

GUEST EDITORIAL

First World Congress on Ultrasound in Medical Education Hosted by the University of South Carolina School of Medicine

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Over 400 medical professionals and students from 26 countries gathered at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, South Carolina, April 29-May 1, 2011 for the First World Congress on Ultrasound in Medical Education. Hosted by the University of South Carolina School of Medicine and sponsored by the Society of Ultrasound in Medical Education (SUSME) and the World Interactive Network Focused On Critical Ultrasound (WINFOCUS), the World Congress featured six plenary sessions, 79 papers presented at concurrent sessions, 28 posters, and 29 hands-on ultrasound workshops.

The World Congress opened on April 29, 2011 with a welcome from Dr. Richard Hoppmann, Dean, University of South Carolina School of Medicine, and President of the World Congress, Dr. Tomislav Petrovic, President, WINFOCUS, and Dr. Harris Pastides, President, University of South Carolina. Plenary sessions included distinguished speakers such as Dr. Daniel Lichtenstein of Paris who is credited with being the father of pulmonary ultrasound, Dr. Susanna Price of Royal Brompton Hospital in London, Dr. Ruzica Maksimovic from the World Health Organization in Geneva, Dr. Luca Neri, Global Director and Past President of WINFOCUS from Milan, Dr. Alfred Abuhamad, President of the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), Dr. Raoul Breikreutz of the German Society of Ultrasound in

Medicine, and Dr. Vicki Noble from Harvard Medical School and Massachusetts General Hospital.

Concurrent sessions covered topics such as medical student assessment, technology and innovations, global ultrasound practice and education, clinical applications, and ultrasound teaching and learning. The session on undergraduate ultrasound programs highlighted curricular innovations at Ohio State University, the University of California-Irvine, the University of South Carolina, and Wayne State University. The University of South Carolina School of Medicine is the first medical school in the country to have an integrated ultrasound curriculum across all four years of medical school.

Hands-on workshops provided attendees with instruction in the use of ultrasound in numerous contexts including vascular, trauma, OB/GYN, organs of the abdomen, lung, musculoskeletal, pediatric, transcranial Doppler and carotid, ultrasound-guided procedures, ECHO, hand-held devices, deep venous thrombosis, shock, and using ultrasound to teach physiology and anatomy.



Numerous companies in the medical ultrasound industry provided congress attendees with demonstrations of state-of-the-art ultrasound technologies. Exhibitors included CAE Healthcare, GE Healthcare, Limbs & Things, MedaPhor, Medical Imagineering/Mediphan, Mindray, Mobisante, Siemens, Signostics, Simulab Corporation, Soma Access Systems LLC, SonoSite, Telexy Healthcare, Touch of Life Technologies, and Zonare Medical Systems. Corporate sponsors included GE Healthcare, Siemens, Sonosite, and Palmetto Health Richland.



Based on the positive evaluations by attendees, the World Congress achieved its goal to provide up-to-date knowledge sharing among healthcare professionals who seek to transform the education and clinical practice of medicine through ultrasound imaging technology. Attendees agreed that ultrasound technology should be an essential element in the medical education curriculum and an essential element in improving healthcare delivery. The World Congress evaluations included many positive comments about the experience of attendees. "Wonderful inspiring stimulating program! Thank you for the unforgettable southern hospitality and the outstanding organization!" "Fabulous conference; well organized; great venue; superb learning opportunity." "USC School of Medicine was a wonderful host."

As a result of the World Congress, groundwork has been laid for increased collaboration between the Society of Ultrasound in Medical Education (SUSME) and the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM), the largest multispecialty ultrasound organization in the world with over 8,000 members. SUSME and ultrasound education will be featured at the AIUM Annual Convention, March 29-April 1, 2012, in Phoenix.

Plans for the next World Congress on Ultrasound in Medical Education are underway and the location will likely be held outside the United States. To view the full program, PowerPoint presentations, and photos, visit the World Congress website at <http://wcume.org>. For additional information on the sponsoring organizations, SUSME and WINFOCUS, visit their websites at <http://www.susme.org> and <http://www.winfocus.org>.