



International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

**IAPB COUNCIL OF MEMBERS MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 14, 2011**

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AGENDA ITEM 10: REGIONAL REPORTS ON VISION 2020 ACHIEVEMENTS  
LATIN AMERICA

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The Latin American office has finally moved to Miami on a permanent basis in late June and we were able to participate in several international meetings and have several related activities due to the ongoing support of ORBIS and CBM/ICEH for several courses in the region.

On May 17-18, 2011 the biannual VISION 2020 Congress for Latin America was held in Lima, Peru. Several talks presented summarized progress made in various countries and projects related to VISION 2020 while others focused on specific aspects of training and research. The day after the congress several workshops were held, including meetings for various VISION 2020 subcommittees, and a meeting between some of the training consortium stakeholders. It is likely that 6 institutions will participate from Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Paraguay, Brazil, and the Dominican Republic, although realistically, only 30-60 personnel are likely to be trained. A second meeting has been scheduled for October in Orlando, Florida, during the AAO annual meeting. At the same time, a follow-up to the Aravind meeting in September of 2010 was held to decide priorities and research questions for the region. There was a general consensus that some institutions would like to participate in research activities but lacked resources and understanding of the needs for research; they might be helped through mentoring processes. In particular, diabetic retinopathy and uncorrected refractive errors in children were identified as priorities and discussions are ongoing to frame research projects that could be undertaken.

Twenty-four people were also trained in low vision in the Peru meeting with two more courses to be held in Brazil and Mexico this fall. Following the VISION 2020 Latin America meeting in Lima, a CEH course was conducted for ophthalmology residents with two additional courses scheduled for Brazil and Mexico in the fall and the LV guidelines for the region are also currently being developed as well as the ones for cataract. The CEH management course was also held in Paraguay.

A full translation of the RAAB Manual into Spanish is in progress, as well as translation of the VISION 2020 Latin America Diabetic Retinopathy Guidelines into English. Finally, with additional local funding in Uruguay and El Salvador, we are currently conducting 4 RAAB national studies (including Peru and Paraguay) following initial instruction by Dr. Hans Limburg. The RAABs in Peru and Paraguay are likely to provide valuable information as they are follow-ups to studies conducted 11 and 7 years ago, respectively. This will bring the total of such studies to 16, with Latin America being the best-mapped region in the world, although we still do not have information in many countries.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Pan American Association of Ophthalmology (PAAO) in Buenos Aires on July 6-9 was attended by over 5,000 people despite problems caused by ash clouds from the volcano in southern Chile. Several workshops were held in regard to aspects of VISION 2020 and advocacy for the Latin American region in association with the ICO during the pre-meeting day, including preparing ophthalmologists for the next decade, research that will need to be done in the next 20 years, training ophthalmic technicians to assist ophthalmologists, and advocacy, particularly the lack of funding in the region.

The massive *Survey Ophthalmology* review paper on visual impairment and blindness in Latin America has been accepted for publication. We expect this review to be a landmark publication for the region. The meta-analytical paper on CSC in Latin America (men vs. women) is in process of revision for *Clinical & Experimental Ophthalmology* (an updated version of the study was well received at ARVO), and the details of the cataract surgery surveys (2001/2008) have been submitted to the *British Medical Open Access Journal*. The refractive error study (ethnicity in schoolchildren) and outcomes of cataract surgery in Paraguay as well as the one on trends of CSR for Argentina are also being revised following initial reviews and will be submitted to new journals. The December 2010 edition of the CEHJ in Spanish was launched in releases in June 2011 due to some delays in the availability of the international edition and a new translation system put in place, future editions will be released much faster now that we have mastered the system. Papers actually published in the last 6 months include:

1. Caligaris LSA, Medina NH, **Lansingh VC**, Waldman EA, Yaacov-Peña F. Analyses of cataract surgery performed by the Unified Health System in Brazil, 2006-2007. *Rev Panam Salud Publica*. 2011;29(6): 428-32.
2. **Van C Lansingh**, Marissa J Carter. State of the Globe: The Unglamorous Side of Infectious Diseases: Parasites. *J Global Infect Dis* 2011;3(2):113-4
3. Kevin L Winthrop, Joao M Furtado, Juan C Silva, Serge Resnikoff, **Van C Lansingh**. River blindness: An old disease on the brink of elimination and control. *J Global Infect Dis* 2011;3(2):151-5.
4. Furtado JM, Cade F, **Lansingh VC**, Zin A, Arieta, CE, Fabiani, J, Luco, C and Resnikoff, S. Is Misión Milagro an effective program to prevent blindness in Latin America? *Arq Bras Oftalmol* 2010;73(5):397-8.
5. Jorge E. Kleisinger, María Eugenia Nano, **Van C. Lansingh**, Gustavo Montaña, Eliseo Pérez, Graciela Weber, Walter Milar, Hugo Banegas, Lucio Lazara Valdez . Estimating the number of cataract surgeries needed in the Chaco province of Argentina using various visual acuity (VA) thresholds and CSC. *Estimación del número de cirugías de catarata necesarias en la provincia del Chaco, Argentina, usando varios umbrales de agudeza visual y estimando el "Cataract Surgical Coverage"*. *Oft Clin y Exp* 2010; 4(2): 61-3.
6. María Florencia Milanese, **Van Charles Lansingh**, Marissa J. Carter, María Eugenia Nano. Manual small incision cataract surgery as an alternative treatment in Argentina. *Cirugía manual de catarata con incisión pequeña como tratamiento alternativo en Argentina*. *Oft Clin y Exp* 2010; 4(2): 83-8.
7. M. Soledad Pighin, Hugo D. Nano, Santiago Castro Feijoó, Edgardo De Mauri, María Eugenia Nano, **Van C. Lansingh**. Epidemiología de la degeneración macular relacionada con la edad: su desarrollo en Argentina. *Oft Clin y Exp* 2010; 4(2): 89-93.

Finally, by the time of the IAPB meetings in Dubai, the following website will be operational showing maps of the region in which you can find the available indicators and studies published in that country during the last 26 years and links to other useful resources for that specific country: <http://janes.ws/staging/v2020/>



**Global Blindness Statistics**

Click on a Country on the Map or Text Link for its Data.

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<http://janes.ws/staging/v2020/> screen shot

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