



IPA YEAR END NEWSLETTER 2008

An important IPA message for 2008:

Pediatricians begin working together with colleagues in obstetrics, midwifery, and nursing to promote Maternal Newborn and Child Health at country level for achievement of Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6

In November 2007, the IPA 2007 year end newsletter described the first of a series of workshops for Health Care Professionals in Maternal Newborn and Child Health which involved five countries in Anglophone Africa. These pictures demonstrate this important work that IPA has started, along with our colleagues in The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO), The International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), and The International Confederation of Nurses (ICN).



Obstetrician Pius Okong and
Pediatrician Edison Mworози of
Uganda



Pediatricians from five Anglophone countries Ethiopia, Malawi, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda join with colleagues in the PMNCH Health Care Workshop Blantyre Malawi



Pediatrician Peter Cooper of South Africa, Past President of UNAPSA and midwife Nester Moyo of Zimbabwe, Technical Advisor to the International Confederation of Midwives



Professor Augustine Massawe and Hadija Mwamtemi leaders of the Tanzanian Pediatric Society

January 2008

Middle Eastern Pediatricians Meet

Saudi Arabia:

Karen Olness, IPA technical advisor in Child Health and Humanitarian Emergency, teamed up with Dr. Saleh Al Harbi of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia to present a course on child health in humanitarian emergency. The course from 13-18 January was followed by an academic program on advanced child health care on the 19-22 January. These events were attended by officials of the Saudi Pediatric Association and a wide audience of Saudi Arabian pediatricians and other child health personnel. The curriculum of the workshop on humanitarian emergencies was patterned on Professor Olness' academic course at Case Western Reserve University. This course has been taught to pediatricians in many countries, always modified to reflect realities of the country or region in which it is being presented. Fifty Saudi Arabians participated in the workshop and its exit examination. The faculty was drawn from IPA, AAP, and Saudi Arabian colleagues. IPA has worked for some years with Dr. Olness and her colleagues to promote disaster preparedness for pediatricians with a goal that every country of the world have one or more well informed pediatricians to assume leadership if and when disaster affects their countries or regions. When possible, IPA courses have been linked with country offices of UNICEF and WHO and with government ministries. IPA has struggled to have this training acknowledged by WHO and UNICEF so that governments and other emergency providers can call on trained pediatricians to assist at country level in times of need. It has been our experience that disaster aid which comes from outside the country rarely focuses on the needs of children, women, and families, and does not include country level child and family health personnel in decision making and delivery systems.

The Saudi academic course which followed this workshop on child health in emergency was attended by members of the royal family: Prince Sultan Bin Salman presented an excellent lecture on the situation of Saudi Arabian children and families during the opening plenary session. Also speaking at the opening were Professor Jane Schaller of IPA on the State of Global Child Health and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Professor Salah Ahmed Ibrahim

speaking on child health challenges in the 21st century, and Professor Abdulrahman A. Al-Swailem, President of the Saudi Pediatric Society, speaking on child



**Officials of the Saudi Pediatric Society, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia,
January 2008**

health care in Saudi Arabia. Other topics of this academic course included infectious diseases, acute care, child protection, important child health considerations that are often missed, and building futures for pediatricians.

The Saudi Pediatric Society presented a number of good ideas to IPA including future mutual endeavors; in particular the society voiced appreciation that belonging to IPA gives them an opportunity “not to feel alone in the world of pediatrics”.

Egypt:

The Egyptian Pediatric Association held its annual meeting on 15-18 January in Sharm El-Sheikh, in collaboration with the American Academy of Pediatrics. The program was chaired by Hussein Bahaaeldin, President of the Egyptian Pediatric Association and IPA Executive Committee member, ably assisted by Ahmed Younes, Past Executive Committee member of IPA, and colleagues of the American Academy of Pediatrics. The scientific program was designed to include topics of special interest to all pediatricians, and presented in a wide choice of sessions.

IPA participates in WHO Executive Board:

The 122nd Session of the WHO Executive Board meeting January 21 – 26, 2008 was attended by Executive Director Jane Schaller; President Chok-wan Chan could not attend. The WHO Executive Board reviews initiatives brought to its attention by member states and decides the topics for action at the World Health Assembly in May of the same year. This meeting is important for organizations concerned with pushing a particular interest. The Executive Board of WHO includes representatives of the governments of thirty four countries with rotating membership. Board meetings are also attended by representatives of other member countries, United Nations agencies, donor agencies, and non governmental organizations (NGOs). Pertinent health matters on the agenda included climate change and health, pandemic influenza, poliomyelitis eradication, dracunculiasis, international health regulations, prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, reduction of harmful use of alcohol, migrant health, global immunization strategy, female genital mutilation, international migration of health personnel, and health related MDGs.

IPA collaborated in a statement presented by the International Alliance for the Prevention of Obesity and Chronic Disease which addressed obesity and nutrition as important issues in prevention of non communicable conditions such as diabetes and heart disease.

IPA had additional conversations with:

- The leadership of Child and Adolescent Health
- The International College of Surgeons to discuss issues of procurement, sometimes unethical, of donor organs for transplantation
- The World Dental Federation to discuss issues of child oral health (an important topic which has not been emphasized highly in pediatrics)
- Philip James and Neville Rigby of the Alliance for the Prevention of Obesity, and Dr. Ala Alwa, new WHO Assistant Director General concerned with non-communicable diseases

February 2008

Think Tank on Pediatric HIV/AIDS

IPA was the driving force in organizing a small think tank on HIV/AIDS in children in conjunction



Laura Sauve (Pediatric Infectious Disease, Childrens Hospital/UBC) and H.M. (Jerry) Coovadia (Chair in HIV/AIDS, University of Kwazulu Natal, South Africa, Technical Advisor to IPA in HIV/AIDS) at the opening ceremony of the Pediatric AIDS Think Tank 2008

with UNICEF Canada, the Children's Hospital of British Columbia, and the Child and Family Research Institute UBC, the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Study. The invited participants in this Think Tank included world leaders in pediatric Aids: H.M. Coovadia of South Africa (Chair in HIV/AIDS, University of Kwazulu, Technical Advisor to IPA in HIV/AIDS), Nigel Fisher (Executive Director of UNICEF Canada), Peter Kazembe (pediatrician and

Aids expert, Malawi), Mark Kline (head of Baylor AIDS program), Usa Thisyakorn (President of the Thai Pediatric Society and specialist in childhood HIV), Catherine Wilfert (Program

Director of the Pediatric AIDS Foundation), Bob Armstrong (Chair of Pediatrics, UBC) Jack Forbes (Pediatric Aids specialist, UBC) Stewart Macleod (Child and Family Research Institute) and Laura Sauve (Pediatric Infectious Disease, Childrens Hospital/UBC), and Jane Schaller (IPA). The meeting was also attended by Steven Toope, President of University of British Columbia and expert in International Human Rights law.

This Think Tank was designed to permit semi-structured and informal discussions among a small group of experts. Discussion centered on defining the current problem (What are the issues of pediatric HIV Aids in 2008?), summarizing the current knowledge and action (What do we know and what are we doing?) and defining the gaps (What is missing, what needs to be done, and what can the pediatric community do?) The discussions were interesting and provocative, with general agreement that pediatric HIV/AIDS has been a neglected field in the scheme of the larger AIDS world, that pediatric AIDS is essentially preventable and treatable if not prevented, and that AIDS is emerging as a major cause of child mortality and morbidity, particularly in Africa. Some countries such as Thailand and Brazil with potentially high HIV burdens have dealt effectively with

these issues. Other countries have not done so well, particularly Sub-Saharan African countries. Discussions noted that the 2008 AIDS Conference in Mexico City placed little emphasis on pediatric HIV/AIDS. These conversations will continue and actions will be built into the IPA program area of HIV/AIDS led by Professor Coovadia.

Following this Think Tank, the editor of Lancet requested a commentary from IPA which was published in the Lancet issue just prior to the World Aids Conference, authored by HM Coovadia and Jane Schaller.

[http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(08\)61090-9/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(08)61090-9/fulltext)

March 2008

IPA Standing Committee meets

The IPA Standing and Executive Committees met in Johannesburg, South Africa, the site of the 2010 26th International Congress of Pediatrics 2010. The Scientific Committee of the 26th Congress convened for a three day meeting immediately following that of the Standing Committee. These meetings were capably hosted by our South African



Hussein Bahaeldin and Jose Boix Ochoa, Sandton, South Africa March 2008

leaders, Keith Bolton, President of the 26th Congress, and Peter Cooper, President of UNAPSA and Chair of the 26th Congress Scientific Committee.

The Standing Committee business meetings were productive, and

the meetings of the Scientific Committee united representatives from the IPA with the representatives from the South African Pediatric Association and the Union of African Pediatric Societies and Associations. The Standing Committee visited the convention centre in Sandton, site of the 26th Congress. By 2010 Sandton, a suburb of Johannesburg will be available by direct rail from the airport. This interesting community combines the upscale facilities of a splendid convention centre and many choices of hotels and living quarters with a real flavor of Sub-Saharan Africa. Sandton is close to nature and game reserves full of all the natural beauty and uniqueness of Southern Africa. IPA Standing Committee members were impressed with the arrangements and enthusiastic at the prospects of our first International Congress in Sub-Saharan Africa. We hope that our 180 IPA Member Societies from around the world will have many representatives with us for this landmark event. The Scientific Committee is planning a program to emphasize both global child health



IPA Standing Committee members in Nelson Mandela Square, Sandton, South Africa site of the 2010 26th International Congress of Pediatrics. (Cherif Rahimy, Sergio Cabral, Chok-wan Chan)

issues of the Millennium Development Goals and newborn, child, and maternal survival and health, and scientific topics relevant to pediatrics and child health which address both clinical practice and academic research. The program will include a major track in pediatric education. This Congress will be of interest to pediatricians everywhere, and will include speakers from all world regions as well as representatives from many countries, agencies, and organizations.

The Japanese Pediatric Society honors Professor Eto:

The Japanese Pediatric Society honored Yoshikatsu Eto, Professor of Pediatrics at the Jikei University in Tokyo and Past President of the Japanese Pediatric Society with a special Forum for Children of the World in Tokyo on March 15, 2008. This Forum highlighted global issues of pediatrics and child health as well as pediatric academics, and honored Professor Eto's retirement from the Chairmanship of the Department at Jikei University. Professor Eto, a past member of the IPA Standing Committee, originated a plan for providing support to young pediatricians from the developing world to attend the International Congress in Athens. Representatives of government and UN agencies attended this Forum, as did alumni of the International Pediatric Association including Professor Noboru Kobayashi, a Past President of the



Professor Yoshikatsu Eto and friends celebrating his “first retirement”, Japan, March 2008

IPA and President of the IPA Congress held in Tokyo, and Professor Kawasaki, a frequent lecturer at IPA Congresses who made a major contribution to Pediatrics as the first descriptor of what is now known as Kawasaki Disease.

The ICC Council meets in Ankara

The 7th Council Meeting of the International Children's Centre was held in Ankara, Turkey on 28-29 March, 2008. The ICC addresses broad issues of maternal and child health, focuses particularly on newborn and child health in countries of Central Asia, and includes on its Board both pediatricians and other stakeholders in child health from the world of arts and sciences. This organization was brought to Ankara by Professor Ihsan Dogramaci after it was about to close out in Paris in 1998. It is now headed by Professor Tomris Turmen, and directed by Professor Munevver Bertan, with capable assistance from Dr. Kadriye Yurdakök. Dr. Bertan was a prior treasurer of IPA, Dr. Yurdakök a member of the IPA Standing Committee. Professor Turmen has been an Assistant Director General of WHO, and is the 2007 recipient of the Dogramaci award. The meeting agenda addressed issues of child protection and child rights, and included two interesting regional reports from the Central Asian Republics and from the Erbil (Iraq) branch office of the ICC. A number of IPA alumni attended this meeting including Professor Dogramaci who hosted a banquet at his residence, Professor Niilo Hallman of Finland, past member

of IPA Executive Committee and tireless worker for IPA; and Mamdouh Gabr, IPA President 1992 – 1995, now Executive Secretary of the Egyptian Red Crescent.



**Mamdouh Gabr, Former IPA
President 1992 – 1995**

April 2008

IPA is well represented at the Countdown to 2015



The second meeting of the Count Down to 2015 was held in Cape Town, South Africa on April 17-19, 2008. The meeting was attended by a number of IPA member representatives including President Chok-wan Chan, President Elect Sergio Cabral, Treasurer Zulfiqar Bhutta, Executive Director Jane Schaller, Executive Committee representative Cherif Rahimy, and invited pediatricians Amha Mekasha of Ethiopia and Queen Dube of Malawi. Three other pediatricians invited on behalf of IPA from Latin America and Asia unfortunately were unable to attend.

The Countdown process dates back to the first Lancet child survival series in 2003. This publication has been followed by a number of Lancet series concerning child, newborn, and maternal health. The Countdown process was designed to track the progress of newborn child survival and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goal (MDGs); this agenda has now been broadened to include maternal survival and the continuum of maternal, newborn, and child health. The first Countdown meeting in London in December 2005 was also attended by IPA representatives.

**Amha Mekasha representing IPA at the Countdown for 2015
meeting in Cape Town, South Africa April 2008**

The Countdown presents the most current figures on child, newborn and maternal survival in the most difficult countries of the world (now considered sixty eight in number), suggests measures to improve survival and health and progress towards MDGs 4 and 5, and tracks progress. The progress report at this second Countdown meeting was not entirely hopeful. Overall: sixteen of the sixty eight countries are on track for MDG 4, twenty six countries have made insufficient progress, fourteen have made no progress, and twelve countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have increasing rates of child mortality (all share the misfortunes of HIV/AIDS and armed conflict). Forty percent of the ten million under five child deaths globally each year occur in newborns during the first month of life. Fifty six of sixty eight Countdown priority countries continue to have high maternal mortality ratios. It is apparent that much work remains to be done for the survival and health of the world's mothers, newborns, and children, and that accelerated progress will be necessary to reach the MDG's by 2015. IPA has adopted a formal MDG project which we will be rolling out this year; Sverre Olaf Lie of Norway is the IPA Technical Advisor in this field, and Zulfiqar Bhutta is the IPA Technical Advisor in Newborn and Child Survival. We look forward to working with our Member Societies at country level to assist with projects pertinent to these important efforts.

The International Society of Tropical Pediatrics meets in Manila

The 88th International Congress of Tropical Pediatrics was held in Manila, Philippines on April 11-13, 2008. Attended by a wide variety of stakeholders in child health, the Congress opened with a March for Children's Right to Survive followed by a launch of the BATA ("child") movement to bring together pediatric and civil society organizations, the government of the Philippines, and private companies to advocate for child survival and child rights. Hussein Bahaaeldin, IPA Executive Committee member and President of the Society, delivered an opening address on child rights and child survival. The Congress program included a wide variety of speakers addressing issues of interventions known to improve child survival (support for mothers, improved neo-natal care, child feeding, immunizations, and appropriate management of childhood illnesses including dengue, malaria, and tuberculosis). Issues of health equity for resource in poor areas of the world were emphasized. A "Manila Declaration for Improving Child Survival and Child Rights" calling for stronger commitment of governments, civil society, private companies, and international organizations was issued and the Congress declared its commitment to MDG 4. Michael Krawinkel of Germany, Executive Director of ISTP and IPA Standing Committee member, was instrumental in organizing this meeting.

May 2008

A busy month for IPA

IPA was represented during May at the Saving Newborn Lives Technical Advisory Group; the Pediatric Academic Societies of North America annual meeting; the first annual John Lewy memorial lecture at Tulane University; the 61st World Health Assembly; an invitational meeting concerning civil society representation in the International Health Partnership; and the 2008 Congress of UNAPSA and the South African Pediatric Association.

The Saving Newborn Lives Technical Advisory Group

The Saving Newborn Lives Technical Advisory Group met in Washington, D.C. May 1-2, 2008. This important initiative is conducted through Save the Children US and has been headed by Anne Tinker, with Joy Lawn as one of the key staff pediatrician's. Dr. Lawn has been instrumental in working with IPA and UNAPSA on issues of newborn survival and health. IPA also interacts with Saving Newborn Lives through the Board of the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health (PMNCH).

The Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS) of North America

The Pediatric Academic Societies of North America meeting in Honolulu was attended by Erroll Alden (currently Executive Director of the American Academy of Pediatrics, formerly IPA Coordinator); Zulfiqar Bhutta (IPA Treasurer); Andreas Constantopolous (President of the 25th ICP and past member of IPA Executive Committee); Professor Yoshikatsu Eto of Japan (former IPA Standing Committee member); Judith Hall (IPA Executive Committee); Marisa Herran (IPA Program Committee on Child Health and Humanitarian Emergency); Salman Mroueh (President of the Lebanese Pediatric Society); Karen Olness (IPA Technical Advisor); Naveen Thacker (IPA Standing Committee) and Jane Schaller (IPA Executive Director). The Asian Society for Pediatric Research led by Professor Eto collaborated this PAS meeting, and a number of Japanese and Asian representatives attended. The Executive Committee of The Section on International Child Health of the AAP met and discussed the IPA Standing Committee meeting in Boston in October 2008 to be held in conjunction with the annual AAP meeting. Special events and receptions for international guests provided a good chance for conversation. The Global Pediatric Research Group, an endeavor of Professor Alvin Zipurski of Toronto, conducted a workshop on the effects of armed conflict on the health of children; Zulfiqar Bhutta and Marissa Herron were both featured speakers. The general scientific program of the PAS meeting was of wide interest and included many academic subspecialty and research sessions.



Erroll Alden, Executive Director American Academy of Pediatrics and former IPA Coordinator

Professor John Lewy Remembered

The first annual John Lewy memorial lecture at Tulane University was presented by Jane Schaller on behalf of IPA on May 15, 2008. Professor Lewy was Chair of Pediatrics at Tulane, a leading Pediatric Nephrologist, an outstanding member of the IPA Standing Committee, and a long time friend and advocate for global child health. His untimely death in April 2007 saddened us all. We were honored that IPA was the first organization asked to present the John Lewy lecture. Dr. Schaller addressed "Global Child Health: a Strategic Issue for Today's World" on behalf of the IPA. Many friends and colleagues of the Lewy family were in attendance.

Earthquakes, cyclones and floods affect child and family health

It was with sadness and distress that we learned of two devastating natural disasters in Asia: the killer Nargis cyclone struck Myanmar on May 3, 2008 and a devastating earthquake struck Sichuan Province in China on May 12, 2008. The death tolls in these disasters numbered in many tens of thousands. An outpouring of concern came from pediatric societies around the world. The common message was "one of heartfelt condolences to both Myanmar and China". As a result of these two tragedies, IPA under the leadership of Srivieng Pairojkul of Thailand, helped to organize a course for Myanmar pediatricians in June 2008, IPA president Chok-wan Chan visited the pediatricians and hospitals in the Sichuan earthquake area, and IPA was asked to present a session on Child Health in Emergency at an upcoming meeting of the West China Region. These two disasters point out the need for training child health personnel in disaster response in advance of disasters, rather than assisting in the aftermath of disasters. None of us

has received disaster training as part of ordinary medical and pediatric education. IPA is indeed fortunate to have experts like Karen Olness and Srivieng Pairojkul to assist us in this regard.



President Chok-wan Chan and colleagues from Sichuan immediately after the disastrous Sichuan earthquake of May, 2008

IPA Represented at IHP Civil Society Consultation

On May 23, 2008 a special invitational meeting concerning the new International Health Partnership Plus (IHP+) was held in Geneva to discuss inclusion of civil society within the structure and activities of the IHP+. IHP+ is a new endeavor which has evolved from the Global Business Plan proposed by the Prime Minister of Norway in 2007 and added to by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom later the same year. This process engages UN agencies, leaders in global health, and the H8 (a new group including WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNAIDS, The Gates Foundation, GAVI, the Global Fund and the World Bank). The ultimate goal of the IHP+ is to promote a system of country level “compacts” whereby Ministries of Health, UN agencies, and donor partners will collaborate around national health planning. The compacts are visualized as signed commitments with clear performance benchmarks for all parties resulting in unified country-controlled national health plans. Key elements of the compact process include one country health plan, one results framework, one policy matrix, one budget, one joint monitoring and reporting process, and one country based appraisal or validation process. Ethiopia and Mozambique were the first two countries to sign compacts, other developing world countries are expected to follow. Initially, the IHP+ did not formally include representatives of Civil Society Organizations, but Civil Society Representatives from within the Global Fund (mainly Aids activists) began to advocate for direct inclusion. GAVI, as part of the H8, made IPA (which has held the Civil Society Seat on the GAVI Board) aware of this, IPA was invited to participate in this IHP+ consultation at the time of the World Health Assembly, and Jane Schaller was invited as one of the speakers. Cherif Rahimy also attended for IPA as a representative of the developing world. Representatives of the World Bank and UN agencies and a wide variety of other organizations attended this meeting. Most pediatricians are well aware that their professional societies rarely have an effective voice in formulating national health policy. IPA hopes to help pediatric societies gain a meaningful voice in health policy and compact planning. IPA Technical Advisor Sverre Olaf Lie will be unrolling an IPA MDG project later this year devoted to this type of country level action.

African Pediatricians meet in South Africa

The Union of African Pediatric Associations and Societies (UNAPSA) and the South African Pediatric Association (SAPA) met jointly on May 29-31, 2008 in Sun City, South Africa. This Congress was well attended by South African pediatricians, and other Sub-Saharan African

countries were reasonably well represented. We note the financial difficulties that our African colleagues always encounter in attending meetings. This meeting included an excellent program of workshops and presentations pertinent to a wide scope of pediatrics. IPA representatives Keith Bolton (IPA Executive Committee and Chair of the 26th International Congress), Peter Cooper (IPA Standing Committee), Chok-wan Chan (IPA President), Sergio Cabral (IPA President-Elect), Cherif Rahimy (IPA Executive Committee), and Jane Schaller (IPA Executive



Peter Cooper outgoing UNAPSA President, Jane Schaller, Francois Tall incoming UNAPSA President, Keith Bolton, Sergio Cabral, and UNAPSA colleagues at the 2008 UNAPSA Congress, South Africa

Director) were all speakers. Considerable attention was given to the upcoming 2010 Congress, a matter of great pride to all African pediatricians. Cherif Rahimy and Jane Schaller met with representatives of ten Sub-Saharan African countries to discuss gaining a voice with their Ministries of Health in national health planning; as might be expected none of the representatives of 10 countries felt that they really had effective voices in national health policy. UNAPSA inaugurated a new president, Professor Francois Tall of Burkina

Faso, Professor Tall gave a fine address as the closing statement of the Congress. He noted that the regional society UNAPSA can “be what we want it to be”, and emphasized the expertise of pediatricians in matters concerning maternal and child health and the need for societies to gain a meaningful role with their government decision makers and donor communities. Professor Tall expressed thanks to IPA for working with African societies and helping them to gain a voice. His presentation ended with a statement for all of us to remember: “Even if we Africans do not have financial resources, we have intellectual resources which are even more important”. The 12th and next UNAPSA regional meeting will be held in December 2011 in Ouagadougou, the capital of Burkina Faso.

IPA Represented at the 61st World Health Assembly

IPA was represented at the 61st session of the World Health Assembly in May 2008 by President Chan, President Elect Cabral, Executive Committee Member Rahimy, and Executive Director Schaller. The agenda, proceedings, attendance lists, and various documents for this Assembly can be found on the WHO website. This session of the World Health Assembly was attended by Ministers of Health and their entourages from nearly all 192 WHO member countries. UN agencies, donor agencies, and representatives of NGOs were also in attendance, as were registered members of the public. The agenda included addresses by the Director General and featured guest speaker Bishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa. Agenda items of IPA interest included influenza, poliomyelitis, non communicable disease control and prevention, global immunization strategy, female genital mutilation, harmful effects of alcohol, climate change and health, health related MDGs, and cancer research. IPA had prepared statements from most of these areas but unfortunately change to scheduling of items and conflicts with other meetings prevented some presentations. President Chan presented a statement on prevention and control

of communicable disease, and Cherif Rahimy a statement on female genital mutilation. Prepared statements not presented addressed immunization strategy, harmful effects of alcohol (particularly as the inclusion of fetal alcohol syndrome seemed to be neglected), climate change and health, health related MDGs 4 and 5, and tobacco control (which did not come up on the active agenda). The World Federation of Surgeons raised concerns about human rights aspects of procurements of donor organs. Resolutions passed by the Assembly which mandate WHO action addressed polio, alcohol, non communicable disease, global immunization strategy, female genital mutilation, migrant health, climate change and health, public health innovation, and intellectual property. These resolutions can be found on the WHO website. Also during this meeting IPA representatives discussed mutual concerns with the leadership of WHO Child and Adolescent Health, and had a chance to interact with a number of representatives of other program areas.

IPA loses a distinguished Alumnus

With sadness, IPA noted the passing of Professor Angel Ballabriga in May 2008. A giant figure in international pediatrics, Professor Ballabriga was President of the 16th International Congress of Pediatrics 1980 in Barcelona. Professor Ballabriga was born in 1920, studied Medicine at the University of Barcelona, and was then caught up in the Spanish Civil War as a young officer of the Republic Army and leader of a demolition brigade. These activities did not endear Dr. Ballabriga to the Spanish government and he was imprisoned in 1944 for a number of years and prevented from pursuing his medical career. In the 1950's Dr. Ballabriga was again allowed to take up his medical career with restrictions, and was able to get a passport to permit collaborations in Sweden (with Professor Wallgren) and Switzerland (with Professor Glanzman). He subsequently joined with Professors Rossi, Royer and others to found the European Club for Pediatric Research, which later became the European Society of Pediatric Research. In the 1960's he founded the major children's hospital in Barcelona, which was subsequently modeled throughout Spain. He became Professor of Pediatrics, continued his research with a major interest in neuro-myelination in preterm infants, and taught and trained many young pediatricians and pediatric researchers. Professor Ballabriga will be remembered for his achievements in pediatrics and pediatric research. He will also be remembered with affection and admiration by those who had the pleasure of meeting him for his fierce adherence to his principles in pediatrics and politics, his keen intelligence, his lively gusto, and his joy in wide ranging discussions. We thank Professor Manuel Moya of Alicante, one of Professor Ballabriga's best and favorite students and a past member of the IPA Standing Committee, for this remembrance.



Professor Angel Ballabriga, Barcelona, President of the 16th International Congress of Pediatrics 1980

June 2008

European Pediatricians meet

The European Pediatric Association (EPA, formerly the Union of European Pediatric Societies and Associations UNEPSA) conducted business meetings and a symposium "The Frontiers of Pediatrics" during the Europediatrics 2008 Conference in Istanbul in June 2008. Andreas Constantopolous of Greece was elected president of EPA, David Branski of Israel Secretary General and Alexander Baranov of Russia and Manuel Moya of Spain Vice Presidents, and

Gerhard Gaedicke of Germany elected Treasurer. Council members elected included Josip Grguric (Croatia), and Laszlo Szabo (Hungary). Armido Rubino of Italy is the EPA Past President and represents the organization to the IPA Standing Committee along with Eva Oláh of Hungary.

EPA/UNEPSA issued a statement on the health and wellbeing of future generations in Europe and discussed studies on adolescent health care delivery and prenatal and neonatal screening in European countries. The next EPA Congress will be held in Moscow, July 3-6, 2009: *Europediatrics 2009*.

Canadian Pediatricians meet

The Canadian Pediatric Society met from June 24-28 in Victoria, British Columbia. IPA was represented by Judith Hall, IPA Executive Committee. Several sessions of interest to pediatricians involved in international health discussed mental health, adolescent health, advocating for children with developmental disorders, iron deficiency anemia, and tobacco addiction. An interesting program was presented by residents: "Brighter Smiles" uses dental hygiene to engage underserved communities in more general aspects of child health. This project initially involved Canadian aboriginal children, and has now been proposed for Uganda as well. The Canadian Pediatric Society International Section offers resident scholarships for travel abroad. Dr. Hall reported on IPA activities, and challenged her Canadian colleagues to develop a scholarship program to allow participants from the developing world to attend the Johannesburg Congress. The Canadian Pediatric Society has an active international section, and welcomes attendance of international guests to the next CPS meeting June 23-27, 2009 in Ottawa, Canada.

The GAVI Board meets

The GAVI Board met in Geneva on June 25-26, 2008. The IPA was chosen for the single GAVI



IPA and colleagues from other civil society organizations: GAVI representatives Mette Kjer from Kenya (AMRAF), Jane Schaller (IPA) and Faruque Ahmed from Bangladesh (BRAC)

Board seat representing all civil society organizations in 2004. Our original term was to terminate in 2007 but we were asked to extend to 2008 while GAVI governance was being revised. The GAVI Board seat under the leadership of Adenike Grange (Past IPA President) and IPA alternate Jane Schaller spearheaded significant contributions to the GAVI formation of a Civil Society Task Team within the GAVI

structure, gaining a commitment from the GAVI Board to fund civil society projects, and developing a formal election process for civil society representatives to the GAVI Board. The next CSO GAVI Board representative is Dr. Faruque Ahmed, the Medical Director of BRAC, a major NGO based in Bangladesh. The IPA also succeeded in instituting designation of a formal alternate to the CSO Board seat, Alan Hinman of the US Coalition for Child Survival. The GAVI Board has presented a wonderful opportunity for IPA to interact with major players on the global health stage, to address the immunization of children in poor countries, and to advocate for a meaningful role of pediatricians and other stakeholders in national immunization programs.

Pediatricians from Central Asia meet

The 8th Turkish World Congress of Pediatrics was held from the 27-29 June, 2008 in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan. This meeting focused on child health in Caucasian and Central Asian countries and the projects of the Union of the Pediatric Societies of Turkish Republics (UNPSTR) to assist these countries in improving their child health situations through educational congresses and workshops.

The motto of the Congress was "Better Childhoods for Better Futures". The opening ceremony featured a distance presentation by Ihsan Dogramaci, an opening lecture "Pediatrics in Ancient Turkey" by Kadriye Yurdakök, and a presentation of folkloric songs by the national philharmonic orchestra. The meeting was attended by 380 registered participants from eight countries: Azerbaijan, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Cypress, Uzbekistan, Autonomous Republics of Nakhchivan (Azerbaijan), and Northern Cypress. Thirteen plenary lectures addressed broad topics of child health,



Central Asian pediatricians Nesib Guliyev and Hikmet Cehver

human futures and other issues of concern to regional pediatricians. The next UNPSTR Congress will be held in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan in 2009.

July 2008

Julius B. Richmond 1916 – 2008

Julius Richmond was a prominent leader in pediatrics and public health policy. Dr. Richmond, a pediatrician trained in Chicago, was Chairman of Pediatrics and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at Syracuse New York. He was a pioneer in emphasizing the importance of child development and education to overall child health. He realized the importance of a healthy environment to children and the general public. He was an effective advocate for child health issues, and gained a major voice in public health policy in the United States. He was the father of the Head Start Program which has now become institutionalized in United States public schools; this program admits preschool children regardless of their ability to pay to a public school program which has helped more than 25 million United States children develop social and cognitive skills needed to succeed in education. From 1977 to 1981 he served as United States Assistant Secretary of Health and United States Surgeon General. During his term as US Surgeon General he released the 1979 Surgeon General's Report presenting for the first time overwhelming scientific evidence of the multiple harmful effects of smoking. This report has had a profound effect on environmental health endeavors in the United States and globally. Later in his life Professor Richmond became Professor of Pediatrics and Child Development at Harvard Medical School and founded the American Academy of Pediatrics Richmond Center. The IPA is now collaborating with the Richmond Center in the areas of Environmental and Adolescent Health concerning issues of tobacco control in children. Professor Richmond was greatly interested in

child health endeavors in the world and visited systems in a number of countries including former Yugoslavia. In 1994 he joined an International Pediatric Association project to help pediatricians from all sectors of former Yugoslavia meet during the recent wars in former Yugoslavia. He was a courtly and collegial man, an innovative thinker who worked graciously with pediatricians and public health officials everywhere. He is recognized as one of the all time greats in pediatrics, and sets an example of a pediatrician who learned to be heard on issues of child and public health. Jonathan Kline, an academic Pediatrician from the University of Rochester, is now Director of the Richmond Center and is collaborating with Swati Y Bhave and Ruth Etzel in tobacco control initiatives of the International Pediatric Association. Renee Jenkins, Past President of the American Academy of Pediatrics and a leader in academic adolescent medicine comments, "Dr. Richmond was one of the giants in our field. He was a wonderful role model for pediatric leaders in the United States and throughout the world". IPA and the AAP will miss his pioneering spirit and his effective voice in public health policy affecting child health.

IPA represented on Board of the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health in active summer and autumn Board meetings

A Board meeting of PMNCH was held in London on July 17 – 18, 2008, preceded by meetings of the health care professional organizations International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology (FIGO), International Confederation of Midwives (ICM), and IPA on the 16th of July.



IPA colleagues from the Board of the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health: Andre Lalonde of FIGO and Daisy Mafubelu, Assistant Director-General for Family and Community Health WHO

This PMNCH Board meeting was largely devoted to discussions of a two year review of PMNCH and its structure. Further board meetings were held in mid-September and November. We Health Care professionals (HCP's) should be proud of all achievements of the PMNCH during its early

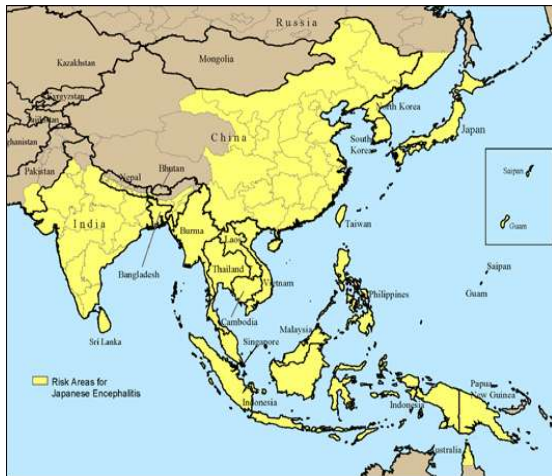
years; a most successful one has been the establishment of collaborations between IPA, FIGO and ICM. These global health care professional organizations have driven this collaboration which has resulted in a series of workshops at regional level. Two have been held in Africa (Malawi for five Anglophone countries and Burkina Faso for five francophone countries

The third workshop is planned for participants from South Asian countries, Zulfiqar Bhutta is leading the planning for this workshop for IPA. Hopefully workshops in Latin America and the Middle East will follow, pending identification of funds.

Another significant achievement of the PMNCH has been emphasis on a continuum of care for mothers, newborns, and children. The importance of country level collaborations of the health care professionals involved in maternal, newborn and child health (Pediatrics, OB-GYN, and Nursing/Midwifery) is a crucial step in this process. A unified voice from Health Care Professionals will be much louder than each of us speaking only for his or her part of the MNCH continuum.

August 2008

IPA asked to address issues of Japanese Encephalitis in Asian children



Geographic range of Japanese Encephalitis

Japanese Encephalitis (JE), a scourge for children from a number of Asian countries, can be prevented by an available vaccine. Vaccine for Japanese Encephalitis has now been adopted as part of the GAVI portfolio, and its usage is being promoted by a number of organizations including PATH (a major international NGO started by the Gates Foundation). James Chayne, public health vaccine expert, and leader in PATH, requested help from IPA in publicizing the issues of Japanese Encephalitis and the potential for control of the disease by adequate vaccine use. Suggested activities for IPA include inclusion of discussions of Japanese Encephalitis in Pediatric congresses or meetings, national or local workshops addressing the disease, informing IPA members fully about JE (prevention, diagnosis and management), distribution of Japanese Encephalitis information

and available resources (clinical care guidelines, guidelines to rehabilitation of affected patients), promotion of reporting of Japanese Encephalitis cases (current reporting rates are low in most countries), and training of pediatricians to become national advocates for Japanese Encephalitis prevention through immunization. In regard to these ideas, the 4th Asian Congress of Pediatric Infectious Disease held in Indonesia in June this year hosted a Japanese Encephalitis Symposium for pediatricians, and the upcoming Asia Pacific Pediatric Congress in Shanghai in October 2009 will also include a session on Japanese Encephalitis. IPA thanks Dr. Chayne and his associates for calling on IPA to become active in control of this disease which is a major problem for the children of Asia.

IPA supports a workshop on management of children in disaster situations for Myanmar Pediatric and child health communities

A workshop for pediatricians and related child health personnel from psychiatry and mental health and OBGYN communities was held in Yangon, Myanmar from August 11 – 15, 2008. This workshop was in response to the cyclone Yargis disaster in May which was an overwhelming experience for health providers and personnel in Myanmar. This workshop was hosted by the Myanmar Pediatric Society, the Pediatric Society of Thailand, and the Khon Kaen Faculty of Medicine. The workshop was supported by IPA, the Faculty of Medicine at Khon Kaen University, Rainbow Babies and Childrens Hospital (Case Western Reserve University) and Health Frontiers. The faculty was drawn from the Pediatric Society, Myanmar Medical Association; UNICEF Myanmar, the Department of Obstetrics, Myanmar University of Medicine; and the Faculty of Medicine Khon Kaen University, Sanga and Mahidol Universities in Thailand. A severe humanitarian emergency followed the cyclone Nargis on May 2, 2008 which devastated an immense area of Myanmar. In the affected areas, an estimated 2.4 million people were affected , 700, 000 homes destroyed, 75 percent of health facilities destroyed, and over 4,000 schools damaged or destroyed. The toll this took on mothers, newborns and children and families in the affected areas can only be imagined, as can the toll on other health providers within the affected areas. The tireless efforts of Professor Karen Olness of Case Western

Reserve University and Associate Professor Sriwieng Pairojkul of Khon Kaen University, Professor Laye Maung Han, President of the Myanmar Pediatric Society, and Professor Somsak Loelekha, President of the Pediatric Society of Thailand organized this course on short notice to respond to requests from the Myanmar Pediatric Society and their colleagues in child health. The objectives of the workshop were for:



Myanmar pediatricians and child health specialists learning the in's and out's of child health in medical emergency during an IPA sponsored workshop in Myanmar, August 2008

1. Participants to identify the important problems and priorities for children in humanitarian emergencies.
2. Describe reasons why children are amongst the most vulnerable in disasters.
3. Conduct emergency nutritional assessments of children.
4. Develop health profiles on displaced children and plan suitable interventions.
5. Identify triage issues specific to children.
6. List considerations in planning emergency housing, clean water provision, and sanitation in disaster areas.
7. Describe interventions for prevention of infectious disease outbreaks after disaster.
8. Describe school based psychological interventions for children.
9. Define common psychosocial issues for children and means to address them.
10. Establish psychological support programs and provide protection for children during disasters.

Forty participants registered for the workshop: a majority of pediatricians, and nurses, obstetricians, psychiatrists, and allied health participants. Participants were enthusiastic about their participation. "It is absolutely no doubt that I became more competent in handling things in disaster after this workshop"; "I am very happy because we exchanged knowledge and we can now anticipate what humanitarian emergency situation we will encounter, either a natural disaster or a man made disaster". "I think that it is essential for all pediatricians".

In summary, it was felt that the participants came and went to their various health settings better informed on how to manage children during disaster situations. This course is one of a number of similar courses that have been taught in many regions of the world now. During 2008, workshops were held in Saudi Arabia (January 2008), Lebanon (February 2008), and Myanmar (August 2008). An additional workshop is planned for Sudan in January 2009.



Report
Management of Children in
Disaster Situations

August 11-15, 2008
Traders Hotel, Yangon

Hosted by :
Myanmar Pediatric Society
Pediatric Society of Thailand
Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University

Supported by:
International Pediatric Association
Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital
Health Frontiers
Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University

IPA will continue to collaborate with our good colleagues from Case Western Reserve University led by Karen Olness, IPA Technical Advisor in Child Health in Humanitarian Emergency and Sivieng Pairojkul, IPA Program Committee member. Our goal is to train pediatricians around the world for disaster preparedness. At the present time we are too often left responding to the needs of the pediatrics and child health communities in areas where disasters have already occurred. These workshops always include heavy participation from local pediatric societies and the academic communities, and when possible country level officers of UNICEF and WHO, and government agencies. IPA recognizes and thanks Professors Olness and Pairojkul for heading up this extremely important and successful endeavor, and we salute our colleagues in Myanmar for their brave response to this disaster.

IPA calls for action on Pneumococcal Disease prevention,

Ciro de Quadros, IPA Technical Advisor in Immunization, and Zulfiqar Bhutta, IPA Treasurer and member of The Pneumococcal Awareness Council of Experts (PACE) shepherded the IPA signing of a global call to action on Pneumococcal Disease prevention. This call to action emphasizes that Pneumococcal Disease is the most common vaccine preventable cause of death world wide, kills more than 800,000 children each year, and that safe and effective vaccines are now available to prevent this disease. As professionals dedicated to improving the health and well being of children and families world wide, the IPA supports this initiative heartily. The call to action asks governments and their leaders and international institutions to address issues of vaccine funding so that this vaccine is available for the children who need it throughout the world, calls upon leaders in health science in related fields to raise awareness of the burden of pneumococcal disease, calls upon vaccine manufacturers to continue the development of vaccines that will address specific pneumococcal stereotypes in different world regions, and calls upon all of the above parties to work together in a coordinated fashion to assure that pneumococcal vaccines are available, affordable and sustainable. Any IPA Member Society which also wishes to sign the PACE call to action on behalf of its society can find the document on the IPA website.



Ciro de Quadros, IPA Technical Advisor in immunization and Executive Vice-President Albert B. Sabin Vaccine Institute

IPA represented at World AIDS Conference in Mexico City

IPA Technical Advisor Jerry Coovadia, Past President of the 2000 World AIDS Conference in Durban, South Africa, played a major role at the World Aids Conference in Mexico City. Also attending were IPA plenary speakers from past IPA Congresses; Catherine Wilfert of Duke University and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric Aids Foundation, and Mark Kline Chair of the Baylor AIDS Program. Despite the presence of these leading pediatricians in the field of Pediatric HIV, there was virtually no emphasis in the formal meeting program concerning children and issues of

Pediatric AIDS. One plenary lecture addressed this matter with an appropriate title, "No Small Issue: Children and Families, Universal Action Needed Now", presented by Linda

Richter of the Human Sciences Research Council of South Africa. IPA through its program on HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis is discussing the need for convening leaders in pediatric AIDS to work together for more emphasis on prevention of HIV/AIDS in children and adolescents, and equitable treatment of those children who have already been infected.



Two Presidents of the World Aids Conference: Jerry Coovadia, President of the 2000 World Aids Conference and IPA Technical Advisor in HIV/Aids, and Julio Montaner, Vancouver, President of the 2008 Aids World Conference

September 2008

IPA was represented at an exploratory meeting concerned with defining a global constituency of Civil Society Organizations in Global Health. Civil Society Organizations (CSO's), include Health Care Professional Organizations (HCP's) in countries all over the world. Other CSO's concerned with issues of health, health equity, alleviation of poverty, and related issues include faith based organizations, women's organizations, and organizations which address specific issues such as HIV/AIDS and human rights. With the advent of the new IHP+ process there has been activity to create a representative consortium of civil society organizations and develop a common global voice for such organizations. The well organized HIV/AIDS community has spearheaded this initiative. Two representatives of the GAVI Board, Jane Schaller of IPA and Faroque Ahmed of BRAC (a prominent NGO in Bangladesh), attended this meeting. The other twenty eight participants were all drawn from the HIV/AIDS world and entered through their participation in the Global Fund against AIDS, Malaria and TB. The agenda addressed a number of issues and we GAVI representatives learned about the advocacy approaches of the HIV/AIDS world and the Global Fund. It is of concern to IPA that our voices for Maternal Newborn and Child Health have not been raised as effectively as those of the various groups devoted to AIDS activism. It is also of interest and concern that the HIV/AIDS world is mostly geared toward adult AIDS, with little attention paid to pediatric AIDS issues. The two GAVI representatives tried to broaden this discussion to include issues of Maternal Newborn and Child Health, and recommended that GAVI remain engaged in this process for future gatherings. It is impressive to see how many civil society organizations in the world share common interests in health. IPA has long espoused the idea of identifying stakeholders in Newborn and Child Health and learning to work and advocate together; this was the basic premise of the Child Watch Africa Conference and process which were initiated in 2002 by UNAPSA/ IPA.

October 2008

IPA Executive and Standing Committees meet in Boston in conjunction with annual meeting of American Academy of Pediatrics

October 13 – 16, 2008



IPA colleagues Yveline Houenou (IPA Standing Committee), Ruth Etzel (IPA Technical Advisor: Children's Environmental Health), Renee Jenkins (2007 – 2008 AAP President), Najwa Khuri-Bulos (IPA Standing Committee)

The IPA Standing Committee convened for a successful meeting in Boston concurrent with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics. This was a landmark meeting for IPA, as it inaugurated a new system of Technical Advisors to assume leadership in IPA program areas. The new technical advisors and their program areas include Swati Y Bhave (Adolescent Health), Zulfiqar Bhutta (Newborn and Child Survival), H.M. Coovadia (HIV/AIDS TB), Ciro de Quadros (Immunization), Ruth Etzel, (Children's Environmental Health), Kalle Hoppu (Better Medicines for Children), Sverre Olaf Lie (MDG

Project), Karen Olness (Child Health and Humanitarian Emergency), Giorgio Tamburlini (Quality of Care and Evidence Based Medicine), and Ricardo Uauy, (Nutrition). Each of these Technical Advisors is an internationally recognized academic leader in his or her field. IPA program committees in each of the program areas will be co-chaired by the technical advisor and a co-chair from the IPA standing committee. At the Boston meeting each technical advisor presented an overview of his or her particular program area and emphasized ways in which the International Pediatric Association could address important issues. The IPA Standing Committee warmly welcomed the Technical Advisors as official participants in the IPA and looks forward to advancing IPA contributions to these ten important program areas which affect child health worldwide. The Technical Advisors and their co chairs will be creating active websites in each program area which should be of wide interest to pediatricians throughout the world, and we will be glad to hear from Pediatricians who have particular interests in particular program areas.

Also at the Boston meeting, 8 Working Committees of the IPA were established and organized with the leadership of Professor Judith Hall on behalf of the IPA Executive Committee. The committees include Communication (Naveen Thacker), Education (Hussein Bahaaeldin), Finance and Fundraising (Zulfiqar Bhutta), Advocacy and Government Affairs (Bill Keenan), Archives and Alumni (Hussein Bahaaeldin), Ethics (Chok-wan Chan), Governance and Constitution (Sergio Cabral), and Newsletter (Swati Y Bhave). Each of these Working Committees addresses an issue which involves a key area of IPA function, and each member of the IPA Standing Committee will serve on one or two Committees.



Enver Hasanoglu (IPA Standing Committee), Sanath Lamabadusuriya (IPA Standing Committee), Ahmed Younes (IPA Executive and Standing Committee 2001 – 2008), Bill Keenan (IPA Standing Committee), Swati Y Bhave (IPA Executive and Standing Committee)

During this meeting IPA also had the opportunity to interact with the leadership of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the leadership of the Pediatric Academic Societies (PAS). The Indian Academy of Pediatrics had a special educational section in conjunction with the American Academy of Pediatrics. IPA leadership also met with the AAP Section on International Child Health, and discussed possible mutual programmatic activities including a workshop at the upcoming 2010 Congress in Johannesburg. Finally, IPA was honored that H.M. Coovadia, IPA Technical Advisor in the field of HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis, received the Christopherson Award from the American Academy of Pediatrics and presented a powerful lecture on preventable issues of HIV in children.

Visit with Robert Haggerty and presentation of Charles A. Janeway biography to IPA

Professor Haggerty has been a leader in IPA and served as IPA Executive Director. IPA was delighted to have an informal meeting with him during the Academy during which he presented the IPA with a copy of his recently published biography of Charles A. Janeway, Professor and Chair of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. Professor Janeway was one of the pioneers of global child health and The International Pediatric Association. The IPA had languished during

the time of the Second World War. Professor Janeway was a leader in organizing the first post World War Two International Pediatric Congress held in New York in July 1947. Distinguished world pediatricians present at that meeting included Professor Guido Fanconi of Switzerland. Professor Janeway remained involved with the International Pediatric Association, became a member of the Executive Board in 1956, chaired the Executive Committee from 1962 – 1968, and remained on the Executive Council until 1978. He brought Ihsan Dogramaci, one of his international students, into the fold of the IPA. Professor Janeway was the first American



pediatrician to call wide attention to international child health and to the importance of the IPA. His biography written by Professors Haggerty and Lovejoy (Harvard Press in 2007), makes good reading for any pediatrician interested in the history of international pediatrics and the roles that individuals can play in calling attention to the health of children beyond their own shores.

IPA officers meet with former IPA Executive Director Bob Haggerty and Mrs. Haggerty at the time of the AAP Annual Boston 2008 meeting. Professor Haggerty presented the IPA with a copy of his biography of Charles Janeway

UNAPSA and IPA participate in GAVI Task Team Conference

Selected representatives of Civil Society Organizations from developing world countries were invited to a special GAVI Task Team meeting in Geneva to discuss how Civil Society Organizations can be mobilized to contribute to immunization and Child Health Programs at country level. An interesting group of CSO representatives attended, including Professor Amha Mekasha, from Ethiopia. GAVI Board and Task Team member Jane Schaller also attended. This two day meeting had wide ranging discussions of the situation on the ground in poor countries concerning immunization and how various organizations could become more active. One major cause for low immunization rates is that many children are not reached by the health system. The hope is that CSO's could bridge the gap and bring children into the health care system through their extended reach in rural and slum areas. Professor Mekasha was an important participant in this meeting, bringing the expertise of a pediatrician who is a Professor in his National Medical School, practicing pediatrician, an expert who has worked with his government Ministry of Health and a trainer in primary health care (including immunization) for health care workers in remote areas of Ethiopia. CSO's present represented church groups, government health systems, women's groups and so forth, and we were proud to have good representation from a health care professional organization included. The GAVI CSO task team will continue to address matters concerning Civil Society Organizations and their engagement with immunization and other broad aspects of maternal newborn and child health at country level.

Mediterranean Pediatricians meet

23 – 26 October, 2008

The new UMEMPS Secretary General, Professor H. Essaddam, organized the 31st Congress of the Union of Middle-Eastern and Mediterranean Pediatric Societies (UMEMPS) in Tunis. The Congress was held under the patronage of His Excellency, Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President of the Republic of Tunisia, and was attended by three hundred registered participants. The Tunisian Minister of Health, Mondher Znaïdi, opened the Conference and Professor Essaddam presented a lecture on the history of Pediatrics in Tunisia. Professor Theodore Thomaidis of Greece was honored for his twenty one years of excellent service as UMEMPS Secretary General. The next Mediterranean Congress will be held 30th September – 3rd October, 2009 in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

European Pediatricians meet in Nice

24 – 28 October, 2008

IPA President Chok-wan Chan represented IPA at the Second European Academy of Pediatrics Congress. Professor Jose Ramet of Belgium, President of the Congress and member of the International Pediatric Association Standing Committee from 2001 – 2007, ensured that many topics regarding pediatrics and pediatric subspecialties were addressed. The Congress theme “The future of pediatrics from a European perspective: research, training and clinical expertise” featured a keynote lecture on “Global Child Health: What European Pediatricians should know” delivered by IPA President Chok-wan Chan. A Congress Symposium on Global Child Health emphasized both the importance of child health in developing countries and the relevance of the MDGs to industrialized countries. Professor and Mrs. Peter Cooper and Professor Chok-wan Chan promoted the International Pediatric Association’s 2010 Pediatric Congress taking place in Johannesburg, South Africa, and were pleased that many Congress participants stopped by the booth for information and conversation. IPA Representatives were also pleased to note that the exhibition booths at the Congress were ethical without evidence of violation of the WHO code of marketing of breast milk substitutes.

The impact of Pneumococcal disease on children

Dr. Francois Tall, President of the Union of African Pediatric Societies and Associations (UNAPSA), attended the Pneumococcal Awareness Council of Experts (PACE) Global Call to Action meeting held in Washington, DC:

Pneumococcal disease is found across the globe, and is a leading cause of death in Africa and other parts of the Developing world. The development and dissemination of resistant strains makes the care of this disease difficult, with greatest sensitivity experienced in children suffering from sickle cell anemia and HIV. It is of great importance that African pediatricians commit themselves to uniting under UNAPSA’s banner and insist to decision makers that the lives of millions of children depend on the introduction of a pneumococcal vaccine in immunization programs. WHO, UNICEF, GAVI and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation support this call to action and can be relied upon for their positive responses. Among other participants at this global call to action were representatives from the Kenyan Pediatric Association and the Latin American Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases.

November

IPA represented at SAGE meeting

November 5 – 7, 2008

Ciro de Quadros, IPA Technical Advisor in immunization, serves as an advisor to the Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE), WHO Vaccines and Immunizations. SAGE met from the 5 –

7 November, 2008. Jane Schaller, IPA Executive Director was also in attendance. The WHO SAGE is an important technical advisory group to the WHO department of Vaccines and Immunizations, and essentially sets world immunization policy. IPA had a seat on the SAGE board from 2002 – 2004 when the membership included representatives of organizations. SAGE board members include technical and academic experts nominated by WHO regions. This particular meeting was of interest to IPA because of discussion of HPV vaccine, measles immunization (including the fear of autism as well as the feasibility of global elimination of measles), rotavirus vaccine, polio eradication, Japanese Encephalitis control, and Hepatitis B vaccine. IPA and pediatricians were asked to address issue of polio eradication, particularly in Nigeria where the issue is that many children are not reached by immunization. The polio eradication campaign has been a good example of how interdependent world health has become. Polio was formerly eradicated from most countries, but following an outbreak among unimmunized children in northern Nigeria a number of world countries have been reinfected. The Nigerian Pediatric Society is well aware of this problem and will be featuring discussions at its annual meeting in January 2009. There is wide support for the idea of making the important new vaccines for rotavirus and pneumococcal disease available to countries of the poor world, as well as increasing coverage with HIG vaccine. Taken together these three vaccines would eliminate a significant percentage of the two largest killers of children today: pneumonia and diarrheal disease. The new HPV vaccines present other interesting issues, including immunization of girls and adolescents and immunization of children to prevent a disease which expresses itself in adults (cervical cancer). Cervical cancer is rampant in countries of the poor world where cancer screening services are not widely available.

Turkish Pediatricians meet

The Turkish Pediatricians convened at the 52nd National Congress of Pediatrics in the lovely seaside setting of Antalya, Turkey, November 12 to 16, 2008. A large and enthusiastic number of pediatricians gathered from all over Turkey. There were many excellent sessions highlighting issues of importance to pediatric and child health. A special session addressed the Millennium Development Goals and the protection of children during war. The President of the Iraqi Pediatric Society presented a moving lecture about the plight of Iraqi children caught up in the recent wars. Three speakers addressing major issues of tobacco control in children, the Turkish Society targeting this as an important area for action. Jane Schaller presented a plenary lecture on Child Protection and the Millennium Development Goals. Enver Hasanoglu, Central Asian representative to the IPA Standing Committee, was a major organizer and Director of this Congress.



Turkish and Iraqi pediatric colleagues at the Turkish National Pediatric Society Congress, November 2008 (Luay Al-Nouri and Mrs. Al-Nouri, and Enver Hasanoglu, General-Secretary Turkish National Pediatric Society member)

IPA representatives visit Sichuan, earthquake zone in China

IPA President Chok-wan Chan, IPA Technical Advisor Karen Olness, IPA Child Health in Humanitarian Emergency Committee Member, Srivieng Pairojkul of Thailand, and Executive Director Jane Schaller were honored to be invited to the twentieth anniversary celebration of the West China Second University Hospital, Sichuan University. This meeting had originally been planned to honor the anniversary of the hospital, the anniversary of the National Center of Birth Defects Monitoring of China, and the opening of a new and beautiful maternal and child hospital. After the tragic Sichuan earthquake of May, 2008 sessions on Child Health in Humanitarian Emergency was added, and IPA was invited to make a number of presentations. This most interesting meeting was attended by pediatric representatives from many regions of China, including Professor Xiao Hu He, President of the Chinese Pediatric Association and next President of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association, and Professor Ziro Wu, a leading Beijing pediatric academician who was an organizer of the twenty third International Pediatric Congress in Beijing and Professor Jie Ding who is now a member of the IPA Standing Committee. There was ample time to interact with the Chinese Pediatricians in attendance, a rewarding and enjoyable experience for IPA.



Mao Meng, President West China Second University Hospital, Chengdu and Xiao Hu He, President-Elect of the Asia Pacific Pediatric Association

The session on Child Health and Emergency, with special attention to the earthquake emergency, was excellent. Karen Olness and Srivieng Pairojkul did IPA proud with their detailed and informed presentations. Professor Mao Meng, President of the West China Second University Hospital, gave a detailed presentation of first hand earthquake experiences and lessons learned. Jane Schaller discussed Global Child Health and the Millennium Development Goals. There were many first hand reports from attendants who had suffered the earthquake. The program also included most interesting sections on human genetics, human development, childhood cancer and maternal newborn and child health. We congratulate our West China colleagues and all of our Chinese Pediatric colleagues on this fine gathering.

A family entering temporary pediatric facilities which have replaced the earthquake damaged hospital in the Sichuan quake area





IPA participants in the International Symposium for the Restoration of the Health System for Women and Children in Sichuan Quake Areas. IPA presented a session in collaboration with our Sichuan colleagues. (From left to right: Srivieng Pairojkul, Co-Chair IPA Committee on Children's Health in Humanitarian Emergency, Chok-wan Chan, Jane Schaller, Mao Meng, Chairman of the Symposium and President of the hospital, Karen Olness, IPA Technical Advisor in Child Health in Emergency, and Andreas Huber, Laboratory Medicine, Switzerland)

A visit to the earthquake zone was arranged for participants the day before the meeting. We visited a small city where 1% of the population had been killed by the earthquake and there was wide destruction. This particular site was 5 – 10 km from the epicenter of the quake. Video was being recorded to document the annual hospital Nurses Day celebration when the earthquake started and the whole occurrence was movingly captured on tape. Our IPA President Chok-wan Chan had visited the earthquake zone shortly after the earthquake in May, and also presented a first hand report. IPA representatives met with Professor Mao and her West China colleagues, and she and IPA President Chan and Technical Advisor Karen Olness are making plans for future mutual endeavors. It has been suggested that IPA assist our Chinese colleagues with training pediatricians throughout China in disaster preparedness, and that indeed such courses be emphasized in other countries as well.

November 22nd – 25th, 2008

IPA leads workshop for Health Care Professionals from seven Asian countries under the auspices of the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health

This workshop was organized under the leadership of Professor Zulfiqar Bhutta from the Aga Khan University, Karachi, and also Treasurer and Executive Committee member of the IPA. Professor Bhutta and Executive Director Jane Schaller represent the IPA on the Board of the Partnership for Maternal Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). This workshop was the third in a series of PMNCH Healthcare Professional Workshops, the first having been held in Anglophone Africa and Francophone Africa respectively, which bring together country level representatives of the Professional Societies of obstetrics and gynecology, midwifery, and pediatrics to discuss collaborations of health care professionals (HCPAs) across the spectrum of maternal newborn and child health. This was the third in a series of such workshops

This third health care professional workshop was held on November 22-25, 2008 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, bringing together representatives of HCPAs from 6 countries in the South Asian region (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan). The objective of these workshops is to strengthen the ability of participating HCPAs to engage in advocacy activities, and in the planning and implementation of programs and policies relevant to the achievement of MDGs 4 and 5. The workshop format was divided into two parts: the first provided a forum for the sharing of best practices and success stories through plenary sessions and panel discussions, and the second focused on group work resulting in the production of country action plans to guide joint HCPA activities within the next two years.

The workshop was attended by a range of health care professionals from associations varying in size, experience, and organizational strength. The wide donor and international presence was drawn from AusAID, USAID, WHO, UNFPA and UNICEF. However, low representation from Ministries of Health indicated the need for greater advocacy work to ensure that governments in the six participating countries are informed of the benefits of involving HCPAs in the design and introduction of MNCH related programs and policies.

In the first half of the workshop, participants learned about The Pakistan Lady Health Worker Program which has contributed to substantial reductions in maternal mortality through the scale-up of community health workers. Other success stories described HCPAs in Bangladesh and Afghanistan working with government officials to expand training opportunities (e.g., to increase the number of skilled birth attendants and midwives, respectively), and a fistula project in Pakistan responsible for improving the demand for and availability of emergency obstetrical care and fistula treatment services at the community level. In addition, representatives from Indian HCPAs presented a number of positive examples of how HCPAs can become well-organized, sufficiently resourced, and highly influential in MNCH-related activities.

The first portion of the workshop also provided an opportunity for Workshop attendees to foster networks, identify common concerns and objectives, and begin prioritizing actions that could be jointly addressed at the regional level. For example, all participants agreed that the unequal distribution of health workers poses a challenge to the equitable delivery of services, particularly in areas of greatest need such as urban slums and remote localities. Other shared problems included insufficient government involvement and funding, dependency on unstable donor funding, inefficient use of available funds, and the need for advocacy activities geared towards changing service provider attitudes and creating higher demand at the community level.

During the second portion of the workshop, participants pledged to form national HCPA coalitions in their home countries with the objective of working together towards the achievement of MDGs 4 and 5. Another key outcome of the second half of the workshop included the development of country action plans consisting of feasible and measurable tasks to be accomplished within the next 1-2 years.

An additional of the workshop was the acknowledgement of the importance of involving pharmacists and anaesthesiologists in HCPA activities. The workshop also marked the first time that pediatricians, obstetricians, pharmacists, midwives, nurses and members of the Ministry of Health from Afghanistan were able to convene and work together.



**Zulfiqar Bhutta, IPA
organizer of the PMNCH
Workshop for Health Care
professionals, November
2008**

We acknowledge the leadership of Professor Bhutta in this endeavour and also the importance for all of us as pediatricians to collaborate with our colleagues in Maternal Newborn and Child Health at country and regional levels. Similar PMNCH HCPA workshops are planned for 2009 in the Middle East and in Latin America.

Our colleagues from the American Academy of Pediatrics send a warm greeting December 2008

From the AAP: As the year comes to an end, we of the AAP want to reach out to IPA and its member societies and wish all the best for 2009. This has been a great year of accomplishment for the AAP Section on International Child Health and the Office of International Affairs. This year we received a record twenty one applications for the I-CATCH grant. Seven were funded for the next three years, making seventeen total grants funded to date by our very active Section on International Child Health.

In addition, the AAP Office of International Affairs worked in collaboration with the Department of Education to reduce the rate for registration of international attendees to the Annual AAP National Conference and Exhibition, our largest annual Continuing Medical Education program. This will be important to the upcoming National Conference and Exhibition in Washington DC, October 17-20, 2009. In 2008 we had record conference attendance by international colleagues from 78 countries around the world. This is a great opportunity for AAP members to interact and share experiences with our international guests. These are just a few examples of collaborations that keep our Section and Office working with colleagues abroad.

An additional initiative deserves more attention; the AAP has worked with our Division of Scholarly Journals and Professional Periodicals and the Department of Marketing and Publications in past years to find ways to reach lower income countries with our materials. We have been very lucky to have found two outlets which permit these journals to reach many colleagues abroad for free or at low cost. These include:

The HighWire Free Access Program

HighWire-based program offering access to journals, periodicals and marketing materials to countries appearing on the World Bank's list of "low income economies," plus Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Djibouti, Georgia, Indonesia, Turkmenistan, and Ukraine. You do not need to sign up for this service as our software automatically detects the country you are connecting from and grants access accordingly. Information is available at: <http://highwire.stanford.edu/lists/freart.dtl>

The HINARI Program

Eligibility: Local, not-for-profit institutions in two groups of countries may register for access to the journals through HINARI. The country lists are based on GNI per capita (World Bank figures, 2006). Institutions in countries with GNI per capita below \$1250 are eligible for free access. Institutions in countries with GNI per capita between \$1250-\$3500 pay a fee of \$1000 per year / institution.

More information is available at <http://www.who.int/hinari/en>

Visit the AAP's website for more information on free and low cost access to these materials. www.aap.org. In addition, Online access to Journal Watch Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine and other specialty areas is now available free of charge to individuals who access www.iwatch.org/misc/help/acess.dtl from any of 100 resource limited countries. Individuals in these countries will be recognized automatically by their IP addresses. No login or registration is required for this access.

2010

To end an eventful Annum 2008, the 26th International Pediatric Association Congress of Pediatrics

Johannesburg, South Africa 5 – 9 August, 2010

Professor Keith Bolton, President of the 26th International Congress sends a message of greetings from South Africa. "The term simunye means we are united in Zulu and this is the slogan of the 26th International Pediatric Association Congress. The main themes of the Congress will be:

- global child health issues
- the practice of clinical pediatrics for the general pediatrician
- pediatric education
- training and research
- ethical issues
- pediatric surgery

Five plenary sessions will cover global child health and the Millennium Development Goals, neonatology, infectious diseases, nutrition, child development, and environmental and social issues. Plenary sessions will feature speakers from both industrialized and developing countries in order to embrace the full spectrum of these topics across the world. The deadline for abstracts will be six months before the Congress."

We of the IPA add our warm greetings, and we hope that our pediatric colleagues from all countries and all regions of the world will join us in South Africa for this landmark Congress in August 2010.



Keith Bolton and Mrs. Bolton look forward to welcoming all of you to the 2010 Congress of Pediatrics in Johannesburg, August 2010. Professor Bolton is the President of the Congress.