

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT 2010

By Raul Coimbra, MD, PhD, FACS



Dear Fellow Members of the Panamerican Trauma Society (SPT):

First I would like to thank you for the honor to serve as your president in 2010. I also want to thank you for your support to this fantastic scientific organization. I truly expect that you continue to see the value of the membership, the importance of attending our annual meeting, and the opportunity to get involved in the business of the society.

We are starting a new decade, and as such, there will be a number of changes in the society in the near future. I would like to take this opportunity to address some of the exciting changes that we will face as in the near future.

First and foremost, I would like you to join me in expressing our most sincere appreciation for the hard work done by Andy Peitzman and Juan Carlos Puyana on behalf of the SPT. These individuals, through their professionalism and dedication took the SPT to the highest level of organization and efficiency. As you may have heard, during this year, the central office will move from Pittsburg to Richmond and the society will be led by Rao Ivatury and Mike Aboutanos. Please, also join me in congratulating Drs. Ivatury and Aboutanos, the future leaders of the SPT, for their willingness to serve.

Second, in 2010 we will reactivate some of the committees of the SPT. The disaster committee is already very active and Dr. Briggs will continue to develop and promulgate the disaster course in Latin America. The disaster course book has already been translated to Spanish and Portuguese. The membership committee will be functional again, as the addition of new member is critical for the viability and future success of the society. In addition, an ad-hoc committee will be formed to revise the bylaws of the society.

Third, it is our intent to improve the scientific quality of the annual meeting and the quality of the clinical research done in Latin America and presented in our annual meeting. We want to reward those individuals who make an extra effort to achieve excellence in clinical research by creating the “best paper” prize of annual meeting. A monetary prize will be given to the best oral paper presented during the annual meeting starting in 2010.

Fourth, we must take advantage of our journal, the Panamerican Journal of Trauma. At the beginning of a new decade, we must elevate the journal to a much higher scientific level. Latin American surgeons usually complain that it is very difficult to publish in

North American journals. I want you all to remember that the Panamerican Journal of Trauma is your journal and it is the best vehicle for you to publish your research, reaching thousands of surgeons throughout the Americas. Having a stronger journal, with high quality research is the only way to have it indexed in large databases (Scielo, Medline, Pubmed, Current Contents, etc). There is no doubt in my mind that this goal is totally achievable with your participation and support. To that end, we are contemplating mandatory submission of a manuscript for those high quality abstracts submitted to the annual meeting and chosen for a special oral session presentation. I am also proposing to the SPT Board that the journal becomes the journal of all national trauma societies affiliated by the membership agreement with the SPT.

Finally, I want to remind you that this year our annual meeting will be in a place we have never been before. Montevideo, Uruguay is waiting for you. Please attend the meeting, bring your enthusiasm, your best research, your ideas, and your positive energy. Bring family and friends, invite a resident, come and enjoy. The local committee in Uruguay is working very hard and I am absolutely convinced that we will have a great meeting and a great time in Montevideo. See you in Uruguay in November.

Sincerely,

Raul Coimbra, MD, PhD, FACS
2010