

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Stuart Schaefer, [Editor](#)

Here it is already a quarter of the way through 2008. There is much on the plate with the world of Ostomates coming up in 2008. A number of area and regional conferences will be taking place across the globe.

Coming up in the North and Central America and Caribbean Region will be the **11th UOCA Conference** being held in Hamilton, Canada August 14-16, 2008. For more information you may view their Website:

http://www.ostomycanada.ca/uoac_annual_conference.htm.

The **12th Congress of EOA Regional Conference** will be held September 11-14, 2008 in Brno, Czech Republic. For information about this conference view: <http://www.ta-service.cz/EOAcongress2008/>.

Taking place in the **South Pacific Region** October 9-12, 2008 in Adelaide, South Australia will be the ACSA's 39th National Conference 2008. Check out their Website:

http://www.australianstoma.com.au/coming_events.htm.

To top off 2008 the Asian Region will be holding their **6th Asian Ostomy Association Conference** November 14-16, 2008. This conference will take place in Tokyo, Japan. To view more information about this conference view:

<http://www.ioa-net.org/contents2/en/whatsnew/20070108.htm>

Of course we do not want to leave out the **USA** as they will be holding a number area conferences. To find out if there is one in your area view:

http://www.uoaa.org/conferences_events.shtml#florida_asg_leaders.

So as you can see there are many opportunities to take advantage on a number of conferences taking place across the globe.

Stu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Vladimir Kleinwachter, [IOA President](#)

Dear Friends,

Since the first issue in 2008 the format of *IOA Today* has changed. The reduction of its size had apparently, as follows from the statistical data reported by the Webmaster Stuart Schaefer, a favourable impact on the

number of people who opened and, hopefully read, the newsletter. We hope that the trend will continue in the future.

I am obliged to report on the activities of the IOA Executive Council every quarter of the year. It was difficult to decide where to place the report: in the IOA web page it is more readily accessible, but will be erased after three months, in *IOA Today* it is available only to those who subscribed the newsletter, but may be used for reference even later. Thus, you will find the report in both places.

Vladimir

REPORT FOR JANUARY - MARCH 2008

The main concern of the Executive Council was to reach an agreement with manufacturers of stoma appliances about sponsoring the projects of IOA for the years 2007 - 2010. The proposal which was submitted immediately after the World Congress was not accepted favourably by the Industry and therefore the Executive Council decided to limit the projects to the major ones, viz. twinning programme, ISCAP programme, visiting programme, organisation of World Ostomy Day activities and a proposal for advertising on the web page. The detailed proposals are being prepared and will be discussed with the representatives of the Industry at a meeting, which will take place in conjunction with the WCET Congress in Ljubljana, Slovenia, in June. At the same time a meeting of the Executive Council will take place. Both events were arranged by Al Maslov from Hollister Inc. and are sponsored by the major manufacturers, to whom our thanks are due.

The Executive Council received a motion from the Australian Council of Stoma Associations proposing a modification of membership dues. The motion will be discussed at the meeting in June, where it will be determined whether the motion will be submitted to the World Council meeting in 2010 or to a decision by postal vote.

At the close of 2007 the *World Ostomy Data Survey 2007* was finished by Brenda Flanagan and published in the IOA web page. It was a difficult task to compile the data collected by means of a questionnaire and it is only a pity that not all member associations responded.

In January 2008 another project, preparation of the updated version of the *IOA Handbook*, was concluded. Since the previous version did not exist in editable form, the whole text had to be first rewritten and then edited by Ann Favreau and Di Bracken. The *IOA Handbook* was distributed to all member associations. The *IOA History*, which was included in the former editions of the

Handbook, was published separately and can be found in the IOA web page.

Two regions continued with preparation of their meetings, which shall take place in 2008. The 12th Congress of the European Ostomy Association is organised by Czech ILCO in Brno (Czech Republic) from 11th to 14th September 2008, the 6th Asian Ostomy Association and 11th House of Delegates Meeting is organised by the Japan Ostomy Association Tokyo (Japan) from 14th to 16th November 2008. Invitation leaflets of both regional events were sent to the member associations and can be also found, together with online Registration Forms, in the IOA web page under *Regional Events*.

At the end of March Sarah Maill resigned her position as the Chair of the 20/40 Focus group of young ostomates. She proposed Janet Paquet from Canada as her successor and this change was approved by the IOA Executive Council. Janet is now facing the difficult task to complete the 20/40 Focus Committee, since Co-ordinators for Asian, European and South American Regions are missing. I wish to thank Sarah for her enthusiasm, with which she started her work for young ostomates.

The Webmaster Stuart Schaefer updates continuously the IOA web page and keeps it running. Every month he provides statistical data on the page to the Executive Council. Together with the Associate Editor Di Bracken he published the quarterly IOA newsletter IOA Today.

I shall appreciate your comments to this report and shall answer your questions.

Vladimir

SOUTH AMERICAN REGION - ALADO

Teresa Antequera, [President ALADO](#)

We are preparing the Stoma Care course to take place next September in Santa Cruz – Bolivia. We hope to get the visit of Dielwen Bracken and Dr. Harikech Bush; this event is being organized by Dr. Hugo Heredia and as, we hope the visit of our neighbours.

The same time, we are awaiting the confirmation of funds presented to IOA for ALADO to have a meeting of the Executive, the same time as the Stoma Care course. This ALADO meeting will be to modify the statute of ALADO as per last modify done by IOA statutes, further to co ordinate activities in the countries of our region that are sleeping (not participating in the region now) and we need help from all members of ALADO for to reach our target as a Regional Association. Work together in the next Annual Cancer of Colon prevention.

We are very happy because finally PARAGUAY has an ASOCIACION DE OSTOMIZADOS DE PARAGUAY, with the help of Dr. Jorge Medina Gutierrez that participated in the 'Stoma Care course'done in Modena - Italy. Dr. Hugo Heredia help him to participate in the travel to Modena and helped Dr. Medina in the opening of Association in his country. Paraguay has received the first DONATION of material from FOW USA (SHARE project). We will do the task and action for Paraguay to become involved as an active member of ALADO and IOA.

Furthermore, we are very grateful BOLIVIA and ARGENTINA (CORDOBA) for the last donation of material received from FOW-USA, all members of our associations are so helped such through these donations that year each come us.

All the best for all of you.

Teresa

ASIAN REGION - AOA

Dato John Cardoso, [President](#)

6TH AOA CONFERENCE

The 6th AOA Conference and 11th House of Delegates' Meeting will be hosted by the Japan Ostomy Association (JOA), from 14th to 16th November 2008, at the Olympic Memorial Youth Centre in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

Very reasonably priced accommodation (single rooms with ensuite bathroom and toilets) will be available at the Youth Centre itself, the venue of the Conference. The tariff per room night, inclusive of full buffet breakfast, is Japan Yen 5,040, which is approximately US\$48. This is very very cheap for Japan, and indeed for any major city in Asia. For those who want more comfortable hotel accommodation, that too is available at nearby hotels in the Shinjuku or Shibuya districts nearby, but at a higher cost of course.

The JOA, under the Presidency of Mr Mitsugi Arai, has prepared a varied programme with something for everyone in it. Mr Arai and his Committee hope to play host to many Asian ostomates, as well as to ostomates from other parts of the world, especially from Australia and New Zealand. They have arranged a most interesting programme for everyone, including social events and sightseeing in their beautiful city. The registration fee covers all lunches and dinners during the Conference, as well as two coffee/tea breaks each day.

JOA hopes there will be a record attendance at this 6th AOA Conference, in excess of the previous record of about 300 people. AOA President, John Cardoso, has personally tested the accommodation and breakfast served at the Youth Centre, and he says they are

excellent, and comparable to facilities at any 3-star hotel anywhere. So the Organising Committee hopes to welcome you to Tokyo in November.

The Conference theme is: "Better Quality of Life for Asian Ostomates".

For further details, please go to: <http://www.ioa-net.org>

A NEW ET SCHOOL IN SHANGHAI



March 18, 2008,

Shanghai International Enterostomal Therapists School was set up, with WCET Chairman Ms. Elizabeth English and WCET Education Commission Director Ms. Louise-Forest

Lalande was present at the opening ceremony. "Father of Ostomy in China", 83-year-old Professor Yu Dehong was present on the occasion too, saying: " My dream has come true!" The first training class has 12 students and the term is 3 months. According to the survey, there are now only 7 ET nurses in Shanghai and nationwide, 98 ET nurses and 4 ET schools.

Currently in China, many ostomy patients are still living in a state of self-abasement and confine themselves to homes, ashamed and unwilling to communicate with people in society. Professor Yu told them that with correct stoma care and skills ostomates can definitely return to society, to their former jobs. In developed countries, ostomates all returned to their former careers. Some athletes even returned to their football fields. Ostomates can live and work just like everybody else in society.

Shanghai Nursing Society Board Chairman Ms. Weng Suzhen said at the ceremony that our ET nurses were mainly engaged in the care of stoma, wound and incontinence, which had been paid inadequate attention to. And the number of our ET nurses was far from enough in the care of these patients, so we urgently need to train ET nurses.

The number of ostomates in China is increasing by 100,000 per year. But a great many ostomates are not well cared for and dependent on self-management without the help from professionals. Relevant data showed that because of disease and inadequate care, the incidence of earlier complications with ostomates was 16.3 %—53.8 % and about 1/3 ostomates were suffering from complications.

The founding of a new ET school is good news to ostomates in Shanghai and in China.

Lu Renmin

Shanghai Ostomy Association

EUROPEAN REGION - EOA

Arne Holte, [President EOA](#)

THERE ARE MANY COUNTRIES IN EUROPE....

Finally spring is coming also way up here in the north. It seems anyway that this spring has been rather cold most places in Europe. Talking about Europe, it is not always quite clear where Europe starts – or ends. I suppose most of us will regard Russia to be a part of Europe, but as Russia is so big that the easternmost part of that country ends up very close to Alaska, it is quite difficult to regard Russia as a European country all over.

Well, please do not regard this as an attempt to get rid of Russia in EOA. On contrary, of course, Russia is an important member of our organization. As a matter of fact, they are two, one with head office in Moscow, the other in St.Petersburg – both very important and vivid members of EOA.

The great differences from east to west – and also the great numbers of members, and possible members, are a great challenge to the Coordination Committee in EOA. We would like every ostomate wherever she or he lives to have the quality of life stated in The Charter of Ostomates Rights. We would like to travel everywhere we can do a job giving ostomates a better life, but as always the only obstacle is MONEY!

Take a look at the charter on the IOA website and see whether YOU have those rights or not! And also consider the great number of ostomates all over the world that do not have such a quality of life – not at all, even no appliances, no organization to speak for them, knowing no other ostomate to talk to about their life - and no future.

Those will need our/your help if you are able to give any. Many organizations do a lot for ostomates in need. Some countries have twin partners – a country where they do their best to help, but many more countries ought to do more. Often it is not a matter of a lot of money. Most often it is most important to have a friend, someone to communicate with, some one to show you the way to go to implement just The Charter of Ostomates Rights!

In the Baltic States they plan to organize a roof organization for Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. In my opinion this will be a great step in the right direction giving the ostomates in those three countries a better quality of life. I wish Daiga and her friend the best of luck in forming this new organization which will be organized somewhat like the Nordic one. I really would

like to see more such roof organizations to be formed in Europe in the future.

Arne

HAS YOUR COUNTRY CONTRIBUTED?

Kes Klare from Holland is a clever man on internet. He has without any costs for EOA created a great website. Typing www.ostomyeurope.org you will find it. But both Kes and my self are somewhat disappointed that so few countries have written the few lines we have asked for about their country. Giving this information should not take up a whole lot of time, but is very useful to many persons and organizations wanting to know more about the situation for ostomates in just your country.

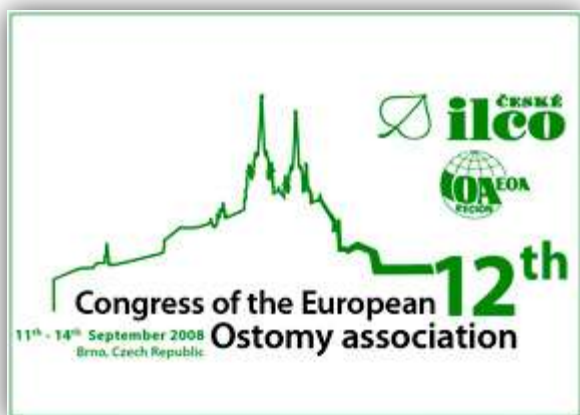
Companies, nurses and pupils writing exams will have the benefit of knowing the situation for ostomates. In addition there will be many organizations that seek such information. But mostly, of course, your information will be useful for other ostomates in your country, and what a great possibility to market your organization on internet.

Go a head, check www.ostomateurope.org to see if your country has given the information wanted. If not, see Iceland's contribution and go ahead. You need probably not more that a small hour to please both Kes and my self – and a lot more people!!!

I wish you all a great summer!

Arne

GOT THE INVITATION?



I hope also you have got the invitation to the EOA congress in Brno in The Czech Republic in September. There ostomates from all over Europe will meet for business meetings, sightseeing and social evenings. Coming to Brno you will meet ostomy friends from a great number of European countries, you can attend valuable workshops, and you can listen to lectures from

doctors and nurses. And last, but not least – have a lot of fun.

Remember that the congress is not only meant for elected representatives from more that 40 ostomy organizations in Europe. You are also invited – in fact it is very important that also the ordinary ostomate is there. Bring your husband, wife, partner, daughter, son, friend – or whatever, and come to Brno you too!

The congress starts 11th of September and lasts till the 14th. Read more and see the invitation on www.ostomyinternational.org or www.ostomyeurope.org

Arne

WILL YOU BE THE ONE?

Europe is missing a representative in Focus 20/40 committee. This ought not to be the fact as there are hundreds of eager youngsters in Europe able to go into that position. Maybe just you will do so? Please send me an [E-mail](mailto:) and I'll make sure you will come into consideration!

Arne Holte, President EOA

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND CRIBBEAN OSTOMY REGION - NCACOA

Doug Graham, [President](mailto:)

Although the activities in our Region these past few months could fill a book, this report will only scratch the surface. I said in the last report that one of our main goals is to improve the communications between the countries in our Region and I'm happy to inform you that contacts are being re-established. Martha Velez De Nieves of Association Ostomizados de Puerto Rico has contacted us and sent a document of the history of NCACOA. She has also offered to help with the revitalization of our Region. Jorge Vargas Morales has been traveling to the western states of Mexico informing groups of the existence of UOAC and George Salamy has made some contact in Saint Kitts.



The meeting with Executive Council member, Jorge Vargas Morales in Colima, Mexico that I wrote of in my last report was a very successful event. I say an event because what I anticipated as one-or-two days of meeting turn into ten days of meetings and assisting Ostomates. In February 2008, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Minister of Health of the State of Colima, Mexico, representatives of the Asociación Ostomizada De Colima and attending an event to recognize the many people that have helped Ostomates of the State of Colima. I also participated in the forming of a satellite of the Asociación Ostomizada De Colima and met with many senior medical staff at the Hospital Regional Universitario of Colima. Our representative, Major Jorge Vargas Morales, his wife Ofelia, my wife Astrid (representing Friends of Ostomates Worldwide Canada) and I visited facilities of the university, hotels and restaurants to select the venue for our Regional Meeting and Conference. The sites were selected, hand shakes made and the decision to hold our meeting and conference on February 5 and 6, 2009 was confirmed. I enjoyed the hospitality of Jorge and his family and the sunny warm weather. In February the snow was up to the middle of our first floor windows of my home. Although I did not achieve my plan of two days of meetings and eight days of lying on the beach I believe the time was well invested by helping others.

I was invited by ConvaTec to attend the annual award dinner for the United States of America, Regional Recipients of the Great Comebacks Program in Washing DC, February 26 to 28, 2008. I attended as an ambassador of the United Ostomy Association of Canada (UOAC). Our Rob Hill was there as a champion and member of the Greet Comebacks Program team. Jorge Vargas Morales was there as the recipient from Mexico. There were award recipients from Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Poland and Sweden. I met and spoke with all the recipients and hold each in high regards for their efforts to help others by sharing their story. The Greet Comebacks Program is becoming an international program and we will be evaluating how Canada and other countries of our Region may participate.

UOAC will hold our 11th Annual Conference in Hamilton, Ontario from August 14 to 16, 2008. Hamilton is approximately 50 km from one of the natural wonders of the world, Niagara Falls and approximately 70 km from the Toronto International Airport. Several members of our Region have registered for our conference. If you are interested in our conference please visit our website at www.ostomycanada.ca or contact our office by email:

regionncocoa@ostomyinternational.org we will be happy to greet you.

I believe that IOA is responsible to safe guard and improve the common good of people with ostomies or related surgeries, their family and friends. The strength of our Association is dependent on strong united regions. I request that you contact me at adg.uoac@sympatico.ca to let me know the status of Ostomates in your country. With a little effort we can unite our Region, improve communications and help each other.

Doug Graham, [President](#)

George Salamy, Vice-President

Jorge Vargas Morales, Executive Member

SOUTH PACIFIC REGION - SPOA

Peter McQueen, [President SPOA](#)

QUARTERLY REPORT TO IOA MARCH 2008

Australian and New Zealand Ostomates are well catered for by our respective health systems with well subsidised appliance schemes and professional health care available to Ostomates wherever they may be.

With Ostomate needs taken care of in our own countries both Australia and New Zealand have looked to help Ostomates less well off in our region (SPOA) and Asia.

Both countries continue to supply appliances to Indonesia, Tonga, Fiji and contacts are being sought in Papua New Guinea to ascertain what help can be provided there. Training of Stomal Therapy Nurses in the Philippines has been supported by both Australia and New Zealand with the Australia fund assisting a Nurse from Argentina in her quest to become a Stomal Therapist.

There are very few organized Associations in the South Pacific which in itself is a problem that needs to be overcome but we are endeavouring to do so by establishing worthwhile contacts wherever we can.

Peter

20/40 FOCUS

Janet Paquet, [Chairperson](#)

Greetings, I am very honoured to have been named the new chair of the IOA 20/40 Focus Group. After attending two '20/40 Focus' – the first in my hometown of Hamilton, Canada and the second this past August in Puerto Rico I realized that a lot of 20/40 ostomates share the same concerns, no matter which country they are from. Issues such as relationships, employment, sexuality and child rearing are universal. As an active member of the United Ostomy Association of Canada, editor of the biannual magazine, OSTOMY CANADA

and the chair of the Canadian 20/40 Focus Group, I have been fortunate to speak with and learn from many of our members.

My warmest thanks and best wishes are extended to Sarah Maill, now past chair of the IOA's 20/40 Committee, who must step aside due to career demands and responsibilities. Chair for the past few years, Sarah introduced several initiatives to increase enrollment and the effectiveness of the Committee. Best of luck in your new endeavours, Sarah!

Andrea Shaw – SPOA representative from Australia and I feel we are entering a new chapter in the 20/40 Committee's evolution, it is absolutely paramount that the leadership recognize the need to provide younger ostomates with the peer support and guidance they need to adjust to life with their new 'attachment'. Greater steps will be instituted to connect with younger ostomates also for the purposes of advancing the Association's viability. Specifically, the 20/40 committee will aim to build the representation of the 20/40 Group from Europe, Asia and South America. I look forward to playing a role in helping these regional members address the interests of young ostomates globally.

Janet



20/40 FOCUS LATE BREAKING NEWS

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Ronaldo Lora of the Philippines to the 20/40 Focus Committee. Ronaldo has been active in advocating the Philippine Ostomy Association and will be a great asset in promoting 20/40 Focus within the Asian Ostomy Association and Worldwide.

One of Ronaldo's first duties will be to work with the 20/40 committee and the AOA to help organize a 20/40 component at the upcoming AOA Regional Conference this coming November in Tokyo, Japan.

Many thanks go to Ronaldo for accepting the position.

FROM THE ASSOCIATE EDITOR & THE IOA PAST PRESIDENT:

Di Bracken, [Past President](#)

I would like to thank those from our member countries who responded to our Task Force questionnaire. From your responses, it is clear that you realize the

importance of the decisions that are before us. The members of the Task Force are now collating your responses. The recommendations will be presented to the IOA Executive Council no later than the beginning of June.

I feel sure that most of you will realize that there is a Past President's blog on the IOA Website. As you know the new format of IOA TODAY is for reports from the Regional Presidents on activities in his / her specific region. If you have news of a country activity, information you wish to report, success of an individual, please sent the details to me and I will send it out via my IOA blog. I am guilty in not having completed the last entry on my Safari adventures. I do want to post it as it deals with my experiences in getting through the security checks at the airports. You may find it useful.

I have a date for you to mark in your calendars. Our next World Ostomy Day will take place on October 3rd. 2009. The theme for WOD 2009 is "**Reaching Out**". The IOA coordinator for World Ostomy Day is Peter McQueen, from Australia. You can expect further information to be sent out as soon as Peter has nailed down his exact plans and programme. Meanwhile, start working on your plans to celebrate our next World Ostomy Day. It has certainly gained in momentum and we are looking forward to further participation in 2009.

I wish you success as you continue your efforts to bring awareness to the work that we are all doing around the world. I know that sometimes it is very challenging to continue to carry on working when it looks as if we are making little progress. The old saying goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day" and it will take us some time to get world wide recognition for the needs of those of us who have had ostomy surgery. There are far too many countries where ostomy supplies are just not available. There is no awareness. As long as this situation exists, we in our International Ostomy Association will continue our mandate to:

- ◆ Improve the quality of life of Ostomates and those with related surgeries worldwide.
- ◆ Help form new associations and to advocate on related matters and policies
- ◆ Provide its member associations information and management guidelines.

Please know that we in IOA are here to support you whenever we can. Whenever you need help, we will try our best to provide it. You can reach me at ippioa@ostomyinternational.org

As always I wish all of you the very best. I hope that you stay well and continue to enjoy life.

With affection, *Dí*