



## CORAL Liasion REPORT - 2001

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The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual AdCom Meeting of CORAL, the Latin American Regional Council on Biomedical Engineering, an organization co-sponsored by the IFMBE and IEEE/EMBS, took place on May 24<sup>th</sup> in Havana, Cuba. Delegates of national biomedical societies from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela attended the meeting. Also, members of the EMBS chapters from these countries and observers from Colombia and Peru participated in CORAL XII. According to the CORAL bylaws the discussion about the Asociación Salvadoreña de Ingeniería Hospitalaria (ASIH, El Salvador) was postponed for the next meeting. Also, due to the lack of participation the Asociación Colombiana de Bioingeniería (ABIOIN, Colombia) and the Sociedad Chilena de Ingeniería Biomédica (SOCHIB, Chile) lost their memberships. To become member again they must go through the normal admission process.

Firstly, delegates reported on the biomedical engineering activities that had taken place in their countries for the last year and about the future national conferences. As IFMBE liaison, Prof. Fernando Infantosi made a report of the Federation activities and the Sidney' 2003 World Congress. He also informed that IFMBE has decided to make a special contribution to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Latin American Congress on Biomedical Engineering. The president of CORAL, Prof. Monzon, informed that IEEE-EMBS has already made the deposit of the annual 2001 contribution to CORAL. Further, he informed that the EMBS AdCom decided that the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference will be held at Cancun (Mexico) in September 2003.

The **Committee of the former CORAL Presidents** was created and the basis of a **Latin American Bulletin of Clinical Engineering** was established. It is expected a first issue by the end of 2001. The **web page of CORAL** will be constructed by the Venezuelan Society.

In order to promote the EMBS 25<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Latin American Congress on Biomedical Engineering **special issues of the biomedical engineering journals dedicated to Latin America** were approved and the best papers will be awarded (also with free registration to the Conference). The special issue of the Brazilian Journal on Biomedical Engineering will be published in 2003 and the Argentinean or Mexican Journal in 2004.

The President of the Organizing Committee of the **2<sup>nd</sup> Latin American Congress on Biomedical Engineering made a preliminary report**. It also included the Advanced Clinical Engineering Workshop, which demonstrated that the clinical engineering is doing well in Latin America and progress is noticeable. The organization was professionally conducted throughout and the program quality reflected the great efforts put by the hosts to reflect well on advances in the field. It was a very successful event with more than 550 attendees, half of them from Cuba. A total of 329 papers were accepted for presentation, 75 of them from Brazil. Thirteen pre-congress courses have occurred two days previously. Several keynote speakers addressed the audience in plenary sessions and special topic workshops. It was a unique opportunity to meet old friends and made some new ones as well. Every one offered very warm hospitality professionally and socially.

The activities related to the **3<sup>rd</sup> Latin American Congress on Biomedical Engineering**, organized by CORAL and hosted by the Brazilian Society of Biomedical Engineering, to be held in João Pessoa, Paraíba - Brazil (September 2004), was then reported. The First Announcement was then distributed to all participants. The need of financial support from IFMBE and EMBS was again emphasized. It was decided that the **4<sup>th</sup> Latin American Congress on Biomedical Engineering** will be held in the Margarita Island - Venezuela in 2007, and so it will be hosted by the Venezuelan Society of Biomedical Engineering. It was also decided that the next meeting of the CORAL AdCom will take place in Chile, during the 1<sup>st</sup> Chilean Congress on Biomedical Engineering in August 2002.

Finally, the CORAL AdCom from January 2002 to Dicember 2004 was elected, resulting in the following composition: **President: Antonio Fernando CATELLI INFANTOSI, Vice-president (President 2005-2007) Susana LLANUSA RUIZ, Secretary/Treasurer: Oscar YÁÑEZ SUÁREZ, Members-at-large: ARGENTINA and VENEZUELA.**