



NEWSLETTER

OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER PAHO/WHO STAFF MEMBERS

VOLUME XII NO. 1

SPRING 2002

AFSM PAHO CENTENNIAL REUNION - "PAHO FOREVER - OPS SIEMPRE"

30 November-4 December 2002

Preparations are well under way for the first ever reunion of former PAHO/WHO staff members, timed to coincide with PAHO's 100th birthday on 2 December 2002. About 100 people have already indicated that they will attend.

Tentative plans include the following events:

Celebratory activities will get under way on the afternoon of Saturday, 30 November, with registration and hospitality for members (both local and from the field) and their guests.

On Monday, 2 December, the actual birthday of the founding of PAHO, attendees will be transported to the PAHO Headquarters building to participate in the formal celebration activities. Other events to be held at some time during the reunion are the AFSM Annual Meeting and luncheon, and a reception to be offered by Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, Director of PAHO.

On Wednesday morning, 4 December, there will be a discussion about AFSM activities in the field, and the reunion will close at noon that day. Whenever there are no other events scheduled, AFSM participants will hold formal and informal sessions at the hotel to reminisce and make presentations about their PAHO years.

Accommodations and all activities related to the reunion (except those at PAHO Headquarters) will be at the Holiday Inn in downtown Chevy Chase, Maryland, within walking distance of the Friendship Heights Metro station on the Red Line. The address is:

Holiday Inn - Chevy Chase
5520 Wisconsin Avenue MD 20815
Tel: (301) 656-1500

Accommodations at the Holiday Inn will be at the preferential rate of US\$99 (+ 5% tax = \$103.95) per room per day. For those who have requested them, reservations have been made for the nights of Saturday, 30 November, through Tuesday, 3 December. If you wish other dates, please let us know so we can adjust your reservation.

Association members, both local and from the field, and other former staff of PAHO who would like to participate in the centennial events but have not yet registered should advise Jose Teruel at AFSM by mail (see Back Page for addresses) or e-mail to:

terueljr@paho.org OR isagrinor@aol.com

A registration form is attached for your convenience.

What will AFSM host and what will be at attendees' expense?

The Association will host the hospitality room, luncheon for members attending the Annual Meeting (guests are welcome to attend at their own expense), and transportation to PAHO for official events. Attendees will be responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs, any other meals, and personal expenses.

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Jan Barahona

Amanda Ellauri

Jean Surgi

Jaime Ayalde, ex officio

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BOOK OF MEMORIES

On the occasion of PAHO's Centennial, AFSM plans to produce a "Book of Memories," compiled from the contributions of Association members and other former PAHO staff. Members are asked to contribute a short summary of their PAHO experience; it should be not more than two single-spaced pages in length and should include name, country of origin, place or places of work with PAHO/WHO, and positions held. It is important to mention names of colleagues with whom you worked or whom you knew during your time with the Organization, thereby helping all of us to remember others and creating a chain of memories. Send your contribution by e-mail or in hard copy (preferably accompanied by a disk) by September to allow time to compile and reproduce copies to distribute at the December reunion.

OTHER CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

The PAHO Internet website, www.paho.org, is a rich source of information related to its Centennial. Topics include: Centennial Home, Centennial Store, Advisory Board, Champions of Health, Public Health Heroes, Centennial Flashbacks, Awards/Contests, Calendar of Events, and Press/Media Center. We urge members to spend some time browsing through this information. If you do not have a PC of your own, perhaps you can use one at a public library or at the home of a friend.

An especially interesting section is Centennial Flashbacks, which includes articles from the early days of PAHO such as:

- First International Sanitary Conference held in Washington, D.C.
- Washington, D.C. office recommended for the Pan American Sanitary Bureau
- 1924: Pan American Sanitary Code adopted
- The early days of a Bureau
- The Bureau creates a "traveling representative"
- Public Health worries of 1927
- Opening of a New Building for America's Health; Public Information Newsletter – 1965
- A Sculpture in Light and Concrete: AMERICAS Magazine takes a look at PAHO headquarters – 1965

It also contains a special multimedia feature, Voices of the Centennial, which can be seen and heard on the computer.

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the most recent Centennial Calendar of Events.

MEETING WITH THE DIRECTOR

Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, Director of PAHO, met with several members of the AFSM Board of Director on Monday, 4 February 2002. Present were Jaime Ayalde, President; Jose Teruel, Vice President; Jean Surgi, Secretary; and Hans Bruch, Founding President.

Board members thanked Dr. Alleyne for his continuing support and reviewed past and planned activities of the Association, particularly those related to the Centennial and the reunion of retirees. The Director said that his liaison for all Centennial activities would be Ms Brynna Brennan, Office of Public Information, and that she would assist AFSM in its reunion planning.



Jean Surgi, Hans Bruch, Dr. George Alleyne, Jaime Ayalde, and Jose Teruel

SPRING LUNCHEON

The AFSM spring luncheon at La Panetteria Restaurant in Bethesda MD on 17 April was attended by 30 members and guests.

Special guests were Dr. Judith Navarro and Ms Roberta Okey, Office of Publications (DBI), who described the Centennial Project of scholarships and mentoring which is being sponsored by PAHO in the Washington metropolitan area and which is being administered by their office. Retirees are invited to volunteer in the mentoring part of the program, to provide role models for high school students and to help them set and reach their career goals.

AFICS(NY) WORKSHOP ON CAREGIVING: "SHARING THE CARING"

At the invitation of the Association of Former International Civil Servants of the UN (AFICS), AFSM Board members Jan Barahona and Jean Surgi participated in a "Workshop on Caregiving" held at the UN Headquarters building in New York on 12 December 2001. AFICS member Helen Geffen Roht put together the workshop and served as moderator.

Representatives of the New York City Department for the Aging, the Visiting Nurse Service of New York, Service Program for Older People, and various centers providing services for older New Yorkers were on the panel of speakers. They provided information on an extraordinary array of public resources for the aging available to New Yorkers either free or at very low cost, and distributed the "New York State Senior Citizen Resource Guide," a publication of the NYS Office for the Aging.

It was an eye-opener to hear what assistance is out there in relation to legal problems; financial help; community support services; housing; employment; transportation; nutrition; recreation; energy; and taxes, among others. AFSM members should be aware that their local governments may provide similar services, and they should contact the local department on aging for a list of what is available.

The workshop was closed by Mr. O. Richard Nottidge, President of AFICS (NY).



AFICS President Nottidge and Jean Surgi

NEW MEMBERS AND ADDRESS CHANGES

A list of new members and address changes since the Membership Directory was issued in December 2001 is annexed to the Newsletter.

NOTIFICATION OF ADDRESS CHANGES

Whenever you change your address, zip code, telephone number, area code or e-mail, please let us know as soon as possible. Every time we mail out a Newsletter, several are returned because we do not have the correct address. Changes may be sent to AFSM, c/o PAHO, 525 23rd St NW, Washington DC 20037-2895.

Recently we tried to reach members by e-mail and many of them did not go through. Please check your e-mail address in the latest issue of the membership directory (dated 1 December 2001); if it is not correct or current, send the new address to hbruch@erols.com.

CANDIDATES FOR DIRECTOR OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

The 26th Pan American Sanitary Conference, to be held at PAHO Headquarters during the last week of September 2002, will elect the Director of the Pan American Health Organization for the period 2003-2007. Dr. George A. O. Alleyne, the current Director, has indicated that he is not a candidate for reelection. As a result of recent changes to the PAHO Constitution, the next Director will serve for a five-year term and may not be reelected more than once. The term up to now has been four years, with no restrictions on reelection. Also, Pan American Sanitary Conferences will from now on be held every five years, instead of every four years as has been the practice in the past.

AFSM has been informed that three candidacies have been formally communicated to the PAHO Director and to the Governments of the Region. In alphabetical order, the candidates are:

Juan Antonio Casas Zamora, candidate of the Government of Costa Rica and presently Director of PAHO's Division of Health and Human Development. He worked with PAHO from 1983 to 1985 and again from 1987 to the present.

Mirta Roses Periago, candidate of the Government of Argentina and presently PAHO's Assistant Director. She has worked with PAHO since 1984.

Jaime Sepulveda Amor, candidate of the Government of Mexico and presently Director of the Mexican National Institute of Health.

Biographies can be requested directly from the candidates or AFSM can help members obtain copies.

The Association has also learned of a fourth candidate, German Velasquez of Colombia, presently with the Essential Drugs Program at the World Health Organization. The Association has not been able to confirm that his candidacy has been formally communicated by Colombia to the Director and the countries. The practice of announcing candidacies via communication by the respective governments to the Director and the other countries has evolved over time. However, the rules and PAHO's Constitution allow for any country to introduce a candidate as late as at the Conference itself.

To date, in chronological order, the following countries have held the Directorship of the Organization: United States of America (four times for a total of 54 years), Chile (once, 16 years), Mexico (once, 8 years), Brazil (once, 12 years), and Barbados (once, will complete 8 years). The countries with the highest quota assessments to PAHO's budget, in order of contribution, are United States, Canada, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, and Venezuela.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

Documents presented to the Governing Bodies of PAHO are now additionally available in CD-ROM format. On request, the Association can obtain copies for interested AFSM members. Send requests to Jose Teruel by e-mail (terueljr@PAHO.org) or by mail (c/o PAHO, 525 23rd Street NW, Washington DC 20037), indicating the document(s) you wish to receive.

Documents relating to the following agenda items of the 36th Session of the Subcommittee on Planning and Programming of the PAHO Executive Committee, which met in Washington on 25-26 March 2002, are now available on the web and on CD-ROM:

- Evaluation of the Strategic and Programmatic Orientations 1999-2002
- Strategic Plan for the Pan American Sanitary Bureau for the Period 2003-2007
- Integrated Management of Childhood Illness
- Extension of Social Protection in Health – Joint Initiative of the Pan American Health

Organization and the International Labour Organization

- Health and Aging
- Regional Strategy for Maternal Mortality and Morbidity Reduction
- Women, Health, and Development
- Public Health Response to Chronic Diseases
- Pan American Centers

A summarized analysis of the health and general situation in the Americas, mainly Latin America and the Caribbean, extracted from the document "Strategic Plan for the Period 2003-2007," is annexed to the Newsletter.

WORLD HEALTH DAY

World Health Day (WHD), celebrated on 5 April 2002, highlighted the importance of physical activity and a healthy lifestyle. WHD is an annual event of the World Health Organization. A new theme is selected each year to emphasize public health issues of worldwide concern.

This year, the celebration of WHD 2002 provided an opportunity to raise awareness of the need for regular physical activity to improve health. The promotion of physical activity and healthy eating is considered one of the pillars of Health Promotion. WHD 2002 was an excellent forum to bring to attention the benefits of regular physical activity and the many simple ways to incorporate physical activity into everyday life and make a major impact on health. It is a nudge to everyone to "Move For Health!"

Enclosed with this newsletter is a set of five Physical Activity Fact Sheets prepared by PAHO's Division of Health Promotion and Protection.

STAFF HEALTH INSURANCE

Some changes have been introduced into the WHO Staff Health Insurance Rules. These modifications emanated from the recommendations of the joint meeting of Staff Health Insurance surveillance committees and representatives of staff associations. They were endorsed by the Director General of WHO and went into effect on 1 July 2001.

A copy of the modifications is attached to this newsletter.

CORRESPONDENCE

from Sumedha Mona Khanna, California

Thank you for your Newsletter again. Your continued and devoted efforts to keep us all connected are most appreciated. Even though we have our own personal family and friends, it seems that once we have worked with PAHO as a staff member, PAHO becomes our larger family. So your Newsletter is like a letter from "home." It is wonderful to learn about old friends and colleagues, especially about their life after PAHO. It is also sad to hear about the passing away of some of them.

I was particularly sad to learn about Dr. Barrenechea and Dr. Richard Prindle; both were my colleagues and in some way served as my mentors. Barre was a dedicated professional, perfecting the PAHO long term planning process. I fondly remember his first presentation of the Quadrennial Projections at the PAHO CR meeting in Washington. Dr. Horwitz introduced him and then warned us that Dr. Barrenechea takes 15 minutes to pronounce his name. Barre was full of humor, a superb professional and yet very humble.

Dr. Prindle, known to us as Dick, was my boss as the Chief of Population and Family Health Department. A thorough gentleman, he was one of the few senior staff who was not intimidated by women professionals in PAHO. In fact he supported them and encouraged them. He was a great boss who trusted his staff and delegated responsibility as well as authority. I learned a great deal from him.

The news of Dr. Horwitz's passing last year was a shock from which I still haven't recovered. Dr. Horwitz was responsible for my pursuing a career in International Public Health. I remember when he first interviewed me for a position in PAHO, he remarked, "such a little girl!" It was his ingenuity and trust that was responsible for my being appointed as the first woman PAHO/WHO Country Representative in the world. He even defied the Director General of WHO on that matter. I considered him as my principal mentor and I am glad that I maintained professional contact with him even in his later years. Every meeting with him was so enlightening. What a superb International Public Health Leader!

Life in this peaceful part of California is good. I am continuing with my Women's Health Center – Healing Well – offering healing and wellness circles for women in midlife and beyond. We are also actively in our community in many social activities. My husband Steve Serdahely, who is also a former PAHO staff member, and I are planning to come to Washington in December. We are looking forward to seeing our friends and colleagues.

Warm wishes for 2002 to all our friends and former colleagues.

IMPRESIONES SOBRE JUAN JOSE BARRENECHEA

de Luis Antonio Loyola, Argentina

Mucho me afectó cuando Marlo Libel, desde Washington, me avisó que el "Viejo Barre" nos había dejado el 1 de noviembre del 2001.

Barrenechea, "el Viejo", fue, para mí, el maestro y el amigo que decidió compartir sus experiencias y sus conocimientos en Salud Pública. En efecto sus enseñanzas sobre la salud empezaban por asumir el Desarrollo de nuestros Pueblos; y así nos solía decir "Nuestro Norte es el Sur".

Se definía a sí mismo como un "escribiente de la salud", en realidad era un experto en poner en el papel sus ideas sobre cada situación concreta con una visión prospectiva como pocos, admirable por su capacidad de trabajo, marcó una Ética en la Salud Pública que predicó desde la Organización Panamericana de la Salud.

Su legado fundamental, fueron las vivencias que dejó entre la gente con las que trabajó, en los países donde luchó por encarnar principios universales de la Ética en la Salud Pública.

Nació en Buenos Aires en 1920; desde joven se enroló y se incorpora a la lucha por la Libertad y la Justicia; por ello con sus amigos, Luis Vera Ocampo y Arnaldo Torrens, se vieron enfrentados con las autoridades de turno. Se dedicó al Periodismo desde 1947, escribió en "Que", "Clarín", "Revista Gráfica" y otras.

En 1952 se recibió de médico en la Facultad de Medicina de la UBA. Como médico se dedicó a la traumatología; además seguía escribiendo y en 1958, publicó varios libros (novelas), "Como un perro", "Mañana matan al arquitecto", "El

negoción del observatorio", y otros. Firmando como "Che Barre".

En 1959, es designado Asesor de Relaciones Económicas y Sociales de la Presidencia, del Dr. Arturo Frondizi. Viaja a Chile en 1960 donde estudia Salud Pública en la Escuela de Salud Pública de la Universidad de Chile. En agosto de 1961 contrae matrimonio con Renate Plaut, con quien convive desde hacen 40 años.

Desde 1962, junto a Eric Calcagno, Isabel y Eduardo Molinero y Adolfo Chorny, desde el Cosejo Federal de Inversiones, realizan importantes contribuciones al conocimiento sanitario en trabajos como: "Funciones de Producción y Costos de servicios de salud", "Perfiles de Complejidad". Desde ese año hasta el 64, integra el Equipo de Salud del CONADE. En esa época coopera con la Provincia de Mendoza, durante la gestión del Dr. Semorile, en la formulación de un Plan de Salud para la Provincia. Viaja a Chile y se integra al Instituto Latinoamericano de Planificación Económico y Social (ILPES), volviendo al CONADE en el 66.

Desde 1967, se incorpora a la entonces "Oficina Sanitaria Panamericana", como Consultor Contratado, en el área de Estadísticas, en las Regiones Andina y Centroamericana. En 1968 es designado en la Oficina Central de Washington de la Organización Panamericana de la Salud, en el área de "Planificación de la Salud", compartiendo esa tarea con García Gutierrez, Rodríguez Campoamor, Vera y otros.

Lo conocí un día del año 1973, en la calle Florida cuando un amigo común, Raúl Vargas nos presenta, y aunque sabía de oídas del "Barre", en ese momento yo no percibía lo trascendente que sería en mi vida, en un futuro no muy lejano. En 1978, se me presentó en Honduras y desde ese momento comienza nuestra relación laboral.

Era un hombre de una inteligencia superior, trabajador incansable, formador de personas, hizo escuela en Honduras y Panamá, donde colaboró en la formulación de Planes de Salud sin precedentes.

En 1979, instala en la Organización Panamericana de la Salud, el debate sobre: Tecnología Apropriada en la Salud. Por esa razón fuimos convocados Carlyle Guerra de Macedo y yo, a trabajar en el tema, bajo su conducción y la de José Romero Teruél y Margaret Cammaert.

Fue un pionero en la aplicación concreta del "Pensamiento Estratégico de la Planificación en Salud". En 1981, junto a Emiro Trujillo y Adolfo Chorny, convocaron a una reunión en Mérida, México para sistematizar ideas sobre el tema, donde participamos unos veinte invltados. Después de esa reunión, con el auspicio de la OPS/OMS y la Universidad de Antioquía, Fac. Nac. de Salud Pública "Héctor Abad Gomez"; publicaron el Libro : "SPT 2000, Implicaciones para la Planificación y Administración de los Sistemas de Salud", a mi juicio su mejor libro; editado en 1990.

En Honduras y Panamá se lo venera, los Ministros de diferentes Administraciones lo requerían; choferes y secretarias así como los profesionales de los Ministerios y de Seguros Sociales lo distinguían cuando expresaban, "sonamos viene el 'Viejo', a trabajar se ha dicho".

En Honduras, el Ministerio habilitó una "Sala de Reflexiones, Juan José Barrenechea", para uso conjunto del personal del Ministerio y la PWR.

Como justificando esta anécdota que cada vez que lo convocábamos, contestaba su aceptación con un Telex: "favor reservar piscina grande con hotel anexo", nadaba una hora todas las mañanas, la gente decía, a prepararse ya viene el "Viejo".

Se fue el "Barre"; que diría si estuviera compartiendo con nosotros la horrible situación social y financiera que vivimos, tengo siempre presente sus letanías: "empleo", "trabajo", "moral en la gestión" y los requisitos que definió como indispensables para el logro de la Meta SPT200, en 1978; **Equidad, Eficiencia, Eficacia, Participación Social, Cooperacion Intersectorial Y Cooperación Internacional.**

Sigues vigente "Barre".

REMEMBERING JESSE H. HOBBS

by Jaime Ayalde

Dr. Jesse H. Hobbs died on 24 January 2002. Jesse had a doctoral degree in medical entomology from Johns Hopkins University and more than 14 years experience with the United States Agency for International Development and the Pan American Health Organization. His work included tours of duty in CDC's Central America Research Station in El Salvador and its Medical

Entomology Research and Training Unit in Guatemala.

He also served as Medical Entomologist and Malaria Operations Specialist for Brazil and Honduras and as Research Entomologist, Universidad del Valle, Guatemala, before retiring in 1985. Even then Jesse continued to provide advisory services to CDC, PAHO, and USAID in the control of malaria and other vector-borne diseases.

IN MEMORIAM

The Department of Personnel has advised us of the deaths of the following persons. We extend our sincere sympathy to their families.

2001

Gomez Crespo, Golofredo	07 January
Lopez Scavino, Armando	14 January
Torres Cortes, Guillermo	13 February
Valverde, Victor	27 February
Almarza Guzman, Aurora	26 June
Lozieer, Hilda	28 July
Gruer, Natalio	06 October
Barrenechea, Juan Jose	01 November
Rao, Kandarpa S.	25 December

2002

Santos, Jorgevaldo Sales dos	03 January
De Los Rios, Severo	23 January
Kim, Yong Sung	31 January
Oliveira, Sebastiao Gomes	10 February
Fiedler, Elson	16 February
De Abreu, Iris Martins	02 April
Rodrigues, Bichat	02 April

As we were about to go to print, we read the death notice of SCC member Joseph J. Mascolo in the *Washington Post* of Sunday, 5 May: Joe, of Washington DC, passed away on 4 May 2002 and was to be interred on Tuesday, 7 May. Before his retirement in 1978, Joe was in charge of the records management program at PAHO.

AGING WELL

The *Parade Magazine* of 16 September 2001 contained an article by Lou Ann Walker entitled "We Can Control How We Age," based on "a landmark Harvard study [which] has followed individuals from their teens into their 80s."

The Harvard study found four attributes vital to successful aging: orientation toward the future;

gratitude, forgiveness, and optimism; empathy; and the ability to reach out. Seven keys to aging well are: not smoking, or quitting early; the ability to take life's ups and downs in stride; absence of alcohol abuse; healthy weight; a solid marriage; physical activity; and years of education. People who had four or more of these seven factors at age 50 were one-third less likely to be dead by 80. People who had three or fewer of these factors at 50 – even though they were in good physical shape – were three times as likely to die during the following 30 years.

WHY ENGLISH IS SO HARD TO LEARN

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full that it had to refuse more refuse.
4. We must polish the Polish furniture.
5. He could lead if he could get the lead out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his desert in the desert.
7. Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
8. A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
9. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
10. I did not object to the object.
11. The insurance was invalid for the invalid.
12. There was a row among the oarsmen about how to row.
13. They were too close to the door to close it.
14. The buck does funny things when the does are present.
15. A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
16. To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
17. The wind was too strong to wind the sail.
18. After a number of injections my jaw got number.
19. Upon seeing a tear in the painting I shed a tear.
20. I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
21. How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?

THE BACK PAGE

AFSM would like to know about the needs of its members. We might not be able to solve all your problems, but we have many experts and resources that could be utilized. We might either help in some way or refer you to the right source.

We would also like to have your input to the Newsletter, either in the form of articles for publication or in comments on the content: What kinds of articles do you like? Are there some that should be eliminated? Are we missing something that should be included?

To reach us:

Write to: AFSM c/o PAHO
525 23rd Street NW
Washington DC 20037-2895

Call, e-mail, or send a fax to a member of the Board of Directors:

Officers:

Jaime Ayalde, President
(301) 983-0569
JAyalde@aol.com
Fax: 301-983-5893

José Romero Teruel, Vice-President
(301) 299-9149
Terueljr@PAHO.org

Jean S. Surgi, Secretary
(301) 762-7490
JayEss@email.msn.com

Leonida (Nene) Adoremos, Treasurer
(703) 821-3722
Adoremosnene@aol.com

Members-at-large:

Jan Barahona, Newsletter Coordinator
(202) 362-3159
Janice@barahona.com

Carlos García, Rules and Regulations
(410) 531-1027
CLGarcia32@aol.com

Maricel Manfredi, SAS Representative
(301) 622-5833
maricelmanfredi@aol.com

Germán E. Mora, Field Representative
(301) 762-1612
Tempoftur@aol.com

Hortensia Saginor, Social Chairperson
(301) 654-7482
ISaginor@aol.com