



CORAL Liasion Report – 2003 / 2004 and Latin America 2004 Conference Report

A. Fernando C. Infantosi

The 14th 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 in Cancun (Mexico), in September 2003, during the 25th Annual International Conference of the EMBS. Delegates of national biomedical societies from Argentina, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela attended this meeting. Also, members of the EMBS chapters from these countries and observers from Colombia, Chile and Costa Rica were presented in CORAL XIV.

As IFMBE liaison, Prof. Fernando Infantosi made a report of the Federation activities and the Sidney' 2003 World Congress. The former president of CORAL, Prof. Monzon, informed about the Cancun' 2003 Conference. Delegates of the national societies reported on the biomedical engineering activities that had taken place in their countries for the last year and about the future national conferences.

The 3rd Latin American Congress on Biomedical Engineering (CLAEB'2004), a joint event with the XIX Brazilian Congress on Biomedical Engineering (XIX CBEB), will be held from 22 to 25 September 2004, in João Pessoa, Paraíba, Brazil (<http://www.claeb2004.org.br> and <http://www.sbeb.org.br>). This event is the 3rd Latin American Conference of the International Federation for Medical and Biological Engineering. Although sponsored by the Latin American Regional Council on Biomedical Engineering (CORAL) and the Brazilian Biomedical Engineering Society (SBEB), the need of support from IFMBE and EMBS was emphasized. This Congress will gather Biomedical Engineering scientists from the Americas and other continents, presenting their latest research results. In organizing this meeting, we are aiming to repeat the success of the two previous Latin American Congresses on Biomedical Engineering held in Mazatlán (1998) and Havana (2001). Strategically located at the most eastern point of the Americas, João Pessoa is privileged by beautiful beaches, with transparent and warm waters, in addition to its rich cultural and historical assets.

In order to promote the 3rd Latin American Congress on Biomedical Engineering special issues of the Brazilian Journal on Biomedical Engineering (RBEB) dedicated to Latin America have been published in 2003 and 2004 (<http://www.peb.ufrj.br/rbeb>). In these issues the best papers will be awarded with free registration to the Conferences. Firstly, the call for papers was advertised in the 2002 and 2003 RBEB issues, informing the rules and the important dates. In the RBEB issues of 2003 (v.19, n.2 and 3) and 2004 (v.20, n.1) the papers were published.

For the CLAEB'2004 and the XIX CBEB, nearly 650 manuscripts were submitted, 80% of those being full papers. The deadline for paper submission was 22nd May and the process of acceptance will end at 1st July. The majority of the submitted papers are from South America (Brazil with 72% and Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Venezuela and Uruguay with 11%) and from North and Central America (13%, Cuba, Mexico and Panama). Papers

from Europe (4%, Spain, Portugal, France, Servia and Montenegro, England and Poland) and Asia were also submitted. At least, some 750 attendees are expected to participate in this Congress, 270 being students. A Student Competition, the Cândido Pinto de Melo Award, a pioneer of Biomedical Engineering in Brazil, was established. This Award is open for students effectively enrolled in undergraduate or graduate courses. Only full papers submitted by students (first author) will be considered. Around 200 students entered in this competition. For this four-day duration meeting, with papers distributed in 18 thematic sessions, we expect to have at least 6 key speakers and 4 plenary sessions. Short courses are also being programmed. The speakers are from Brazil and abroad, such as Dr. H. K. Huang (USA), Dr Metin Akay (USA), Dr. Frederic Padilha (France), Dr. Ronney Panerai (England), Dr. William Saad Hossne (Brazil). The president of the IFMBE, Dr. Joachim Nagel (Germany), will be the keynote speaker. We invited these professionals in Biomedical Engineering and Medical Physics to bring their contribution to the further development of our discipline in Latin America. Therefore, they will come to share their scientific expertise with us and enjoy our beautiful João Pessoa. During the conference, a fair including equipment and service companies will be held. This fair will contribute to a high exposure of the general public to the biomedical engineering field.

The CORAL electronic Bulletin of Clinical Engineering in Latin America is under construction. The first issue of it is already available (<http://www.ieb.ufsc.br/latingclin>).

The 4th 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. In order to promote this event special issues of the Argentinean or Mexican biomedical engineering journals dedicated to Latin America will be published in 2005 and 2006.