age.

The science of aging does not offer a magic bullet, but we can find tips and ideas to help us get more out of life. A menu of three Cs can help us organize a healthy aging plan.

**1. Stay Current.** A major part of healthy aging is learning to become effective resource detectives. The Internet is the fastest growing source of health information today – with the good and the bad. Information is added every second of every day, so we need to sharpen our skills using computer search engines and identifying reliable sources of information. As a general rule of thumb, the better we are with web searches and social media, the easier it is to find resources in our community. Knowledge about aging and information on community resources are key tools for healthy aging. PAHO retirees bring years of working in public health – can we switch our old interests for new interests? Old ways of doing research for new ways of accessing research on healthy aging?

**2. Stay Connected.** Sustaining our social identity during long years of retirement requires a lot of social capital. The challenge is to adjust our traditional ways of thinking about old age; for the most part we are first generation of retirees who have over 25 years of

active life expectancy, and we have to 'invent' our social connectivity. Reexamining the ways we spend our time and who we spend it with can help us to best utilize the gift of longevity. Staying connected is easier said than done when we suffer from multiple chronic conditions and live in hostile environments marked by highways and suburban spreads rather than by an intergenerational village.

Staying connected requires structuring time for making new connections:

- join a group: a book club, a community college class, an internet group, a walking group, or the YMCA;
- think positive: challenge your automatic negative thoughts – write down your negative soap opera and re-write it as a story of endless possibilities;
- do something for someone else: volunteer at the local school or at the museum, or organize a respite group for friends caring for someone with dementia.

The gift of longevity comes with a demand: get good at making new friends; old friends may not have the gift of longevity. Learn to enjoy younger generations and new versions of work, art, music, and culture.

**3. Stay in Control.** It is impossible to enjoy old age without being a problem-solver and a positive self-manager. We are all self managers; some manage by simply deciding not to decide – they simply do nothing. Other people decide, in spite of chronic health problems, to move on with life and enjoy living a full and active life. Self-management is always a decision: a decision to be active or a decision to do nothing. Healthy aging is about a decision to stay in control and decide one can do something to enjoy life. Can we transfer our program management skills to personal self-management for healthy aging?

A positive self-manager is good at goal setting. We will only do what we want to do. If exercise is something that my doctor wants me to do, or my wife/husband wants me to do, it won't happen. What do I want? If reducing my pain is what I want to do,

would I do anything to reduce pain? What is the evidence that increasing physical activity will reduce arthritic pain? Can I find the information about exercise routines that are effective for someone living with arthritis? Is exercising to reduce pain something that I want to do? Then write an action plan to meet your goal. By focusing on what you can do rather than what you can't do, you're more likely to lead a more positive and happier life.

The Patient Education and Research Center at Stanford University has over 20 years of research proving that the benefits of change in our lives go beyond the payoff of adopting healthier habits. Obviously, we feel better when we exercise or eat well, keep regular sleeping hours, etc. But regardless of the behavior that is altered, there is evidence that the feelings of self-confidence and control over your life that come from making any successful change improve your health. As we age, control over a small part of life is essential for healthy aging.

According to Stanford, the basics of a successful action plan for behavior change are the following:

- It is something you want to do.
- It is achievable (something you can expect to be able to accomplish that week).
- It is action-specific.
- It answers the questions: What? How much? When? and How often?
- You are sure that you will complete your entire plan at a level of 7 or higher on a scale from 0= not at all sure to 10= absolutely sure.

At the end of each week, see if you completed your action plan and if you are any nearer to accomplishing your goal. Are you able to walk farther? Have you lost weight? Are you less anxious? Taking stock is important. You may not see progress day by day, but you should see a little progress each week. At the end of each week, check on how well you have fulfilled your action plan. If you are having problems, this is the time to use your problem-solving skills. ■

*\*Reference: Kate Lorig, RN, DrPH; H. Holman, MD; David Sobel, MD, MPH; Diana Laurent, MPH, Virginia Gonzalez, MPH, Marian Minor, RPT, Ph.D. Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions. Bull Publishing Company. Boulder: Colorado. 2012*

## Remembering Our Colleagues



**Kuang Chi Liang**  
1921-2013

As countries and international agencies are again aiming at malaria elimination, it is pertinent to recall the figure of Dr. KC Liang, who spent his life on that pursuit under increasingly adverse circumstances.

Early during his medical studies (1942-1945), KC's sensitivity and social concern were struck by the burden of communicable diseases and the value of prevention, being particularly attracted to parasitology and epidemiology under the guidance of Dr. Kaoru Morishita, professor of medicine at The Japanese Imperial University in Taipei. Professor Morishita was one of the pioneers of malaria work in Taiwan.

After graduation and a year of work as a pediatrician at Taiwan University Hospital, KC joined the Department of Communicable Diseases, playing an important role in the control of a cholera epidemic which struck Taiwan in 1946.

It is not surprising that the launching of the malaria eradication campaign attracted the young KC and that his already solid background and enthusiasm led to his appointment as Director of the Taiwan Malaria Research Institute and Team Leader of the Malaria Eradication Program in 1946, conducting field research and experimental control, and gaining a fellowship to obtain a Masters in Public Health at Johns Hopkins University in 1950-1951.

KC's pragmatism and his scientific approach were essential for guiding the campaign, adapting to the local

conditions, and finally achieving eradication in 1957. KC valued discipline, but also informed initiatives. He attracted and formed a team of competent collaborators, who later joined WHO in various parts of the world.

When, in 1956, the WHO Malaria Expert Committee was charged with designing the guidelines for Malaria Eradication Campaigns, KC was called on to be a member of the committee, having been the first to succeed in heading an eradication program in a tropical country, on a national scale. PAHO had adopted the policy of malaria eradication in 1954 and was helping countries to establish their own campaigns. Dr. Carlos Alberto Alvarado, from Argentina, who was the Director of the PASB/WHO Coordination Office for Malaria Eradication Programs, Mexico, was impressed by KC's contribution to the expert committee and asked him to join PAHO.

KC was charged with the coordination of the campaigns in the Caribbean, including French Guiana, Guyana and Surinam from 1957 to 1963. The complexity of the task was increased by the skepticism of some scientists who overestimated the role of some forest anophelines, which could bite outdoors during the day. It required KC's epidemiological analysis to show that such forest transmission was only sporadic and dependent on people infected elsewhere. Properly organized campaigns finally succeeded in eradicating malaria from all the islands, except in Hispaniola.

After his success in the Caribbean, KC was charged with the coordination of malaria eradication teams in the PAHO zone IV (Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia), concentrating his efforts on helping young malariologists.

In 1966, he was appointed Regional Malariologist/Epidemiologist at PAHO headquarters in Washington, DC, where he had to deal with program coordination at the continental level. He was particularly hampered by the growing dissatisfaction of funding agencies with the progress of the global campaign, which led to the withdrawal of support from UNICEF and UNDP and considerable reductions in the contributions from USAID and some national governments. KC's solid arguments contributed to a large extent to smooth the impact, in PAHO, of the starving of funds, which affected malaria eradication and control all over the world during the decades of 1970 and 1980.

KC's competence continued to be in high demand after his retirement from PAHO in 1981, serving as consultant to numerous countries in the Americas, Asia and the Pacific. He continued to participate in evaluation meetings and in the WHO Expert Committee on Malaria. He passed away on June 15, 2013.

Most malariologists, who had the opportunity of working with KC, at one time or another, miss the easy access to his wisdom and common sense when considering new problems.

Sadly, KC's beloved wife, Chin-Che (Kim), passed away in February 2010. He is survived by his sons Li-Shiang and Li-Ting, daughter Ma-Li, daughter-in-law Georgia, and grandson Tai.

Author José A. Nájera came to PAHO in '69 as a research officer in malaria, was appointed coordinator of Vector Control in '74 and Chief of Malaria and Vector Control in '80. He went to Geneva in '82 as Director of the Malaria Action Programme and in 1990 became the Director of Division of Control of Tropical Diseases. Over the years he worked very closely with Dr. Liang and wants this article to be a tribute to a decent and intelligent man who was highly respected and admired by all. ■

## In Memoriam

### DEATHS REPORTED IN 2013

Neville Foster	7 August 2013
Olimpia Briceño	7 August 2013
Richard H. Morrow	17 August 2013
José Angel Dinelli	6 September 2013
Elbio Suarez Ojeda	12 September 2013
Courney Michael Abersin	12 September 2013
George M. Gillespie	22 September 2013
Jorge Osuna	6 October 2013
Vicente M. Astudillo	8 October 2013
Ronaldo Luna	16 October 2013
Eugene Eung, Sou	27 October 2013
Abraham Drobny	29 October 2013
Francisco Vasquez Balda	11 November 2013
Galo Atahualpa, Ruiz Rivas	14 November, 2013
Cho ng-Hyun Hwang	27 November 2013
Lolita Ortiz	14 December 2013

### CONDOLENCES TO AFSM MEMBERS

To Ramon Tomé for his wife, Nelly who died October 30, 2013

# The Back Page

The AFSM Board and committee coordinators would like to know about the needs of its members. We might not be able to solve all your problems but we have resources that could be utilized. Also, we encourage your contributions to the Newsletter, either in the form of articles for publication or in comments about its contents.

To reach us, write to:

**AFSM c/o PAHO**  
525 23rd St NW  
Washington DC 20037-2895

## Contact Information

Please refer to your 2013 AFSM Directory and be certain that all your personal contact information is correct. We also encourage you to provide us with your email address so that important and pertinent information can be electronically mailed to you. Any changes or additions to your address should be sent to Hortensia Saginor (AFSM) by routine mail to PAHO Headquarters in Washington DC or, preferably, by email to [isaginor@aol.com](mailto:isaginor@aol.com) or [hortensiasagi@gmail.com](mailto:hortensiasagi@gmail.com)



## Officers

**Nancy Berinstein** ('14)  
*President*  
(301) 229-3162  
[nancy.berinstein@verizon.net](mailto:nancy.berinstein@verizon.net)

**Carol Collado** ('14)  
*Vice President*  
(301) 384-1212  
[collado@verizon.net](mailto:collado@verizon.net)

**Enrique Fefer** ('16)  
*Secretary*  
(301) 340-6799  
[feferenr@yahoo.com](mailto:feferenr@yahoo.com)

**Hortensia R. Saginor** ('14)  
*Membership Officer*  
(301) 654-7482  
[isaginor@aol.com](mailto:isaginor@aol.com)  
[hortensiasagi@gmail.com](mailto:hortensiasagi@gmail.com)

**Sylvia Schultz** ('16)  
*Treasurer*  
(703) 273-7252  
[myfoothome@hotmail.com](mailto:myfoothome@hotmail.com)

## Members-at-large

**Mario Boyer** ('15)  
(301) 229-9547  
[meboyer1966@comcast.net](mailto:meboyer1966@comcast.net)

**Germán Perdomo** ('15)  
(703) 310-7013  
[perdomog@gmail.com](mailto:perdomog@gmail.com)

**Hernán Rosenberg** ('16)  
(301) 983-5432  
[hernanrosenberg@gmail.com](mailto:hernanrosenberg@gmail.com)

**Cristina Torres** ('15)  
(301) 608-8137  
[torres.tina.08@gmail.com](mailto:torres.tina.08@gmail.com)

## Honorary Members

**Jaime Ayalde**  
(301) 983-0569  
[jayalde@aol.com](mailto:jayalde@aol.com)

**Hans Bruch**  
(301) 530-5450  
[hbruch@erols.com](mailto:hbruch@erols.com)

**Jean Surgi**  
(301) 762-7490  
[jayess1@verizon.net](mailto:jayess1@verizon.net)

**Note:** The term of each member of the BOD expires in December of the year in parentheses.

## Communications Committee

Coordinator – Cristina Torres  
Members – Germán Perdomo,  
Hernán Rosenberg

## Publications Committee

Coordinator – Nancy Berinstein  
Editor-In-Chief – Marilyn Rice  
Members – Jaime Ayalde, Enrique Fefer,  
Jean Surgi, Cristina Torres

## External Relations Committee

Coordinator – Nancy Berinstein  
Members – Carol Collado, Enrique Fefer,  
Hernán Rosenberg

## Outreach Committee

Coordinator – Germán Perdomo  
Members –  
Brazil: Cesar Viera  
Chile: Alfredo Ballevena  
Guatemala: Samuel Arévalo  
USA: Amalia Castro, Carol Collado,  
Hernan Rosenberg,  
Mercedes Vargas

## Health Insurance & Pension Committee

Coordinator – Carol Collado  
Members – Jaime Ayalde,  
Nancy Berinstein, Mario Boyer,  
Jerry Hanson, Jean Surgi

**Membership Office** – Hortensia R. Saginor

**Auditor** – Fredy Burgos