



IOA TODAY

BRINGING YOU OSTOMY NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



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FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Stuart Schaefer, Editor

Many of us with an Ostomy like to travel. One person in this category is past IOA President Di Bracken. She recently was on holiday to a number of countries including Egypt and Jordan just to mention a couple. Her travels as an Ostomate were noted in her recent Blogs. If you would like to read her Blogs, they maybe found via: <http://www.ostomyinternational.org/ioablog/>.

Now speaking of traveling a number of people are always asking where to find Ostomy information in countries across the globe. If you view Regional Association: <http://www.ostomyinternational.org/Regional.htm> you will find contact information. Many have email and phone numbers contacts along with Website information.

Don't forget to view the publications section in the IOA Website: <http://www.ostomyinternational.org/publication.html>. There you will find a number of publications from around the world. These include links to Ostomy related magazines from New Zealand and Australia.

Also while visit the IOA Website take time to view the Up Coming Event: <http://www.ostomyinternational.org/Regionevents.htm>.

You just may find one that you would be interested in attending. A couple that are coming up are the Biennial Conference of UOAC. This one is being held August 19th - 21st in Sydney, Cape Breton, Canada.

The Australian Council of Stoma Associations will be holding their conference September 29th - October 3rd in Melbourne, Australian.

Of course IOA will be holding their World Meeting In November in Bangkok. However with the turn of events happening in Bangkok these plans are subject to change. Please read more about this in the Acting President's report and view the IOA Website for updated information: <http://www.ostomyinternational.org>.

MESSAGE FROM ACTING PRESIDENT

Barry Maughan

President Dr Harikesh Buch

I am pleased to report that our President is making a good recovery after having successful heart bypass surgery a month ago. Harikesh remains on leave from his position of President.

In this message there is an urgent World Meeting update, an update on the proposed new constitution, information about World Ostomy Day Coloplast Award Judging, the Archie Vinitzky and Professional services award, updates on all IOA's projects and a report on the acting president's visit to Korea.

In February IOA circulated a 2009 Summary report of activity from all regions and activity the IOA Executive committee have and are undertaking.

World Meeting update

A message about the current situation advising member associations that we are closely monitoring the escalating situation in Bangkok is on our website and that in the interim our advice is not to confirm bookings until we contact associations again.

Updates will be put on the website: www.ostomyinternational.org.

Advice will be given by the end of May of any alternate decisions about the meeting.

IOA's Future

A totally revised constitution, developed by the Task Force appointed to do this, has been approved by the IOA executive and circulated to all member associations for discussion.

Our thanks go to the great efforts of Di Bracken, Gerhard Englert, Brenda Flanagan, Ken Aukett and John O'Neill. It is hoped this can be agreed to at our world meeting.

The proposal suggests only 3 regions with the ALADO (South America) and NCACOA (North and Central America and Caribbean Ostomy Associations) joining together and AOA (Asian Ostomy Associations and SPOA (South Pacific associations) joining together and EOA (Europe) remaining as is.

There would no longer be an elected board (Executive Committee) but an appointed Coordinating Committee.

Member Associations are urged to look at and discuss the proposal.

In the interim the regions that are to join together are working on developing a new constitution for their combined regions.

WOD Coloplast Award

All entries have been collated and circulated to the judging panel. The announcement of the winners will be made at the World meeting.

Archie Vinitzky and Professional Services Award

The entry criteria for these awards have been circulated to all member associations and these nominations close with acting president BarryMaughan"

vicepresident@ostomyinternational.org

with a copy to Secretary Ann Favreau at

secretaryioa@ostomyinternational.org by 19th May 2010 .

IOA's Project Updates.

Greece

Arne Holte has reported that the EOA project in Greece has not been a success so far. It seems that promised positive attitudes have not been followed up in Greece. They are prepared to go on, and will probably use the rest of the approved funding soon. It is felt more support is needed locally. The contact with Hollister's representative has been great and the next step is to involve more companies. EOA's representative on this project, Giuseppe de Salvo, will continue to work to establish an organisation for ostomates in Greece.

ALADO Project

This project involves a stomaltherapist trained in Argentina working with nurses in other associations. This project is to be funded by IOA and Lions of Modena.

The schedule is June in Colombia

July in Bolivia

September in Paraguay

January 2011 Chile.

This has been postponed to this date because of the earthquakes in Valparaiso.

NCACOA Project 1

Project 1 proposed NCACOA contact Belize, Dominican Republic, and Panama.

Status Report

Belize

NCACOA Executive Council Member Jorge Vargas Morales traveled to Belize and made contact with hospitals, doctors, Ostomates and government officials. He has provided a verbal report and is preparing a written report.

Dominican Republic

Martha Velez De Nieves has completed an operational plan and had intended to visit the Dominican Republic in

February 2010. The Dominican Republic shares an island with the Country of Haiti and the terrible earthquake in Haiti has also caused problems in the Dominican Republic. Therefore a decision was made that the visit to the Dominican Republic would be rescheduled. The visit and meetings with Ostomates hospital, doctors and government officials in the two main cities has been rescheduled for June, 2010.

Panama

NCACOA President Doug Graham completed an operational plan that included contact with; Ostomates, hospital, doctors and government officials. Contact was made and plans were made for visits. A request was made by representatives of the Panama Ostomy Association and doctors to provide presentations to doctors, nurses and Ostomates. Canadian Colorectal Surgeons and Enterostomal Nurses agreed to accompany Doug to Panama. A presentation program was developed and additional funding was requested from the IOA EC but at this time has not been approved as funding was not available.

The original plan with the complete itinerary was cancelled due to the unfortunate earthquake in Haiti and that one of the volunteer Colorectal Surgeons went to Haiti. The second doctor traveled to Argentina to provide assistance. Both surgeons and the ET's have recommitted to the program. However, it is the rainy season in Panama and travel is not the easiest. Therefore Doug and his team have agreed to resume their activities in September. Correspondence with the representative of the Ostomy Association has been continued.

Conclusion

The preliminary contacts through emails and telephone conversations are promising.

UPDATE ON ETHIOPIA

Di Bracken's trip to Ethiopia is now planned for July, 2010 when an opportunity has arisen to make contact with others who work in the African continent. WCET life member Prilly Stevens will be in Addis Ababa. Currently Prilly Stevens remains the WCET contact for development in Africa. At the WCET/WOCN Congress in Arizona, Prilli is presenting a topic, "Africa, Continent of Challenges and Opportunities. Third World Populations – Ethiopia, Kenya and South Africa. It is hoped that through meeting leaders from other Africa countries, IOA and WCET can work together in not only establishing an IOA association in Ethiopia but also begin to develop a plan for cooperation in Africa.

Projects Funded by Coloplast's Access to Healthcare Fund (AtH)

China

This project to establish up to five new associations is on hold until President Harikesh is fit to travel and plans are in place to activate this as soon as he is.

India

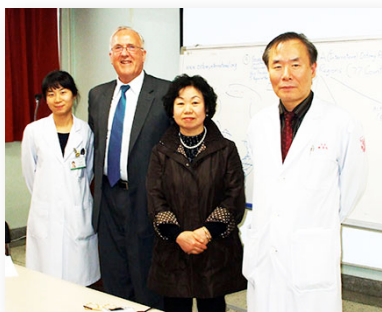
Final arrangements for this project, which was announced at a function (Attended by Di Bracken and Dr Buch) in Mumbai two months ago, are being worked through. Up to 1400 nurses are to be trained in Stomal therapy by an e-learning project that can be accessed throughout India. This project, as for the above China project, is in co-operation with WCET. Further details will be in our next issue.

Meetings in Korea

Your acting President at the invitation of Coloplast travelled to Korea on 17 March and on 18-20th March met with 3 chapters of the Korean Ostomy Association in Deagu, Daejeon and Seoul and delivered an address to The

Korean Coloproctology Conference on the "Quality of Life for Asian Ostomates". This large audience were about 90% nurses and health professionals and 10% surgeons

He also met with two journalists from a Seoul Newspaper and a medical publication. This was a



Meeting in Daegu Nurse President and Doctor (surgeon) & Barry.

challenging, rewarding and well organised experience.

Korean Ostomates shared their concerns about their reimbursement scheme for their appliances. Through these meetings it is hoped that some positive messages and ideas were shared. From the shared ideas and suggestions made for working together and the publicity it is hoped their quality of life will be improved.



Barry with ostomates in Daejeon.

My Kindest regards to our IOA Today Readers

Barry Maughan
Acting President

SOUTH AMERICAN REGION – ALADO

Teresa Antequera, President

ARGENTINA ACTIVITIES FOR 2010 BY F.A.O.D.R.A.

We will be conducting courses at the Center for Training and Research and Treatments for Ostomies in Cordoba, Argentina, in different opportunities. We plan this year to hold four courses of four days each in different countries of Latin America sponsored by the IOA and the Lions Club Stoma Care Project. In each case the organization and development will be undertaken by ALADO and F.A.O.D.R.A. as responsible for those skills. The courses will be held at the headquarters in the following countries: CHILE - COLOMBIA - BOLIVIA - PARAGUAY. These

courses will target nursing in the care of ostomies and wounds.

The same will be held in Argentina conducting these trainings in different provinces, as it is the way to eliminate cost of accommodation and transfers.

NOTE: Our thanks to the chairperson of FOW-USA Ruth Salinger for supplies we received of material for ostomy for FAODRA

In Cordoba, Argentina from 2008 established the first clinic ostomy care for people in the National Clinical Hospital by Dr. Fernando Soria and La Lic ET. Beatriz Reynoso involving Ostomy Association Cordoba ADOC with great success since it has filled the number of people who come to be served. It began with two days per week and now serves seven days a week. These are the purposes for which they were implemented the training of health personnel.

Francisco Miguez, Presidente de F.A.O.D.R.A; Tesorero de A.L.A.D.O

BOLIVIA From Bolivian Ostomy Association (Bolivia)

In the Bolivian Ostomy Association, we are increasing the number of days that we give attention and care for the ostomates. We are working every Thursday afternoon with the participation of the nurse Adela Inca. Also we visit once a week to the newly operated people with stomas in the General Hospital and Hospital for Workers. We are collaborating with other hospitals when they have the largest influx of ostomy patients giving lectures which are informative and educational for the ostomates. Credentials have been established for us to deliver this collaboration, when needed. For example, when I went to a hospital we identified and assisted what was needed.

BRAZIL PLAN OF ACTIVITIES

2010 – ABRASO

1) Affirmative Actions

- To strive for inclusion of Ostomates' within Statute for Disabled Persons

- To strive for approval of Law Projects numbers:

- a) 5,384 – income tax exemption
- b) 5.409 – Ostomates' Symbol

Objective: To guarantee legislation regarding Ostomates' rights.

2) Publications

- ABRASO Magazine – Editor: Wenderson Gonçalves – Support by: AMOS

Objective: To disseminate actions and procedures as regards facing new surgery; as well as health professional scientific articles.

3) VI Capacitating Habilities for Ostomy Leaders/ ABRASO Elections

- Venue: Rio de Janeiro

- Probable Date: 27 to 29 September, 2010

Objective: To call forth State and Municipal Associate Presidents by means of lectures, workshops and ostomy equipment exhibitions to disseminate ostomates' way of life.

4) Ostomates' National Day – November 16

Objective : Exchange of experiences, acknowledgement of new technologies and globalization of ostomy world.

5) Participations: CONADE and National Council for Health

- During: 2010

Objective: To participate with social control network.

6) To Care for Ostomates

Objective: Self-help and information as regards their rights.

COLOMBIA Colombian Association of Ostomy (ACDO)

A greeting for all in IOA. We start this year with activities as usual from the month of February the first Saturday of each month. Our work will aim at education, support and advice for Ostomates who have come to belong to our Association and for new people who have has ostomy surgery.

Mariela Romero Steel, will be completing a diploma course on "Performance of Sustainable Initiatives for Non Profit Associations" invited by Roche. We will work in alliance with the Foundation ALCOLON in Psychological support activities for families and patients with colorectal cancer and Ostomies and family for requiring such care. Dora Ramirez Pinzon our vice president will be speaking and representing ACDO.

We expect this year to continue to receive support from the Laboratories Convatec, Hollister, Coloplast for sponsorship in the development of different activities that we are reviewing and have not yet been defined.

We also seek the involvement of a specialist in Pediatrics, Surgical and experienced in Ostomy management of children with the interest of a program to meet this child population.

We are also preparing to launch an awareness program for students and health professionals, as family members and patients of the Samaritan Hospital, to which we were invited to raise awareness of our Association, the services we provide and to transmit our experiences.

In the month of April, will change the board and delivery of the Official Reports of our Association to the Mayor of Bogotá, who is our watchdog and monitoring.

Sincerely

Mariela Acero de Romero President A.C.D.O.

PARAGUAY

NEWS FROM PARAGUAY - ASOSDELPA

Ostomy Association of Paraguay

Since it was founded ASOSDELPA in the Clinical Hospital of Asuncion - Paraguay a few years ago ,our association has played a very important role in the lives of many ostomy patients across the country.

Thanks to donations from the USA, we have delivered to many patients basic supplies for the care of their ostomies. Most of these patients never had the assistance of individuals specializing in the management of ostomies, much less appropriate inputs to lead an acceptable quality of life.

We have also developed several training sessions for both nurses and doctors around the country through the support of the Paraguayan Society of Coloproctologia traveling to cities like Villarrica, Pedro Juan Caballero, Encarnacion, Ciudad del Este, Concepcion, publicizing the existence of our association and simultaneously providing medical update on the issue of care of ostomies.

We meet with ostomy patients once a month on our own office and outside the hospital environment, where we deliver the bags and offer all types of ostomy patient support.

Have been developed raffles, food fairs and art festivals to raise funds for the purchase of inputs for the care of ostomies and simultaneously pay



customs taxes when it reaches a donation. All these activities are coordinated by the Chairperson, Ms. Silvia Aguilar and Ms. Karina Acosta voluntarily.

Also Coloproctologic doctors like Dr. Jorge Medina and Dr. Ricardo Fretes working with the Association are taking courses and training in the care of the stomata for nurses and doctors outside the country, such as last year in the Aguascalientes Mexico in the International Congress of the Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons and this year in February in San Salvador El Salvador during the Third International Congress of Colorectal Surgeons. In this city, 315 nurses participated in the theoretical and practical course.

This year in September in the city of Asuncion we will be developing a stoma training course sponsored by ALADO and the Lions Club Wiligelmo of Modena Italy.

ASIAN OSTOMY ASSOCIATION

No Report

EUROPEAN OSTOMY ASSOCIATION

Hello Ostomy friends all over planet Earth!

Here is the latest news from Europe and EOA. Since the last issue of IOA today, EOA has got two new members. That happened when the EOA House of Delegates met in Frankfurt, Germany the 10. April. No-one raised their hand objecting when I, as the president of EOA, asked the EOA House of Delegates to vote on accepting Romania and Bosnia – Herzegovina as our new members. To be honest, it would have been a disappointing surprise if anyone had objected. Bosnia – Herzegovina is lead by Dragan Trivun an ostomate since 1994 living in Banja Luka. They have 260 members. Romania is lead by Isabella Grozu (42) who reports on great activities and cooperation with the IA in United Kingdom. Isabella works as a legal advisor, and the ostomy organization in Romania has 824 members.

In this moment EOA has 44 member organizations, but may be back to 42 rather soon as it seems to be no contact in Belarus and in Algeria. With no activities and no member fee paid for some years, there are no reasons to keep their membership alive. So if you who read this know of any activity among ostomates in those two countries, please let EOA know, and we will do our best to support founding of an ostomy organization there.

So, did EOA meet in Germany just to accept two new members? Not at all, the main reason was to discuss the Constitution proposed by a task force appointed in February 2009 by the at that time president Harikesh Buch. The idea was to consider and propose a complete new Constitution for IOA. And so they have done. In very short shall almost all activities from November this year take place in the regions. There shall be three regions instead of five – as there are to-day.

There will be no more World Congresses, and IOA shall be led by a Coordinating Committee consisting of just a few persons – amongst them the three regional presidents. Well, there are some more changes, or maybe much better said, a whole of changes compared to the old days (before November 2010).

At the meeting in Frankfurt there were really not many discussions on the proposed Constitution. Everyone seemed to applaud the proposal, though there were disagreements on how many persons there ought to be in the new Coordinating Committee (CC) – six or three. The task force had proposed six, someone (including the EOA president), meant three was enough. Those who wanted six said it would be too much work for only three. The others meant that six was too bureaucratic and unnecessary as most work would have to be done in working groups appointed by the CC. Well, no conclusion was made, no voting either as it will be the IOA House of Delegates at the World meeting in Bangkok in November that will do the final decision!



Hard work at the EOA House of Delegates in Frankfurt, Germany. Closest to the camera is Guiseppe de Salvo from FAIS, Italy

Great Comebacks Anniversary



The EOA President Arne Holte in a very chilly Washington with friends from UK, Italy and Russia

“crazy” Canadian Rob Hill who is on his way climbing the seven summits on this planet. So far he only miss Mount Everest (maybe he is up there just as you are reading these lines). The celebrating took place in a hall where NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was founded more then 60 years ago. I also got time for some sightseeing in the US capital. Unfortunately it was very cold – but no snow except for some small piles here and there. No cherry blossoming, but thanks to Convatec I really enjoyed my visit to the US Capital.

Coming back home, a terrible snowstorm was developing. Some minutes later, and I am quite sure my local airport would have been closed!!!

Take care all of you ostomates and other readers of IOA-today!!!!

Arne Holte, President EOA

Do not hesitate to report possible changes on addresses, president, e-mails and so on in your association. Send such changes to info@ilco.de as soon as possible

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICAN AND THE CARIBBEAN OSTOMY ASSOCIATION (NCACOA)

Doug Graham, President

In the 1st Quarterly Report I referenced the NCACOA Strategic Plan and a plan to visit several countries of Central America and the Caribbean Islands. What is that old saying? ‘The best made plans of mice and men’. Yes the plans were completed, an operational plan, a budget and preliminary contacts made. Then the unfortunate earthquake in Haiti sent the region into turmoil. All efforts to help the poor people of Haiti took precedence. Thankful many nations rushed to the aid of the Haitian people and have committed to continue to help.

Project 1 Background

In previous reports it has been stated that this Region has a great potential for growth in that we have 32 potential member countries and at present have four that have paid dues.

In 2008 and 2009 we made contact with El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. This was accomplished with personal funding from Executive Council Member Jorge Vargas Morales. We had hoped to offer documents for affiliation with the Region and IOA. However, as the proposed reorganization and amalgamation of the Americas took precedence of the

strategic plan that was presented to the IOA Executive Council a new proposal named, 'Project 1' was presented to the IOA Executive Council and approved.

The (NCACOA) Strategic Plan stated that we intended to contact; Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Panama.

Project 1 proposed that we contact Belize, Dominican Republic, and Panama. Contact with the NCACOA Past President and Vice President has not been encouraging and therefore the previous Past President, Martha Velez De Nieves was asked to participate. Funding was approved and operational plans developed.

Status Report

Belize

NCACOA Executive Council Member Jorge Vargas Morales travelled to Belize and made contact with hospitals, doctors, Ostomates and government officials. He has provided a verbal report and is preparing a written report. Please note paragraph three of the Mexico Country Report.

Dominican Republic

Martha Velez De Nieves has completed an operational plan and had intended to visit the Dominican Republic in February 2010. As you may be aware, the Dominican Republic shares an island with the Country of Haiti. The terrible earthquake in Haiti also cause problem in the Dominican Republic. Therefore a decision was made that the visit to the Dominican Republic would be rescheduled. The visit and meetings with Ostomates hospital, doctors and government officials in the two main cities has been rescheduled for June, 2010.

Panama

NCACOA President Doug Graham completed an operational plan that included contact with; Ostomates, hospital, doctors and government officials. Contact was made and plans were made for visits. A request was made by representatives of the Panama Ostomy Association and doctors to provide presentations to doctors, nurses and Ostomates. Canadian Colorectal Surgeons and Enterostomal Nurses agreed to accompany me to Panama. A presentation program was developed and additional funding was requested from the IOA EC. The original plan with the complete itinerary was cancelled due to the unfortunate earthquake in Haiti and that one of the volunteer Colorectal Surgeons went to Haiti. The second surgeon travelled to Argentina to present a paper at a medical conference. Both surgeons and the ET's have recommitted to the program. However, it is the rainy season in Panama and travel is not the easiest. Therefore, we have agreed to resume our activities in September. In the meantime I have continued corresponding with the representative of the Ostomy Association and Doctors.

Conclusion

The preliminary contacts through emails and telephone conversations are promising. Affiliation documents will be provided but memberships may only be realized in the proposed new Region. I consider these initial discussions are within the objectives of NCACOA but further, other countries in the area are expressing an interest in our activities. This coupled with the very positive relationship that has been

established with Friends of Ostomates Worldwide, Canada (FOW-C) and the Friends of Ostomates Worldwide, USA (FOW-USA) promises to be very beneficial to the Ostomates of Central America and the Caribbean Islands and indeed to our present or future Region. I hope to have more detailed information regarding the proposed new region in the 3rd Quarterly Report. Please enjoy the reports from; Mexico and Puerto Rico.

United Ostomy Association of Canada Les Kehoe President UOAC

UOAC has had numerous inquiries as to how the full body scan that is being implemented at airports around the world, will impact the people with ostomies. Les Kehoe, UOAC President has contacted Mr. Yves Duguay, Senior Vice President of Operations, Canadian Air Transport Security Authority.

Mr. Duguay has supplied us with a detailed response to all our queries relating to these concerns. He has assured our organization that every effort will be made to address our issues.

In his letter, Mr. Duguay has invited UOAC to participate in a video that is being prepared as a training tool for screening officers. All concerns that have arisen over the past will be addressed in this video, called people with special needs.

UOAC held a full Board of directors Meeting March 26, 27, 28 in Toronto in order to prepare our strategic Plan and prepare a budget for the upcoming year. The plan in its entirety was approved by the Board. The plan will be presented at the National Council Meeting (AGM) in August for approval by the delegates. A lot of time was dedicated to preparing a Future Direction Manual for use by UOAC in next year when a conference is not offered to our membership. The manual has been approved by the Board in theory and the manual will be compiled and presented by the Future Directions Committee in August to the full Board of directors. If the approval is forth coming then the manual will be implemented next year.

The UOAC Ostomy Youth Camp has almost doubled its campers this year. This is a huge undertaking for UOAC. This will mean that many more persons with an ostomy or related needs will enjoy the camp experience this year.

The Award program for UOAC has been revamped this year. The program is now a biennial award system to reflect our biennial conference years.

UOAC nominations and Elections committee have been active in recruiting and soliciting nominations for four Executive positions and four Director positions on the Board of Directors of Canada Inc. The elections will be held at the conference in August that is to be held in Sydney NS. The full Board will meet again in September of 2010. This meeting will jump start our years plan for UOAC.

Mexico, The Asociacion De Ostomizados De Colima Major Jorge Vargas Morales, Executive Council Member President of Colima Ostomy Association

On March 04, 2010 I was invited to attend as speaker at the II International Congress of The Mexican Association

for the Integral Care and Healing of Wounds in the City of Tepic, Nayarit State. I presented information of the, 'IMPORTANCE OF SUPPORT GROUPS TO OSTOMY PEOPLE'. We expressed appreciate for the great work of Enterostomal Therapist (ET) .T.Otilia Cruz Castañeda, the President of the Association.

In recognition the work of professionals that offer special attention to extremely poor Ostomy people throughout Mexico, The Colima Ostomy Association in a special ceremony sent awards to the following persons; LTC. Medical Surgeon Javier Perez Aguirre, Lieutenant Nurse ET. Lourdes, Cortes Aleman, both of Military Hospital, Psychologist Lawyer Elia Hernandez Labra who for twenty-five (25) years has supported many ostomy people in the Hospital Gral, Mexico City.

A component of Project1 of the NCACOA Strategic Plan is to have meetings in various counties to evaluate the conditions of the Ostomy People and to encourage participation in the Region. As the executive Council Member ,on February 21-25, 2010 I was in Belize and presented information, including the International Stoma Care Advocacy Program (ISCAP) to the Health Secretary, Doctors, Nurses and Ostomy People. I also detected Ostomy Groups and evaluated the need to help support them with information and appliances. Some Ostomy Supplies that were supplied by Friends of Ostomates Worldwide –Canada (FOW-C) was given to needy Ostomates. It is import to mention that the Ambassador and the Military Attaché of Mexico in Belize help me to realize my objectives.

On November, 2010 I will finish my term as Executive Council Member. of our Region and I feel very satisfied because with my own expenses I visited several countries and I was face to face with different Ostomy people in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Belize in Central America and 27 of 32 states from Mexican Republic. In this aspect I will send to our President Doug Graham the General Information about those countries. In all places I gave appliances that were donated by FOW-CANADA to our Colima Ostomy Association to needy Ostomates.

THANKS, THANKS SO MUCH TO THE FOW CANADA. AND I WILL ALWAYS REPEAT, ALWAYS, ALWAYS.- THANKS ALSO TO MY GOD FOR TO BEING AN OSTOMATE.

ASOCIACION DE OSTOMIZADOS DE PUERTO RICO

By: Martha Vélez de Nieves, President

Asociación de Ostomizados de Puerto Rico is very happy with all the activities organized to celebrate Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

- March is colorectal cancer awareness month, and we participated in activities where the outside of the buildings are lightening up in blue.
- On March 3 we had a press conference as March is the colorectal prevention month. Then we had a cocktail with finger food. We all went outside to see the Comprehensive Cancer building lighten in blue

as a symbol of colorectal cancer awareness month.

- We invited the members of our ostomy group to celebrate March as colorectal Awareness month and we all dressed in blue. We invited two psychologists who gave a tremendous conference about Emotion's Management.
- Members of our visiting program continue their good work visiting patients at the Cancer Center-Hospital Auxilio Mutuo, and the Medical Center of Rio Piedras.

Campaña para prevenir el cáncer colorrectal



Entre otras actividades, se darán seminarios educativos en San Juan, Ponce, Mayagüez y Caguas para los profesionales de la salud, así como talleres al público en general.

We received an e-mail from Mr. Victor Moya who is the coordinator of an ostomy group that meets at Calderon Guardia Hospital in Costa Rica. They are planning a visit to Puerto Rico and would like to meet with the members

of our ostomy group.

Attached is a newspaper clipping with an article about the PR Coalition of Colorectal Cancer and a photo of the members of the coalition.

United Ostomy Association Of America President Kristin Knipp

UOAA convened their first Management Board of directors meeting in January, 2010, beginning with the installation of new board members, including President Kristin Knipp, President-elect David Rudzin, Vice-president LeeAnn Barcus, Secretary Carol Haack and Treasurer Scott Bowling.

January's meeting concluded with a strategic planning session where the organizations focus for the coming year was laid out. Among projects that will started this year are a college and university outreach, a focus on locating and serving the Spanish-speaking ostomate community in the United States, a comprehensive 'ASG in a Box' project designed to assist in the start of new local support groups and provide resources for existing groups, and preparations for an Ostomy Summit which will bring together organizations holding a stake in the ostomy community for a consensus conference. In addition, UOAA will continue to focus on public awareness and promotion of current educational materials.

UOAA will be exhibitors at both the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons conference in May, and the combined WOCN/WCET conference in June.

Upcoming UOAA events include Leadership Training Seminars in Dallas, Texas in May and Tacoma, Washington in August.

UOAA currently represents 298 ostomy support groups across the United States, Puerto Rico, Bermuda and Trinidad and Tobago.

SOUTH PACIFIC OSTOMY ASSOCIATION

The members of our region both Australia and New Zealand consider ourselves very fortunate to have well funded and administered support programs in place for Ostomates in our countries, however some of our near neighbours are not as fortunate with little or no support programs available.

To assist our fellow Ostomates Australia and New Zealand are continuing to supply appliances to Indonesia, The Philippines' Tonga and Fiji and recently supplies were forwarded to Nepal, the supply of appliances to other countries is also under consideration.

The proposed restructure of IOA and the amalgamation of the South Pacific and the Asian regions will provide the new organisation with the challenge of developing new and effective Ostomate support programs in the new region, we in the South Pacific are looking forward to the opportunity to work with our colleagues from Asia to meet these challenges

We in the south Pacific are enjoying a wonderful autumn and although our winter is approaching, it is not as severe as the northern hemisphere where summer is on the way.

Peter McQueen, President SPOA

20/40 FOCUS

Hello from the 20/40 Focus group.

Our committee is committed to the improvement of the quality of life of young ostomates and those with related surgeries, aged between 20 and 40. Our aim has been to identify the needs of young ostomates worldwide and work in conjunction with IOA's member and regional associations to ensure these needs are met.

We are fortunate to live in an age where communication around the globe is relatively simple and in most cases inexpensive. Thankfully, we've been able to make contacts in just about every country.

In the NCACOA region, communication between the very successful YODAA group of UOAA and the UOAC 20/40 group has been maintained and contact with a member in Mexico is also ongoing.

In the AOA, Ronaldo Lora of the Philippines has done a great job of re-establishing 20/40 in the region. He has been able to set up several 20/40 focus 'desks'.

Unfortunately, continued health issues with the SPOA 20/40 representative have stalled some of the work in the region. But, we are confident that in time a thriving 20/40 group will emerge.

In the EOA region, our elusive representative has been unable to give us updates on the region, however we have made contact with other members in the area who give us regular updates on the happenings of the EOA 20/40 members.

We are also still on the hunt for a contact in the ALADO region. Although we have made contact with several individuals in the area due to language difficulties we've been unable to secure a representative for the 20/40 Focus. We hope that in 2010 we will be successful.

Janet Paquet
20/40 Focus Chair

FRIENDS OS OSTOMATES WORLDWIDE-USA

Answering the Call

Founded in 1986, the Friends of Ostomates Worldwide-USA (FOW-USA) is a non-profit organization that collects new, donated ostomy supplies from individuals and organizations in the United States, and ships them to countries where ostomates do not have access to these vital supplies. Quality of life may be poor, skin care is a major issue, and ostomates may be rejected by their families and villages. Through March 2010, FOW-USA has shipped over 246,000 pounds of supplies, valued at almost \$12 million, to over 60 countries.

Requests for supplies come from health care professionals, clinics and hospitals, and other related organizations such as ostomy and cancer groups. Sometimes we receive emergency requests. After the January 12, 2010, earthquake hit Haiti, one of our contacts, the Catholic Medical Mission Board, based on Long Island, NY, asked their partners for assistance. Our volunteers were quickly able to send three pallets of supplies to CMMB, who then provided them to their staff in Haiti for distribution. UOAA generously provided financial support of this shipment.

We have a good working relationship with the International Ostomy Association and its regional presidents. We always appreciate receiving pictures, email messages, and stories from the people and countries receiving our supplies. We also work closely with our counterpart, Friends of Ostomates Worldwide-Canada, in covering different parts of the world where supplies are needed. Please see our web site for information on shipping history, available resources, and information on how to support us: www.fowusa.org

