

International Chronicle



International Medicine Institute

Reflections of 2009

Despite the worldwide economic crisis, fiscal year 2009 was a favorable one for our clinical sector with an increase in patient volume of 25% from the previous year. The International Medicine Institute (IMI) has used various strategies toward this end including education and training conferences, contracting new payers, enhancing our rapport with current payers, developing new physician and government relationships, and enhancing current relationships. Marketing efforts by UHealth International and Jackson Memorial International have increased the institutions' branding as a quality health destination. Our international research and education initiatives have also increased further awareness of UHealth and its outstanding medical professionals.

Eduardo de Marchena M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.C.P.
Associate Dean for International Medicine

International Education

For over 40 years, the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine has extended multiple opportunities to international medical students and physicians from Latin America and the Caribbean through the William J. Harrington Medical Training Programs. The program is now working with alumnus, Carlos H. Barrios, M.D., of the school of medicine of the Pontificia Universidade Catolica do Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS) in Brazil to develop a scholarship for qualified applicants that cannot afford the trip abroad and program fees.

Program development and management are under the direction of the new programs director, Olivia Cata. Ms. Cata is a UM alumna who has devoted over thirty-three years to medical education at the University. She counts on the tireless support of Drs. Thomas Harrington and Donald Temple who mirror the belief in access to great medical education on which the program was founded.

In January, the sudden loss of Dr. William J. Harrington, Jr. shocked us all; like his father, he carried on the Harrington tradition of reaching out through his teachings, research and the program's objectives.

To commemorate him, the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center, led by long-time colleague and close friend, Glen Barber, Ph.D., has worked in collaboration with Dr. Thomas Harrington and the IMI to set up an international research scholarship at the University of Miami for the funding of a postdoctoral associate whose research focus is viral oncology. The scholarship is intended to provide research experience and scientific training to promising young investigators from Latin America. Scholarship recipients will return home and utilize their experiences to contribute towards medical research within their own institutes and communities and to strengthen international collaborations.

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International Research Network

The international research network continues to broaden the reach of our Division of Research. Relationships with physicians overseas and collaborative efforts with investigators world-wide facilitate all processes including site identification and selection, coordination with international regulatory and ethics committees, assistance with logistics such as document translation, transportation of materials and devices and many other services.

The IMI is consulting for Accumed Systems, Inc. and Angiografía de Occidente in Cali, Colombia to test a thermal sensing system in patients undergoing elective coronary stent implantation. The device will help determine if there is a clinical difference in restenosis of hot versus cold lesions in patients with acute coronary syndrome. The IMI is also continuing studies with percutaneous aortic valve replacements; over 20 patients have been treated with this new device in Cali.

Memorandums of Understanding have been established with the following research entities:

- Instituto FLENI, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Fundacion Favalaro, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- Sanatorio Otamendi – Buenos Aires, Argentina
- AMIL/ESHO, Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paolo, Brazil
- Angiografía de Occidente, Cali, Colombia
- Fundacion Cardio-Infantil, Bogota, Colombia
- Fundacion Valle del Lili, Cali, Colombia
- Universidad de Antioquia, Medellin, Colombia
- Universidad Tecnologica de Pereira, Pereira, Colombia
- Hospital Clinica Biblica, San Jose, Costa Rica
- Hospital Metropolitano de Santiago, Santiago, Dominican Republic
- Instituto Dominicano de Cardiologia, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic
- Universidad de Especialidades del Espíritu Santo, Guayaquil, Ecuador
- Hospital Herrera Llerandi, Guatemala City, Guatemala
- INDESALUD and Universidad Autonoma de Campeche, Mexico
- Christus Muguerza, Monterrey, Mexico
- Maghrabi Eye and Ear Hospitals, Middle East
- Gorgas Memorial Institute, Panama City, Panama
- Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia, Lima, Peru
- University of West Indies, Trinidad
- Ankara University, Ankara, Turkey

Faculty Corner

Bahamian oncologists, Drs. Theodore A. Turnquest and DuVaughn E. Curling, delegates of the Caribbean Association of Oncology and Haematology (CAOH), have been recommended for appointments as voluntary faculty of the International Medicine Institute of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

Drs. Turnquest and Curling played key roles in the coordination of the third annual CAOH conference bringing together physicians from UHealth International and the United States, the Caribbean, Italy, Panama, Costa Rica, France and Canada. CAOH's mission is to bridge the gap between patient and cure. To this end, it facilitates the education of physicians and oncology specialty professionals in this area. Through CAOH's implementation of state-of-the-art patient care and its procurement of support from major sponsors, not only have

they raised cancer awareness, but education and training are now available year-round through conferences, seminars and the recruitment, and referral of medical students.

Eugene Marcus Cooper, M.D., M.H.A., who completed his fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of Miami in May was appointed as voluntary faculty prior to his return to the Bahamas.



Jose Quesada, M.D., M.B.A. (far left) and Mrs. Sylvia Hernandez Powell (far right) at the CAOH conference in March.

Awards and Travels

Awards

Leopoldo Raij, M.D., F.A.H.A., professor of medicine and a nationally recognized hypertension researcher, received the **2009 Irvine Page-Alva Bradley Lifetime Achievement Award in Hypertension**. The prestigious award, sponsored by the American Heart Association's Council for High Blood Pressure Research, is presented annually to an individual who has shown a lifetime of outstanding achievements in the field of hypertension and has served as a role model through service, research, teaching and training--a description Raij exemplifies. *For more on this story, [click here](#).*

Eduardo de Marchena, M.D., F.A.C.C., F.A.C.P., professor of medicine and surgery in the Division of Cardiology and associate dean for international medicine, was presented with the **American Heart Association's Cor Vitae Award** at the American Heart Association's 41st annual Miami-Dade Heart Ball on Saturday, May 30. *For more on this story, [click here](#).*

International Collaborations

May 30th's video conference brought the latest in pediatric allergy and asthma to Brazil with Antonio Marttos, M.D., assistant professor of surgery and director of tele trauma research at the William Lehman Injury Research Center teaming up with Andrew Colin, M.D., professor of clinical pediatrics to present a live video conference. Through a collaboration between the IMI and Assistencia Medica Internacional Ltda. (AMIL), the second largest insurer in Brazil, an audience of over 100 attendees in Rio de Janeiro was able to participate in a program designed to present the latest topics in pediatric allergy and asthma including case studies of the latest advances.

The work of physicians like Drs. Colin and Marttos expand the reach of the University's educational programs, putting our wealth of education and experience at the fingertips of practitioners worldwide.

Upcoming conferences scheduled in conjunction with AMIL and the IMI include topics such as cardiology, diabetes, obstetrics and gynecology and pediatric gastroenterology. For more information on these conferences, please call the IMI at 305-243-9200.

Medical, research and educational ambassadors take our international mission on the road:

Juan A. Asensio, M.D., F.A.C.S., F.C.C.M.

Trauma Curriculum and Training
Christus Muguerza Hospital System, University of Monterrey,
Chihuahua University Hospital, Saltillo University Hospital
Mexico

Jorge M. Diego, M.D., M.P.H.

Cost Containment Conference
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago

Enrique Ginzburg, M.D., F.A.C.S.

Establishment of Trauma System
Ministry of Health
Buenos Aires, Argentina

William O'Neill, M.D., F.A.C.C., Hector Jimenez, M.D.

Percutaneous Aortic Valve Replacement-Cardiology Congress
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Leopoldo Raij, M.D.

Hypertension Lectures, Research Outreach
University of Sao Paulo
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Keith A. Webster, Ph.D.

Angiogenesis Lectures
Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Wales



Photographed to the right of the screen are Drs. Antonio Marttos and Paulo Cupello of AMIL, on the screen is Dr. Andrew Colin.

International Medicine Institute Leadership

Administration

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Associate Dean for International Medicine

Emilio M. Nuñez, M.B.A.
Executive Director

Jose Quesada, M.D., M.B.A.
Director of Finance and Operations

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Medical Director, International Medicine Institute Education and Training

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Programs Director, William J. Harrington Medical Training Program and Global Observerships

J. Donald Temple, M.D.
Director, William J. Harrington Medical Training Programs and Global Observerships

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Hector Jimenez, M.D.
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