

# Visit to Chile

13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2011

## Objective of Visit

The objective of the visit to Chile was to establish contact with South Americans for the International College of Prosthodontists, the American Academy of Maxillofacial Prosthetics and the International Society of Maxillofacial Rehabilitation. The intent of the visit was to encourage colleagues in South America to establish ties with and participate in the three organizations represented (ICP, ISMR and AAMP).

## Participants

The three organizations were represented by individuals who volunteered their services at their own cost:

Dr John Wolfaardt (Prosthodontist, iRSM/ University of Alberta, Canada)

Dr Sreenivas Koka (Prosthodontist, Mayo Clinic, US)

Dr Brian Fitzpatrick (Prosthodontists, University of Queensland, Australia)

Dr Harry Reintsema (Prosthodontist, University Medical Centre Groningen, Netherlands)

Dr Gianfranco Gassino (Prosthodontists, University of Turin, Italy)

Dr Peter Hamilton (Internist, University of Alberta, Canada)

Note: Dr Hamilton volunteered his services to support the prosthodontic mission of the visit.

The arrangements in Chile for the conference to introduce the ICP, ISMR and AAMP were made collaboratively by:

- Dr Claudio Brenner who represented the ISMR (Dr Brenner is Secretary for the ISMR) and OREMA (a more recently established foundation for Odontology for Maxillofacial Rehabilitation).
- Dr Eugenio Nieto Grez, President and Dr Carlos Parra Atala, Secretary, of the Chilean Society of Prosthetics and Oral Rehabilitation (Sociedad de Prótesis y Rehabilitación Oral de Chile - [www.rehabilitacionoral.cl/home.html](http://www.rehabilitacionoral.cl/home.html)).

All on-site costs to host the conference were carried by the Chileans.

## Activities

### 1. Conference

The initial idea proposed by Dr Wolfaardt to Dr Brenner was that a workshop be arranged for some thirty or so individuals and this could be used as a vehicle to discuss how the three organizations could establish contact in South America. Dr Wolfaardt had participated in

several meetings in the past in Chile that had been organized By Dr Ruben Rosenberg and Dr Claudio Brenner. These had been extremely well organized meetings of substantial size.

As planning for the meeting in Chile progressed, Dr Brenner sought and obtained the support of the Chilean Society of Prosthetics and Oral Rehabilitation (Sociedad de Prótesis y Rehabilitación Oral de Chile - [www.rehabilitacionoral.cl/home.html](http://www.rehabilitacionoral.cl/home.html)) Dr Brenner felt the meeting could be grown. The end result was more than remarkable in that the meeting was attended by 230 registrants. Participants from other South American Countries were also present.

The meeting was held at the Marriott Hotel in Santiago. The meeting was opened with a presentation that provided information on the ICP, AAMP and ISMR. This was followed by a day and a half program of presentations by the six speakers. Translation from English to Spanish was provided to all conference delegates. The conference was also very well supported by industry exhibitors.

In review, the six speakers felt the conference was very well organized to international standards.

## **2. Meeting with the Chilean Prosthodontic Society**

After the conference a meeting was held by the speakers with Dr Eugenio Nieto Grez, President and Dr Carlos Parra Atala, Secretary of the Chilean Society of Prosthetics and Oral Rehabilitation as well as Dr Brenner representing OREMA and Chilean interest in the ISMR. The discussions considered:

1. Joining the organizations as individual and organizational members
2. Attending the Hawaii meeting
3. Considering submitting proposal to the ICP and ISMR to hold international biennial conferences

The discussions were frank and fruitful. The Chileans felt that the Chilean Society of Prosthodontics would be very interested in hosting an ICP international biennial conference and fully appreciated the need to engage other South American Countries in the process. In working to such a proposal they also appreciated the need to hold representation in both the organizational and individual membership structure of the ICP. Presently the Chileans Society is serving as lead of the South American association of prosthodontic organizations. The Chilean Society of Prosthodontics will discuss the steps to be taken with their membership with a view of presenting proposal to the ICP Board of Councillors in Hawaii.

Through discussions with Dr Brenner, the Chileans will seek to initiate individual and organizational membership in the ISMR. They will also petition the ISMR Board to initiate an ISMR regional group and to host a regional conference in the third week on November 2013.

The Chileans will also work to promote the AAMP and the AAMP meetings.

## **Next Steps**

The discussions, both in formal meetings and informal contact were wide ranging and very positive. The Chileans expressed the desire to move ahead with establishing active contact and

participation in the organizations represented. In the case of the ISMR a direct approach will be followed by Dr Brenner to meet the above stated objectives. With regard to the ICP the pledge was made to return to the membership of the Chilean Prosthodontic Society to seek approval to pursue formal engagement with the ICP.

The outcome of the initiative in Chile was considered very positive and was a rewarding experience. The excellent level of organization, attention to detail and commitment of both organizers and participants was outstanding. It was made clear to the Chileans that those present could only outline potential opportunities, they did not have any decision making authority and that all decisions would come from the Boards of the ICP and ISMR.

Our Chilean colleagues are to be congratulated on hosting such an excellent event and for providing this great opportunity to the ICP, ISMR and AAMP to be represented in South America. It is requested that the Presidents of the three organizations that participated will provide letters of thanks to Dr Brenner and Dr Eugenio Nieto Grez. Equally, the support brought to this initiative by the speakers as self-funded contributors was more than remarkable and special thanks should be paid to these individuals by the organizations being represented in South America.

It is hoped that from this initiative that South America will develop active international participation in prosthodontic organizations.



The Conference Room at the Marriott Hotel, Santiago

The Exhibitor Space

