



newsletter



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY

Volume 7 May 2001

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The United Nations has decided that a Second World Assembly on Ageing will be held in 2002.

The resolution of the General Assembly convening the Second World Assembly (Resolution 54/262)

"Invites non-governmental organizations in the field of ageing, as well as research institutions and representatives of the private sector, to participate in and contribute to the Second World Assembly on Ageing and its preparatory process, including organizing meetings and studies related to the themes of the Second World Assembly..."

The Second World Assembly on Ageing to be hosted by the Spanish Government in Madrid is planned for 8 - 12 April 2002. This is a major global event where delegations from the Member States of the UN will gather in formal session to discuss and debate the production of an International Plan of Action on Ageing for subsequent endorsement of the UN General Assembly and implementation by Member States throughout the world.

This document will be a revision of the 1982 International (Vienna) Plan of Action produced by the First World Assembly on Ageing. It is intended to provide a blueprint for action by governments in addressing the challenges of rapid population ageing in the opening decades of the new century with special emphasis on the developing world.

The World Assembly itself is primarily a political event with most of the delegates comprising government ministers and official representatives. This Assembly, unlike the first, will have a series of parallel and associated activities interacting with the Assembly itself.

One of the most significant of the associated activities will be a process that engages the World's academic, professional and provider (practitioners and services) community concerned with the science and practice of gerontology, geriatrics and aged care (Research, Education and Provider or REPs Forum). It is proposed that this



Gary Andrews, President

Forum which will be auspiced by the IAG and supported by the Novartis Foundation for Gerontology will take place in Valencia, Spain in the week immediately preceding the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

The challenge will be to marshal the world's leaders in the study, teaching and practice of gerontology as well as in the provision of care and services to the ageing. To distil the essence of their individual and collective experience, knowledge and understanding of how best to address the issues associated with global ageing.

A program and process is being planned that will ensure the best scientific knowledge, experience and understanding of individual and population ageing and the meaning and consequences of these achievements is provided to the policy and decision makers involved in the formulation of the Revised International Plan of Action on Ageing that is expected to be produced by the Second World Assembly on Ageing.

My statement, as President of the IAG, to the Preparatory Committee for the Assembly in February 2001 announcing the Valencia Forum is reproduced on page 2.

Gary Andrews,
President

STATEMENT TO THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE SECOND WORLD ASSEMBLY ON AGEING

Mr Chairman, Distinguished Delegates

I am most grateful and privileged to make a brief statement on behalf of the International Association of Gerontology (IAG), the IAG is a Non Government Organisation (NGO) representing 62 national professional associations concerned with research, education and professional practice in the field of ageing with members in 56 countries.

At this prepcom meeting I am also a member of the HelpAge International delegation.

In the almost 20 years since the First World Assembly held in Vienna in 1982 (in which I was privileged to participate as a member of the Australian Delegation) extraordinary transformation has taken place in demographic, social and economic profiles of the world's major regions and individual nations.

The world we all know will literally, never be the same!

How should we respond to the massive social, economic developmental and humanitarian challenges we have heard described these last days especially as they will pan out in the near future in the developing world? What sign posts are they're to guide us?

Mention has already been made of the importance of research in this regard - information and knowledge that can underpin sound policy and program decisions in the future.

Since January 1999 a series of expert consultations have pursued the development of a Global Research Agenda on Ageing for the 21st Century. The present outcomes of this exercise are being currently processed by the UN secretariat on Ageing and will be posted on the UN Website for information and wide reaction comment and advice shortly.

The process does not, however, stop there: The *Research Agenda* is an ongoing exercise: whatever concerns it professes now are but today's, and are the progenitors of tomorrow's questions. In the past two decades astonishing advances have been made in our knowledge and understanding of ageing at all levels. Mapping the human genome, understanding the basic processes in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease and clearer definition of labour and

retirement participation dynamics in many different cultural and socio-economic settings, for instance - but we still have much more to learn. Nor is the research to which I refer simply laboratory, bench top or statistical academic effort. Much of our improved understanding comes not from the biological science laboratory but from what might be called the *laboratory of life*, from what is sometimes called participatory and action research, drawing upon the experience and insights of ageing persons themselves. It is critical that this information is logged and analysed with equal methodological rigour to that applied to classic scientific method - and not be left to mere rhetoric and anecdote.

The 45,000 individual researchers, teachers and professionals comprising the individual membership of the IAG and the 100 times more that make up that world wide constituency stand ready to offer their collective insight and understanding to support the deliberations of the World's Second Assembly on Ageing.

To facilitate this input the IAG will auspice a pre-Assembly event, to take place in the week prior to the World Assembly, in Valencia, Spain. It is intended to convene a Congress (Forum) to focus on the research education and best practice considerations. To crystallise and clearly articulate the research education and practice messages that can effectively inform policy and decision makers in their important deliberations and in this context support the formulation of the new *International Plan of Action on Ageing*.

This moment presents a true watershed in human experience. It is imperative that where we proceed from here is based on best information and leads to best decisions. In this process we are all the legitimate agents of change.

The revised International Plan of Action on Ageing, the principal outcome of the Madrid World Assembly, should represent a legitimate template for positive change.

We carry a great burden of responsibility - history will judge us all, most severely, if at this time and in this place we fail to provide the necessary leadership or we allow clouding of our vision of what needs to be. Let us ensure that we use effectively what we now know and understand to create a better world for 'all ages'.

LAST WORDS FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL:



UN Updates on WAA-2

You can stay abreast of the latest developments in the preparation for the WAA-2 by visiting the UN website at (<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/waa/>). There you will find a range of information including *Countdown: Newsletter of the United Nations Programme on Ageing: UN Secretariat for the World Assembly on Ageing*, press releases, reports on various meetings etc. Recent items of particular interest include: (a) A Report of the UN Secretary General: Towards the Second World Assembly on Ageing, that was issued in advance of the Preparatory Committee Meeting held in February. (b) A Report of the Inter-Agency Meeting for the Second World Assembly on Ageing, held 6-7 March 2001 in New York City. (c) Plans for the ECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing. This initiative of the Federal German Government, will be held in the Foreign Ministry, Berlin, from 11 to 13 September 2002. The Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), as a regional sub-division of the UN, will be staging this post-WAA-2 conference with the aim of developing and implementing together with its member states general guidelines on policies for older persons.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS:

New Member Applications. We have recently had requests for joining the IAG from Sweden, Malaysia and, a true first for the IAG, South Africa. Council endorsement is required for all applications. Formal applications have been received from the Swedish Gerontological Society (SGS) and the Gerontological Association of Malaysia (GEM). The SGS was established in 1998 and is the only Swedish organisation represented in the Nordic Federation of Gerontology. The interdisciplinary SGS currently has 288 members in good standing and is devoted to promotion of research on the elderly and ageing, as well as to furthering the field of gerontology. The GEM has only just been established as the newest gerontological association in the Asia/Oceania Region. Its 136 current members aim to promote awareness on ageing by conducting research, to act as a catalyst to generate and disseminate knowledge and skills in areas related to the elderly and to collaborate with similar bodies locally and internationally.

As we go to press, I've just heard from Monica Ferreria that an application from the South African Gerontological Association (SAGA) is about to be mailed.

The Executive have approved the SGS and GEM applications, which are in accord with the By-Laws. The SAGA application will be processed as soon as it is received. A separate insert with this newsletter seeks endorsement from Council members, as required by the By-laws. As you will appreciate, these organisations would like to fully participate in the upcoming 17th World Congress, so there is some urgency about deciding on their applications.

2001 Council Meetings. Gloria Gutman, President-elect of the IAG, advises that the Council Meetings in Vancouver are scheduled for Wednesday July 4 and Thursday July 5, 2001 from 12noon to 3pm.

Voting Rights. In accord with the By-laws, only Council Members from member organisations who are financial are eligible to vote during Council Meetings.

Thanks and farewell. As this is my last newsletter, let me say that it has been a privilege to serve as the Secretary General of the IAG. Here I particularly want to thank those who contributed items for the Newsletter and to the local team in Adelaide without whom I might have been truly overwhelmed by my role.

Prof Mary Luszcz PhD,
Secretary General/Vice President
International Association of Gerontology

VISIT THE IAG WEBSITE AT:

www.cas.flinders.edu.au/iag

and check the Revision of the Manual of Operating Procedures which is subject to endorsement by the IAG Council in Vancouver.

A RESEARCH AGENDA ON AGEING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The UN Research Agenda on Ageing for the 21st Century represents a major initiative in the area of ageing and development, intended to contribute to the elaboration of public policies on ageing and influence the direction and priorities for scientific gerontology in the decades to come.
- The conviction that a sound research agenda on ageing is needed has emerged from the awareness that population and individual ageing will be a major challenge to humankind in the new millennium. Though, at present, most societies and individuals appear to be poorly equipped to meet this challenge.
- The intention is to develop a systematic approach to formulating and implementing a global agenda on policy related research on ageing.
- The project had its genesis in 1997 at the Sixteenth Congress of the International Association of Gerontology in Adelaide, Australia with an agreement between the United Nations Programme on Ageing and the International Association of Gerontology to develop a Research Agenda on Ageing for the 21st Century.
- Two expert group meetings in February and December 1999 defined the overall programme for a research agenda on ageing. The meetings acknowledged that research on ageing could be undertaken at several levels and across many arenas and proposed a broad framework to encompass major research issues.
- During the meetings, a number of recurring themes on ageing emerged as a series of priorities for further research and development. Each of these was seen as being able to be examined within the broad framework for the Research Agenda adopted by the meetings. The areas for consideration were summarised into three general categories as follows:
 - Quality of life, processes of ageing and 'healthy ageing'
 - Productivity and integration
 - Material security over the life course and networks of formal and informal systems of care and support
- The final expert consultation in Salsomaggiore, Italy in December 2001 tackled the task of refining the research topics that had previously been identified and clarifying priorities for action as well as proposing the next steps aimed at implementing the agenda in practice.
- The expert consultations progressively defined the most critical research arenas and identified the following topics for research:
 - Healthy ageing
 - Biomedical
 - Physical and mental functioning
 - Social Participation and Integration.
 - Changing structures of families, kin, primary groups and community.
 - Economic security
 - Macro-societal change and development
 - Policy Processes and Evaluation.
- A number of methodological challenges at present undoubtedly pose significant limitations to effective implementation of any comprehensive global research agenda. While fundamental work (instrumentation) has been progressively undertaken in many settings methodological refinements are still urgently required that cut across many of the research areas outlined above.
- A limited number of 'overarching' recommendations have been identified throughout the process of consultation on the Agenda.
- **Priority 1. Research into current practices and options for maintaining material security into older age.** This research effort is relevant in the developing world where serious questions have emerged about the long term sustainability of many national income security systems. It is also critical in the developing countries many of which have only the most rudimentary or even no systems in place or planned for the immediate future.
- **Priority 2. Research into changing family structures, intergenerational transfer systems and emergent patterns of family and institutional dynamics.** The changing nature of 'family' and traditional attitudes and behaviours between generations is widely claimed to be changing in most situations. Studies are needed that can track these changes and identify the economic and social impacts on individuals, communities and society.
- **Priority 3. Research into the Determinants of Healthy Ageing.** Health is a central issue associated with increase in longevity and population ageing. The maintenance of health status and functioning with age is a critical factor impacting upon many other aspects of the lives of older persons, their families and communities.
- **Priority 4. Research into Basic Biological Mechanisms and Age Associated Disease.** The opportunities presented by recent developments in the understanding of basic biological genetic, molecular and cellular aspects of life processes present astounding potential for unravelling the complex relationships between the fundamental mechanisms of ageing and the emergence of age associated disease. The prospects are greatly increased for the identification of efficacious pharmacological and other interventions that may prevent, ameliorate or reverse a range of chronic diseases that are linked to ageing.
- **Priority 5. Research into Quality of Life and Ageing in diverse cultural, socio-economic and environmental situations.** Ideas of what constitutes 'well-being' and 'good quality of life' with ageing clearly vary according to the social, cultural, economic and traditional context in which it is examined. There is a need for greater understanding of these fundamental variations in ageing and life experience. Much could be learned from well-framed and sensitively undertaken comparative research in settings of various social and economic development and cultural diversity.
- **Priority 6. Research into the relationships of population ageing and socio-economic development.** The interrelationships of rapid population ageing and socio-economic development remain ill understood and in the context of national development planning often overlooked. For developing countries, in particular, this relationship will become increasingly critical. More research is needed to identify the contributions made by older persons to social, cultural, spiritual and economic 'capital' of all nations. The productive contribution of older persons to society should be better measured and monitored along with clearer definition of the complex reciprocal social and economic exchanges that occur in all societies.
- As the United Nations prepares for the Second World Assembly on Ageing and the revision of the international Plan of Action on ageing the opportunity is presented for there to be a more comprehensive, collaborative and coordinated approach to addressing the challenges of improving knowledge and understanding of individual and population ageing world wide. A mechanism can now be contemplated that provides for a global commitment to research in the key priority areas identified in this agenda and to the implementation of a plan of action for this research at all levels: global, regional, national and local.
- Consideration should be given to means for establishment and allocation of resources to ensure the creation of a focus for facilitation of a globally coordinated effort to implement the agreed research agenda as a major outcome of the Second World assembly on Ageing.

50th ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE IAG

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the International Association of Gerontology, I, as IAG President, convened a series of meetings that were held in Salsomaggiore, Italy during December 2000. The meeting was held with the generous support of the Salsomaggiore Terme who provided a substantial block of accommodation and Novartis foundation for Gerontology that gave supplementary funding towards travel costs for attendees.

The Executive, Regional Chairs and Presidents of 55 Member Associations met and considered future strategic directions for the Association. The discussion ranged over such topics as formulation of the vision, values and mission of the Association; the schedule of global and regional meetings; membership criteria; input into the Second World Assembly on Ageing; improved global communication and networking between member associations; fostering of research and education on ageing globally; and the legal standing of the IAG. The discussion reflected the very substantial progress made in gerontology over the 50 year life of the Association and the need to respond to the considerable challenges posed by the much greater visibility of ageing as a political, scientific and educational issue throughout the world today.

Regional Groups met during the event and a special consultation took place between the IAG Executive and a number of other international umbrella NGOs to discuss a coordinated NGO input to the Second UN World Assembly on Ageing to be held in Spain in April 2002. Proposals were put forward for the IAG to pursue the special issues associated with a perspectives of the global ageing research, education and practitioner constituency and in addition to have a coordinated input from all of the relevant international NGOs.

A special IAG Presidential Award was made to Mr Charles Studer, who has worked energetically

in support of the activities of the IAG over many years.

Finally, the third in a series of expert meetings on a United Nations' project developing a Research Agenda on Ageing for the 21st Century (RAA-21) was held. This project has been supported by the Novartis Foundation for Gerontology and convened by the IAG on behalf of the United Nations programme on ageing. (See the Executive Summary of the most recent document on page 3). The interaction of the Agenda with a number of events and processes leading to the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, Spain in April 2002 will provide vehicles for further elaboration and integration of the Agenda into the mainstream of global action on ageing.

From these events and with the culmination of the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing, the Agenda will emerge as a well defined element incorporated into the new global plan of action on ageing envisioned as a major output of the World Assembly. The Research Agenda on Ageing will continue to be developed, reviewed and revised in the future. In the end it must be a 'process' not simply 'a product'. The evidence base that is necessary to effectively inform good policy, program implementation and provision will grow and with greater knowledge will continue to evolve with cumulative human experience and shared insights into this most fundamental aspect of human life and its protean consequences for all of humanity.

The Salsomaggiore events laid the foundations for exciting future developments for the IAG and many positive recommendations for action (see page 5) will be taken forward to the Council Meetings to be held in July, 2001 in Vancouver.

Gary Andrews
President, IAG



TERME DI SALSOMAGGIORE S.P.A.



SALSOMAGGIORE OUTCOMES

The following formulation will be submitted to the IAG Council Meeting to be held in Vancouver July 2001. This formulation follows the review by Prof. Gary Andrews of The IAG's vision, values and mission as expressed in the Association's By-Laws, various actions and activities over the years, the 'Adelaide Declaration on Ageing' and taking into account the discussions of these matters, recorded by the Secretary General, Mary Luszcz, that took place at the 50th Anniversary Meeting of IAG Executive and Presidents of Member Associations. It is recommended that the IAG adopt the following statements expressing the Vision, Values and Mission of the Association:

VISION

The ultimate vision towards which the International Association of Gerontology aspires is of a world in which individual and population ageing is substantially understood in scientific terms and its consequences are fully appreciated at all levels of public and private organisation. In pursuit of this ideal the IAG will endeavour to foster the wellbeing of all, as ageing is experienced in all its diversity throughout the lifespan at individual and societal level. In addition, the vision is for the continued pursuit

of further scientific knowledge on ageing with full vigour and foresight and for the fruits of these endeavours to be widely disseminated, making them known to all.

VALUES

The Values governing the endeavours of the International Association of Gerontology include:

- Recognition of the importance of increasing longevity and the ageing of populations a critical challenges to society in both developed and developing countries.
- Acknowledgement of the fundamental contribution that can be made by scientific **research** in improving understanding and development of appropriate individual and societal responses to ageing.
- Commitment to **sound education and training** of all of those involved in provision of care and services to older persons as an important means of ensuring quality of care and support to older persons.
- Belief in the need for **wider education** of the whole of society to promote understanding of
 - the implications of ageing populations, and
 - the positive outcomes and benefits of longer life for individuals and societies.

- Support for the concept of the **family as a central issue** in the quality of life and well being of older persons in both developed and developing societies.
- Commitment to promotion of the **highest quality and standards for services** provided for older persons.
- Recognition of the **inherent diversity** in the ageing process and among older persons, including socio-economic, educational and cultural variations.
- Respect for the **rights and dignity of older persons** in all circumstances.

MISSION

The mission of the International Association of Gerontology is to promote the highest levels of achievement of gerontological research and training worldwide and to interact with other international, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations in the promotion of gerontological interests globally and on behalf of its member associations. The Association pursues these activities with a view to promoting the highest quality of life and well being of all people as they experience ageing at individual and societal levels.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

Extensive discussion of various aspects of the strategic directions for the Association canvassed at the 50th Anniversary meeting resulted in the following reformulation to be submitted to the Council Meeting in Vancouver.

Wider Membership of IAG:

A proposal will be submitted to the Council Meeting in Vancouver that membership is opened to National Associations (Societies) concerned with Geriatric Medicine.

It is proposed that applications be accepted from Associations at national level that are formed for the purposes of furthering the science, education and practice of geriatric medicine. To be eligible such associations (or societies) must be duly constituted and registered as a professional association and be recognised as the principle body so constituted at national level. Only one such body should be accepted for each country.

The By-Laws relating to the processes of application, fees and representation on IAG and Regional Council would apply as they do generally at present or as they may be amended at some time in the future.

It will further be proposed at the next IAG Council Meeting that a task force be established to:

- (1) identify what are the pros and cons of going to a more open form of membership allowing the admission under certain conditions of other groups concerned with research, education and practice related to ageing organised at national level, and
- (2) propose appropriate amendments to the By Laws and Manual of Operating Procedures for processing of applications, criteria for membership and representation on IAG and Regional Councils.

Improved Interactivity and Communication within IAG

It will be proposed at the IAG council meeting in Vancouver that the incoming IAG executive give consideration to ways in which the IAG can be more interactive with membership in the interim between major Congress activities. This will include examining options for web site developments to be pursued independently or with support for a sponsoring body.

Review of IAG Calendar of meetings and events

It was generally agreed that the pattern of the Congresses should not change, but nonetheless it is desirable to look at ways of ensuring that there is an appropriate level of interaction on the

International level. Ways in which Council meetings (in vivo or via electronic means) could be held more frequently should be explored.

Interaction with Second World Assembly on Ageing

The IAG is now recognised by the United Nations Secretariat for the Second World Assembly and the Spanish host organization as responsible for auspicing an associated event to the Assembly - the Valencia Forum. This Congress is directed at ensuring an input to the considerations of the Assembly from the global community of researchers, educators, and providers (including practitioners) ensuring that the Assembly is informed by the best available research and information. (See official web site for the Assembly - <http://www.madrid2002-vejeamiento.org/>). A progress report on preparations for this event will be sent to all member associations of IAG prior to the Vancouver Congress.

Review of IAG legal status and By-Laws

Action will now be taken to progress the formal amendment of IAG By-Laws in accordance with the legal requirements in Belgium (the country of official incorporation and registration of IAG).

TREASURER'S REPORT

Please find following Financial Statement for year ending December 2000.

I would like to remind all member organisations:

1. If your organisation is not financial your representatives on IAG Council will not have voting rights, please ensure your country is financial.
2. Please note that as from 30 June 2001 all dues will be payable to the new Secretariat in Canada. For further information, please contact

Prof. Gloria Gutman,
International Association of Gerontology,
Gerontology Research Centre, Simon Fraser University at Harbour Center,
#2800 - 515 West Hastings Street,
Vancouver, Canada, V6B 5K3.

3. If you are able please bring any dues payable to Vancouver. This will avoid some of the high fees and charges associated with telegraphic transfers.

If you have any queries regarding the above please email the Secretariat at iag@flinders.edu.au

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the IAG for their support during my time as Treasurer and wish the association well for the future.

Charles Young
Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2000

1999			2000	
AUD	USD	ASSETS	AUD	USD
55,514.30	36,295.25	Bank SA BillFlex account	-	-
		Credit Suisse		
2,996.79	1,959.30	Current account	1,739.25	963.54
89,855.14	58,747.29	Cash Management account	130,141.24	72,098.25
14,616.35	9,556.17	Bond account	-	-
158,625.00	103,709.03	ECH Deposit	171,971.42	95,272.17
4,409.75	2,883.09	Receivables	15,996.84	8,862.25
<u>326,017.33</u>	<u>213,150.13</u>		<u>319,848.75</u>	<u>177,196.21</u>
		LIABILITIES		
-30,367.73	-19,854.42	Bank SA cheque account	9,605.04	5,321.19
5,920.81	3,871.02	Creditors and Accruals	3,783.68	2,096.16
-	-	Novartis	2,101.79	1,164.39
-	-	Pan American Congress	8,648.51	4,791.29
<u>-24,446.92</u>	<u>-15,983.40</u>		<u>24,139.02</u>	<u>13,373.03</u>
<u>350,464.25</u>	<u>229,133.53</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>295,709.73</u>	<u>163,823.18</u>
<u>350,464.25</u>	<u>229,133.53</u>	ACCUMULATED FUNDS	<u>295,709.73</u>	<u>163,823.18</u>

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 2000 TO 31 DECEMBER 2000

1999			2000	
AUD	USD	INCOME	AUD	USD
116.80	76.36	Contributions from Congress	-	-
-7,006.82	-4,581.06	Forex movements in Investments held	24,412.46	13,524.50
21,956.08	14,354.89	Dues	36,096.61	19,997.52
12,765.24	8,345.91	Interest	12,064.38	6,683.67
27,831.30	18,196.10	TOTAL INCOME	72,573.45	40,205.69
		EXPENDITURE		
8,069.51	5,275.85	Administration and Operating	18,801.00	10,415.75
44.01	28.77	Bank fees	117.45	65.07
687.30	449.36	Fax/phone and Postage	1,567.02	868.13
-	-	Newsletter	11,846.10	6,562.74
1,907.64	1,247.22	Printing and Stationery	327.33	181.34
2,318.70	1,515.97	Rent/cleaning and power	2,617.45	1,450.07
-	-	Salsamaggiore conference	14,808.55	8,203.94
833.53	544.96	Sundry	691.36	383.01
16,639.67	10,879.02	Travel	76,551.73	42,409.66
45,885.69	30,000.00	Write off Seeding Loan to Canadian Association of Gerontology	-	-
76,386.05	49,941.20	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	127,327.99	70,539.71
-48,554.75	-31,745.10	SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR PERIOD	-54,754.54	-30,334.02



NORTH AMERICAN REGION

The excitement among gerontologists in the North American Region is growing as Vancouver 2001 approaches. It may be symbolic that the Vancouver World Congress falls within the national holidays of both Canada, July 1 Dominion Day, and the United States, July 4th, the most patriotic holiday in the US calendar.

On the agenda for the North American Regional Committee will be to clarify the NARC By-Laws, primarily to align our By-Laws with those of other regions of the IAG. We will also be discussing the relationships between and among COMLAT, NARC and host societies for the Pan American Congress, the Western Hemisphere's quadrennial IAG-sanctioned Congress.

The leadership of NARC and COMLAT will meet with officials from the Argentine Society of Gerontology and Geriatrics to review such issues as the theme for the 2003 conference scheduled for Buenos Aires, as well as ways in which the two Regions will cooperate to ensure the success of the Congress. The organizers of the Argentine conference will have the benefit of an initial loan from IAG utilizing funds sent to the Secretariat following a highly successful Pan American Congress in San Antonio under the leadership of Roger McCarter in February of 1999.

The NARC members will also discuss ways in which member societies may contribute to the success of an international congress auspiced by the IAG scheduled to precede the Second World Assembly on Ageing in Madrid, Spain in April of 2002.

James T. Sykes,
NARC Chair

ASIA/OCEANIA REGION

Future Perspective of IAG, Asia/Oceania Region.

It is a great pleasure for me to deliver this perspective, from the Asia/Oceania region of IAG, of future directions on Aging in the 21st Century. Let me pick up a few issues, which I think should become a common concern in most of the countries in our Region. Firstly, the unprecedented rapidity of the growth of elderly population.

Japan witnessed the increase of the elderly population from 7% in 1970 to 14% in 1995. The doubling time from 7% to 14% was 25 years. When compared to the industrialised countries, this was an extremely rapid greying of the society. For instance, the time required for this doubling was 115 years in France and 85 years for Sweden. However, I was surprised to find that this time will be even shorter in Korea with 22 years projected for the doubling from 7% in 2000 to 14% in 2022 years. Some other nations within our region may also face this problem.

This rapidly growing elderly population casts an enormous socio-economic burden on the society. The research promotion and establishment of the proper system to cope with this difficult issue should be a primary task in our region. The concept of welfare arose out of a realisation that governments must care for the elderly with disabilities. Publicly, we have described this as a national virtue and it could be affordable because it represented such a small number of persons as a percentage of the population. However, this approach becomes more and more difficult to sustain, as the percentage of the elderly continues to rise.

So, how does this affect public policy?

We, the professionals in this field clearly have a major responsibility to propose the strategies concerning this issue. One key theme should be the preservation of traditional family care concepts which is typically represented in North East Asian countries. In these countries the family takes care of the elderly, because they respect the elderly mainly based on the Confucius philosophy. This concept of filial piety is important.

The second challenge is the promotion of geriatric education in the countries in our region. In most countries, geriatric medicine is not yet recognised as a specialised discipline. It is an issue of urgent necessity to establish the training system not only for physicians, but also for the co-medical staff who will be involved in the care of the elderly. It is our task to ensure sufficient numbers of trained personnel available who understand the interdisciplinary nature of gerontology and geriatric medicine. To this end, we need to establish the committee specifically to foster training and education.

At the regional council meeting of IAG held in Salsomaggiore, December 2000, it was unanimously agreed to set up a sub-committee to develop the training program to address the professional development needs of graduates working or seeking to work in the care of the aged. This will not only encourage young professionals to enter these disciplines but also enable us through ongoing activities to build closer ties in this vibrant part of the world in which we live.

The third challenge is the promotion of the research on aging science to clarify the mechanism of aging and age-related diseases which impairs the Quality of life and causes the disability of the elderly.

Hajime Orimo, M.D. Ph.D.
Chairman of IAG Asia/Oceania Region

COMLAT REGION

There are several National Congresses planned for this year in the member countries of COMLAT-IAG.

Brazil is planning the National Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics for 2002 (dates are not yet decided). This event will be organised by Sociedade Brasileira de Geriatria e Gerontologia.

This year from April 19th to 22nd the Congreso Paulista de Gerontologia was held in Sao Paulo. The event is organised by Sociedad Paulista de Geriatria e Gerontologia. Other National Congresses are planned this year in Peru and in Paraguay. More information will be available soon for these events.

Brazil will also be represented in Vancouver during the next International Congress of Gerontology to promote and disseminate information about "Rio 2005", where the next International Congress will be held. The National Committee, presided over by Dr. Norton Sayeg, will be present with a booth from July 1st, 2001.

Argentina is organising a 50th Anniversary of the Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sociedad Argentina de Gerontologia y Geriatria foundation. The congress will be held in Buenos Aires Hilton Hotel, Buenos Aires, Argentina from November 8th to 11th, 2001.

Dr. Miguel Angel Acanfora,
Vice-President

EUROPEAN REGION

An Executive Committee meeting was held in November in Barcelona (Spain). Attendees included M. Passeri (Italy), D. Knook (Holland), A Lowenstein (Israel), F. Guillén (Spain) and J.M. Ribera (Spain). Topics discussed included the preparation of the European Council for the 17th World Congress in Vancouver and the new By-laws which are being prepared for the VI European Congress, that it will take place in Barcelona (Spain) in 2003.

The Executive Committee also reviewed the Task Forces of the European Region which include:

- Geriatric Assessment
- Living arrangements and family relations
- Vaccines and immune stimulation
- Health and Social co-ordination
- Cardiovascular diseases
- Biomedical and sociological aspect of the oldest-old
- Mineral, metabolic and osteoporosis disease
- Hypertension in the elderly

The first Program Committee Meeting of the VI European Congress of Gerontology was also held at this time. This meeting was also attended by the representatives proposed for the Spanish Society of Geriatrics and Gerontology.

F Guillen Llera,
Secretary ERIAG



THE MALTESE ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY AND GERIATRICS

The Maltese Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics (MAGG) was officially set up on the 12th February 1998. Its main functions are to disseminate knowledge, share information, and promote further advancement of research and practice in gerontology and geriatrics. The Association also acts as a representative forum of the professional interests of persons working in the field of ageing while co-operating with other professionals involved in the promotion of the total well being of older persons. Membership is open to professionals engaged in a wide range of areas in the field of ageing, including, demographers, economists, medical doctors, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists, social workers, sociologists, speech therapists, etc. The majority of the members are in possession of a postgraduate qualification in gerontology and geriatrics from the Institute of Gerontology, University of Malta.



Memorial photo of MAGG Council Members with Prof Guido De Marco, President of Malta

The Association has a consultative status with the Parliamentary Secretariat for the Elderly within the Ministry of Social Policy. In this capacity, MAGG advises the government on various matters relating to the elderly and to the phenomenon of ageing in general. MAGG members also offer their services and expertise to various private and public organisations engaged in the field of ageing. Some of the members are on the staff of the University of the Third Age and their expertise is called upon to deliver courses to the U3A members. On the 22nd April 1999, the Association received official recognition by the University of Malta.

The Association conducts bi-monthly meetings and lectures for its members on various topics of ageing. Some of the lectures are also open to the

general public. Once a year, MAGG conducts a one day National Seminar to which all those involved in the field of ageing or working with the elderly are invited to participate.

MAGG has its own newsletter published bi-monthly which serves as a link not only with the members but also with other organisations working in the field of ageing. Every month, the Association members publish feature articles on different aspects of ageing in one of the local Sunday newspapers.

It also has its own web site: <http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Aegean/8585>. Its e-mail address is MAGG@um.edu.mt. We can be contacted on tel.no. +356 32902238, +356 319526. Our Fax No. is +356 319526.

The present Council Members are: Dr. Joseph Troisi (President), Mr. Lawrence Bonavia (Secretary), Ms. Claudette Galea (Treasurer).

THE FEDERATIVE ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY OF COLOMBIA

The Federative Association of Gerontology of Colombia is an organisation made up of the Interdisciplinary Association of Gerontology, AIG of Colombia and the Colombian Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics. The Association was officially recognised in 1996 and was admitted as a member of the International Association of Gerontology in 1997.

The organisation constitutes an effort towards integration of purposes and objectives related to ageing and old age. The Federative Association has a current membership of over 130 professionals in more than 20 disciplines from across the country. The mission of the Federative Association of Gerontology of Colombia is to complement and respect the identity of each of its members associations with the aim of constructing and disseminating relevant interdisciplinary knowledge in the field of ageing and old age.

The Association intends to play a leading role in the construction of an integral and contextual vision of human ageing and old age, particularly in Colombia, and in general in the Latin American and Caribbean context.

DIRECTIVE COUNCIL 2001

President: Jose Fernando Gomez
MD Geriatrician

Secretary: Elisa Dulcey-Ruiz
Psychologist

Treasurer: Leonilde Ines Morelo
MD

Principal Member: Guillermo Zapata
MD Gerontologist

Further Information: Postal address:
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Colombia, South America
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Email: agingcol@colomsat.net.co

GERONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE RUSSIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The primary objectives of the Society are to:

- Promote the development of gerontology and related topics of physiology and biology
- Integrate research results with practice
- Establish relations and contacts with scientific organisations for gerontology from other countries and international non-government scientific organisations
- Organise scientific meetings to exchange and discuss research and practical information
- Assist the Societies members to increase their professional qualifications and to conduct their scientific works and inventions
- Provide scientific and methodological support in teaching the modern gerontological basics at high schools and universities
- Promote contacts with other Russian societies working in related sciences
- Participate in international scientific societies
- Popularise and distribute knowledge and modern scientific and technical achievements according to the field of the research activity

The Society was formed in March 1994 and has been a member of the International Association of Gerontology since 1997. There are currently 33 regional branches and over 1500 members. In August 2000, the Society hosted the successful 2nd European Congress of Biogerontology at Saint Petersburg.

Further information: Prof VN Anisimov
Tel: 7 (812) 596 8604
Fax: 7 (812) 596 8947
Email: aging@mail.ru
Web: <http://www.gerontology.spb.ru>

VANCOUVER 2001 WORLD CONGRESS OF GERONTOLOGY



RECORD ATTENDANCE PROJECTED FOR 2001 WORLD CONGRESS IN VANCOUVER

The Canadian Organizing Committee for the 17th World Congress of Gerontology has been hard at work processing the over 2000 abstracts and over 1,000 early bird registrations that were submitted for the December 31 deadline. "It's shaping up to be a real success," says Dr. Gloria Gutman, Congress President, "We have exceeded our targets for the months of December through March, and each day brings more registrations. People are advised to register early. "We have a wonderful program planned" says Gutman. For example, in addition to the four traditional streams of Biology, Behavioural and Social Sciences, Clinical Practice, and Social Policy and Planning, there will be Continuing Medical Education sessions throughout the Congress, a program on Creative Aging through the Arts, a Students Program as well as a number of special interest events. These include:

- The 1st Annual Danny Thurz Memorial Lecture sponsored by the International Federation on Ageing featuring a presentation by Julia Alvarez, the United Nations representative from the Dominican Republic.
- A lecture by Justin Congdon, winner of the 2001 Ipsen Longevity Prize. Congdon is a field researcher with the Savannah River Ecology Laboratory in South Carolina who has spent 25 years researching the longevity of turtles. At the award ceremony in Vancouver, he will give a lecture entitled "Old Blanding's Turtles Never Die, nor do they Fade Away: Testing Evolutionary and Senescence Theories of Aging".
- A plenary session that will explore the goals and desired outcomes of the 2nd World Assembly on Aging from the perspective of the UN, national governments, developing countries and NGOs. Speakers invited to date include

Louise Frechette, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN and Dr. Alexandre Sidorenko, Chief of the UN Programme on Ageing.

- Satellite and supported symposia on treatment of osteoporosis, the role of SERMS in women's health, early diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, ageing without ageism, caregiver time use, innovations in end-of-life care, and web-based education and training in gerontology and geriatrics.
- "The Congress presents an unparalleled opportunity to learn from other countries' experiences while at the same time making people aware of your country's expertise" says Gutman.

OFFICIAL TRAVEL AGENCY AND AIRLINE

Convention Connections is the Congress's official travel agency. You will be automatically entered into a gift draw valued at \$100 CAN for making your reservations with them. They guarantee the lowest available fares and best routes to Vancouver at time of booking and provide \$150,000 air flight and common carrier insurance at no charge, and free ticket delivery anywhere in the world. To book, visit their website at www.conventionconnections.com. If booking directly with Air Canada, the Congress's official airline, be sure to quote the Congress event number CV374983

IAG MEMBER ORGANISATION POSTER SESSION

The IAG Congress planning Committee has invited all IAG members organisations to exhibit a poster about their national organisation in Vancouver. The intention of this poster session is to promote the work of the national gerontological organisations. The special poster session will take place on July 1, 2001 from 9 - 10.30 pm in the Exhibit Hall of the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, during the opening reception.

IN MEMORIAM - POWELL LAWTON



M Powell Lawton, PhD died on January 29, 2001 as a result of a brain tumour. He was 77. Dr. Lawton was senior research scientist and director emeritus of the Polisher Research Institute of the Philadelphia Geriatric Center (PGC). He had joined PGC's research institute in 1963 as its first director. He also was adjunct professor of human development at the Pennsylvania State University and professor of psychiatry at Temple University School of Medicine.

In 1997 he was awarded the IAG's Novartis Foundation for Gerontological Research Award honouring his achievement in gerontological research and his outstanding record of advancing gerontological knowledge. A version of the presentation made at the time of the award was subsequently published in *Gerontology* (1999, 45:4:181-183). His research led to the development of geriatric assessment tools, including the Multilevel Assessment Instrument, the Morale Scale, the Affect Scale and, most recently, the Observed Emotion Rating Scale. The latter Scale enables researchers and health care professionals to interpret nonverbal communication, and thus the emotions, of nursing home residents with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

His career was marked by many other awards. He was a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) and served as its president in 1986. In 1981 he received the GSA's Kleemeier Award, in 1991 the Behavioral and Social Sciences Section Distinguished Career Contribution to Gerontology Award.

The family has requested that contributions in his memory be made to The Gerontological Society of America. There is no doubt that M. Powell Lawton's influence has been felt throughout the membership of the IAG and will continue to inspire future generations of gerontologists worldwide.

Gerontology

International Journal of Experimental, Clinical and Behavioural Gerontology

Organ of the International Association of Gerontology (IAG)

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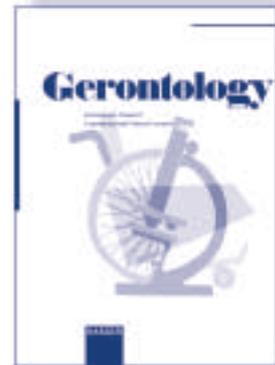
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As the ratio of people over sixty-five continues to rise, understanding the basic mechanisms of aging and age-related diseases has become a matter of urgent necessity. 'Gerontology' responds to this need by drawing experimental contributions from diverse medical, biological and behavioural disciplines to provide a primary source of high quality papers covering all aspects of aging in man and animals. Recent research on the clinical problems of aging and the practical application of laboratory results is also included to support the fundamental goals of extending active life and enhancing its quality. Informative reviews and an open debate section for stimulating speculative articles carry strong reader approval.

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IAG CONGRESS CALENDAR

2001

THE 17TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY



**VANCOUVER, CANADA
JULY 1-6, 2001**

THEME GLOBAL AGING

*working together in
a changing world*

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Harbour Centre
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E-mail iag_congress@sfu.ca
Web www.harbour.sfu.ca/iag/

2003

BUENOS AIRES

Pan American Congress of Gerontology
date to be confirmed at 17th World Congress
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Sociedad Argentina de Gerontología y Geriátria
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San Luis 2538 C1056AAD
Buenos Aires, Argentina
Telefax: +54 11 4961-0070
e-mail: sagg@intramed.net.ar
sagg@connmed.com.ar
website: www.sagg.org.ar

July 1 - 6

BARCELONA

5th European Congress of Gerontology
Quality of Life for an Ageing Society
Further information:
IAG European Region Permanent Secretariat
PO Box 91-91, Madrid, Espana
Tel: +34 1 91 3345382
Fax: +34 1 91 3345150
Email: eriag.org

2005

June 24-29

BRAZIL

18th World Congress of Gerontology
Rio De Janeiro, Brazil
Tel: 55 11 3082 8596
55 11 3088 4751
Fax: 55 11 3083 0473
Email: nortonsa@uol.com.br

INTERNATIONAL GERONTOLOGICAL MEETINGS

2001

June 25 - 27 FRANCE

4th International Congress
International Council for Global Health Progress
Global Health Equity: Medical progress and quality of life in the XXIst century.
Further information: Valerie Caillon
Tel: 01 49 10 09 10
Fax: 01 49 10 00 56
Email: v.caillon@regimedia.fr

June 29-30 FRANCE

The First Congress of the International Academy on Nutrition and Ageing
Palais des Congres,
Port Maillot 75017
Tel: 33 1 40 07 11 21
Fax: 33 1 40 07 10 94
Email: mbia@wanadoo.fr

Sept 9 - 14 FRANCE

10th Congress of the International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA)
Bridging the Gap between Brain and Mind
Nice, France
Tel: 1+847 784 1701
Fax: 1+847 784 1705
Email: ipa@ipa-online.org
Web: www.ipa-online.org/

Oct 2 - 5 ARGENTINA

International Society for Quality in Health Care
18th International Conference
Buenos Aires
Tel: 03 9417 6971
Fax: 03 9417 6851
Email: isqua@isqua.org.au
Web: www.isqua.org.au

Oct 22 - 25 CHINA

1st International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Neurodegenerative Disorders
Deadline for Abstracts: May 30, 2001.
Contact: Dr. Jianzhi Wang or Dr. Ziaochuan Wang
Tongji Medical College
Huazhong University of Science and Technology
13 Hangkong Road
Wuhan,
P.R. China
Tel/Fax: + 086 27 8369 3883

Oct 25 - 27 NEW ZEALAND

17th International Alzheimer's Disease International Conference
Partnerships in Dementia Care
Christchurch Convention Centre
CHRISTCHURCH
Email: alz@cont.canterbury.ac.nz
Website: www.conference.canterbury.ac.nz/alzheimer2001

Nov 7 - 9 AUSTRALIA

3rd International Aged Care Housing Summit
Hotel Sofitel, MELBOURNE
Tel: +61 3 9529 4314
Fax: +61 3 9510 4733
Email: nnew@bigpond.net.au

Nov 8 - 11 ARGENTINA

IX Congreso Argentino de Gerontología y Geriátria - 50° Aniversario
Hilton Hotel, Buenos Aires, Argentina
Organized by the Sociedad Argentina de Gerontología y Geriátria
President: Dr. Isidoro Fainstein
Deadline for abstract submission: August 16th, 2001
San Luis 2538 C1056AAD
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2002

April 1 - 4 VALENCIA, SPAIN

The Valencia Forum, Research, Education and Provider (Practitioner) Input to the 2nd World Assembly on Ageing.
Auspiced by the IAG
Convenor: Prof Gary Andrews
Registration of Interest to Valencia Forum Secretariat:
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Oct 27 - 30 AUSTRALIA

International Federation on Ageing
6th Global Conference
Maturity Matters
PERTH
Tel: +61 8 9322 6906
Fax: +61 8 9322 1734
Email: conwes@congresswest.com.au



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GERONTOLOGY

Volume 7 May 2001

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