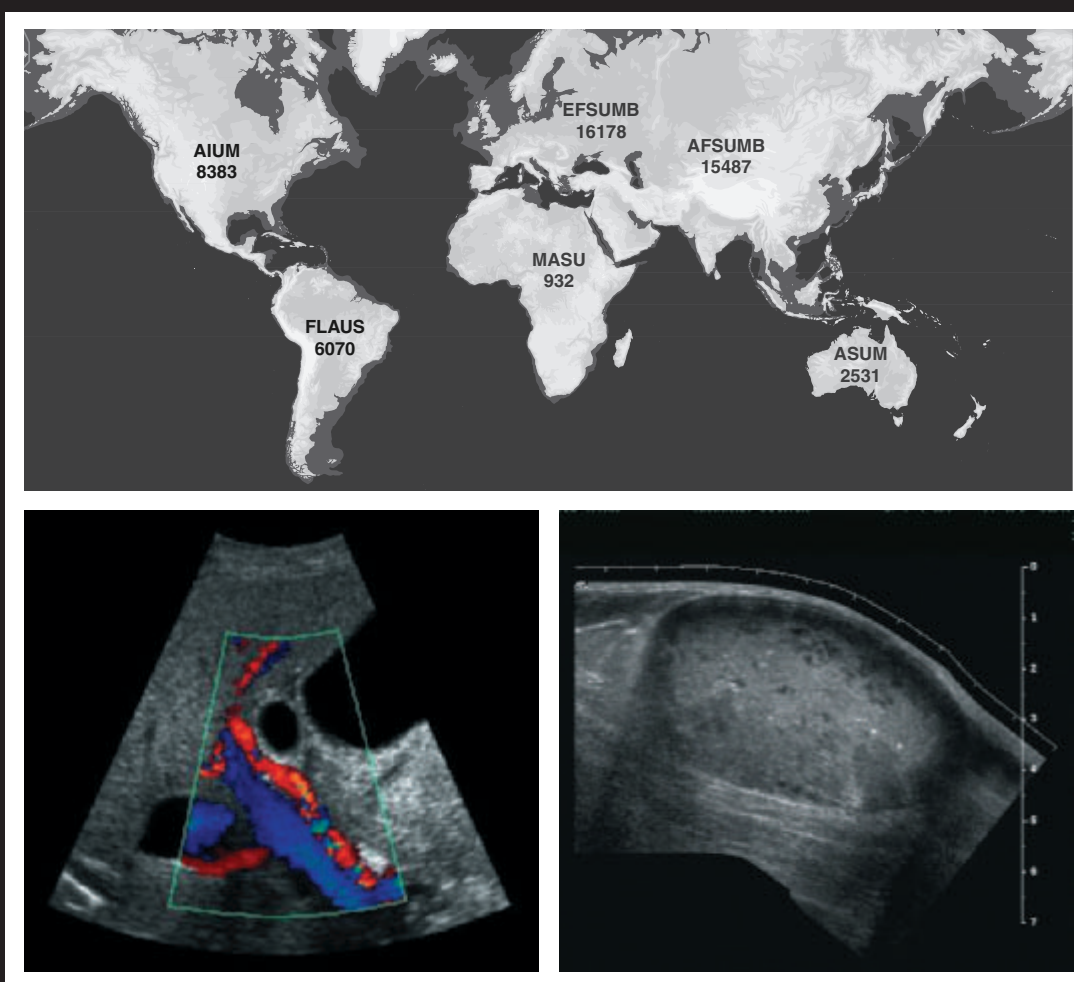




# ECHOES

WORLD FEDERATION FOR ULTRASOUND IN MEDICINE AND BIOLOGY



EFSUMB • AFSUMB • AIUM • FLAUS • ASUM • MASU



## ■ Message from the Secretary

WFUMB is a federation of six affiliated organizations, consisting of regional federations and national societies. The regional federations cover the national societies of ultrasound in their respective areas: Europe (EFSUMB), Asia (AFSUMB), Latin America (FLAUS) and Africa (MASU). The national societies are for North America (AIUM) and Australasia (ASUM).

The map on the front page of this issue shows the number of individual members in each of the six affiliated organizations. Presently, WFUMB has a total of 49,581 individual members, representing national societies in 84 different countries. Our members are physicians, scientists, engineers and ultrasonographers.

EFSUMB has 16,178 individual members from 25 European countries. AFSUMB has 15,487 members from 12 Asian countries. AIUM has 7,295 members from the United States, 232 from Canada and 856 from other countries.

FLAUS has 6,070 members from 12 countries in Latin America. ASUM has 2,531 members from Australia and New Zealand. MASU has 932 members from 31 African and Mediterranean countries.

WFUMB organizes world congresses in ultrasound every three years that cover the whole field of diagnostic ultrasound. We also sponsor other congresses and courses in certain situations. WFUMB organizes and sponsors workshops on the safety of ultrasound in medicine.

Various committees cover many areas of interest to the federation.

As a non-governmental organization (NGO) that is officially related to the World Health Organization, WFUMB currently collaborates with WHO on various education programs by organizing and sponsoring courses and working towards the creation of Education Centers and educational and reference material.

The official journal of WFUMB, *Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology* (UMB) is published monthly by Elsevier Science Inc. ECHOES, the WFUMB newsletter, is published twice a year and is distributed to our affiliated organizations. Our web site is [www.wfumb.org](http://www.wfumb.org)

S. Hancke, WFUMB Secretary



On June 4, 2003, WFUMB President Hiroki Watanabe, a urologist from Kyoto, Japan (left) will hand over the presidency to President-elect Marvin Ziskin, a physicist from Philadelphia, USA (right). ECHOES caught the two normally very serious professors in a relaxed moment in connection with the recent board meeting in Australia.

## ■ Message from the President

WFUMB' 2003, the 10th World Congress of the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, will be held in Montreal, Canada, June 1-4, 2003, hosted by the American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM). Before and during the congress, several WFUMB business meetings are planned.

On May 30, the WFUMB Executive Committee Meeting will take place. The Executive Committee consists of the President, President-elect, two Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer, and usually meets twice a year. At this meeting, the past and future activities of WFUMB will be evaluated and the agendas for the following meetings will be finalized.

The next day, the WFUMB Administrative Council meeting, normally scheduled once a year, will be held, with 17 council members attending. The Administrative Council is the decision-making body for the WFUMB. This year's main topics may be our educational projects, such as the establishment of the WFUMB Centers of Excellence that I mentioned in the last issue of ECHOES, the WFUMB Workshops, WFUMB Scholarships, and so on. Our History of Ultrasound project, which we have been working on for more than 20 years, will be formally completed. The results of the project have now been collected on a CD-ROM and will be distributed to everyone attending the Montreal congress. Furthermore, the meeting will include final voting on the venue for the WFUMB 2009 congress, where the candidates are ASUM and EFSUMB.

The WFUMB General Assembly will take place on June 4 at 10:00 A.M., attended by appointed delegates from the affiliated organizations.

Any other members of WFUMB who would like to attend this meeting are welcome. Its most important activity will be the election of WFUMB officers and councillors for the term 2003-2006. Ballots from the affiliated organizations will be opened, and the newly elected members will be announced.

Preparations for the congress are going very smoothly. I hope to see all of you in Montreal!

H. Watanabe, WFUMB President

## ■ Message from the Treasurer

I am pleased to report that the World Federation of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology remains in sound financial condition. WFUMB funds are consolidated in two interest-bearing accounts, both fully insured. These include a no-fee checking account and a Merrill Lynch Endowment Management Account (EMA) consisting of a portfolio of CDs and bonds. Surplus funds are held in CDs, zero coupon bonds and government bonds of maturities to meet the anticipated cash flow needs of the WFUMB. These securities are individually insured, so that our principal is protected. Since these are risk-free investments and interest rates are low, the return on the investments is in the range of 4 to 6%, depending on maturity and date of purchase. As required by the WFUMB bylaws, a financial audit prior to each World Congress has been requested and will be reported to the Executive Council.

C.R.B. Merritt, WFUMB Treasurer



During the EUROSON 2002 Congress in Edinburgh, the WFUMB executives met with representatives of EFSUMB for a site inspection concerning the EFSUMB bid to host the WFUMB 2009 congress. **Standing, from left:** H. Gharbi, EFSUMB President-elect D. Evans, H. Lutz, K. Vairojanavong, M. Claudon, EFSUMB President K. Jäger, EFSUMB Publ. Committee Chairman D. Pilling, EFSUMB BMUS delegate P. Allen. **Seated, from left:** S. Hancke, M. Ziskin, H. Watanabe and Mrs. Watanabe.



A WFUMB Executive Committee meeting was held in February, 2003, in Sydney, where the members met with representatives from ASUM for a site inspection concerning the ASUM bid to host the WFUMB 2009 congress. **From left:** ASUM Past President S. Barnett, H. Watanabe, ASUM Chief Executive Officer Caroline Hong, M. Ziskin, K. Vairojanavong, H. Lutz, H. Gharbi, S. Hancke.

## HISTORY of WFUMB

In the second half of the twentieth century, various national and international societies and other groups around the world started to organize meetings devoted to the use of ultrasound in medicine and biology.

In 1969, the Societas Internationalis pro Diagnostica in Ophtalmologia (SIDUO) organized its Third International Symposium in Vienna, and an international congress on diagnostic ultrasound was included. Based on efforts to expand this cooperation to an international level, it was decided to create a non-profit scientific organization as a federation of organizations with an interest in diagnostic ultrasound.

A working committee was appointed by SIDUO to formulate a constitution for the organization that became the World

Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB). The committee was chaired by Dr. Vlieger, Netherlands, member of SIDUO and president of EFSUMB. Other committee members were Dr. Brown, USA; Dr. Wagai, Japan; Dr. Oksale, Finland; Dr. Kossoff, Australia; and Dr. White, USA.

The WFUMB constitution was adopted in 1973 and revised in 1988 and 1997. In 1973, Dr. Baum, ophthalmologist and Past President of AIUM, became President of WFUMB.

The first recorded World Congress on Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (WFUMB 1976) took place in San Francisco, and the Japanese gastroenterologist Dr. Wagai was elected President. Since then the WFUMB has organized World Congresses every three years.

### WFUMB World Congresses

WFUMB 1976, San Francisco, USA  
WFUMB 1982, Brighton, UK  
WFUMB 1985, Sydney, Australia  
WFUMB 1988, Washington, USA  
WFUMB 1991, Copenhagen, Denmark  
WFUMB 1994, Sapporo, Japan  
WFUMB 1997, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
WFUMB 2000, Firenze, Italy  
WFUMB 2003, Montreal, Canada  
WFUMB 2006, Seoul, Korea

### WFUMB Presidents

T. Wagai, Japan, Gastroenterology	(76-79)
G. Kossoff, Australia, Physics	(82-85)
H. E. Thompson, USA, Ob/Gyn	(85-88)
F. Weill, France, Radiology	(88-91)
M. Fukuda, Japan, Gastroenterology	(91-94)
B. Goldberg, USA, Radiology	(94-97)
H. Lutz, Germany, Internal Med.	(97-00)
H. Watanabe, Japan, Urology	(00-03)
M. Ziskin, USA, Physics	(03-06)

## WFUMB NEWS

### WFUMB/AIUM 2003 Congress

The WFUMB/AIUM 2003 Congress will take place in Montreal on June 1-4, 2003. The meeting, which is hosted by AIUM, has been very well announced and will no doubt be a great success. WFUMB would like to express its gratitude to all the organizers of the Congress for their great work in establishing an outstanding scientific program and a series of interesting pre-congress courses.

### WFUMB Scholarships

Seven applications were received for WFUMB Scholarships. WFUMB recently decided to award scholarships to:

- Dr. Xiang Zhou, China, who will study with Dr. Strobel at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Germany, before March 1, 2003.
- Dr. M. Sayed, Tunisia, who is planning to study in Paris in 2003.

You can find the WFUMB Scholarship rules in ECHOES No. 1, October, 2002 or on our web site: [www.wfumb.org](http://www.wfumb.org)

### WFUMB Sponsors Congress Participation

WFUMB allocated funds to support the participation of 10 WFUMB members from developing countries in the WFUMB/AIUM 2003 Congress. Ten doctors from Bangladesh, China, Pakistan, Romania, Syria, Tunisia and Uganda were sponsored.

### WFUMB Lectures

WFUMB Lectures can be requested by organizers of major international scientific meetings. A lecture was given by Prof. Giovanni Cerri at the annual FLAUS 2002 meeting in Venezuela, and Prof. Marvin Ziskin gave WFUMB lectures at EUROSON 2002 in Warsaw, Poland and at EUROSON 2003 in Copenhagen, Denmark.

### WFUMB Center of Excellence

The establishment of WFUMB Centers of Excellence has a high priority in WFUMB. Presently, centers in Bangladesh and Uganda are candidates. Rules and proposals will be discussed and approved at the WFUMB Council meeting in June, 2003.



### WFUMB Books

Recently, WFUMB has decided to produce some small handbooks on specific topics. The first to be produced will be *Ultrasonic Diagnosis of Infectious and Tropical Diseases*. The manuscript is currently under preparation.

### WFUMB African Cooperation Group on Education

Encouraged by the successful course in Moshe, Tanzania, the group was engaged to co-organize a course in Kampala, Uganda, in connection with the MASU Congress, 2002.

Once again the teachers were impressed by the remarkable basic knowledge and great interest of the course participants, who came from Uganda and the neighboring countries.

We would all like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Kawooya and his co-workers from the Mulaga Hospital for their great dedication and hospitality during the course. As always, the success of such a course depends on the motivation and commitment of the colleagues on site.

The group discussed a number of possible places for the next activities as well as the idea of

establishing Centers of Excellence in Africa with the aim of supporting continuous cooperation with African colleagues, in spite of infrastructure problems.

WFUMB would like to stress once again our interest in cooperating with colleagues who are engaged in the African region, whether personally or through their institutions.

*H. Lutz, Chairman*

### WFUMB Asian Cooperation Group on Education

The WFUMB Asian Cooperation Group on Education, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Society of Ultrasonography, organized a successful WFUMB "Training the Trainers" advanced ultrasound course in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on June 6-8, 2002. The lecturers were H. Lutz, H. Watanabe and H. Gharbi, all from WFUMB, and J. K. Han from Seoul, Korea. The local coordinator was Dr. Kanu Bala, Bangladesh Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine and Research, the Bangladesh Society of Ultrasonography (BSU) and the BSU Administrative Committee.

Thirty-seven medical doctors with more than



*The "Training the Trainers" course in Dhaka, Bangladesh, included hands-on training.*

a year of experience in the field of medical ultrasound – 35 from Bangladesh and two from Sri Lanka – participated actively.

The program included three days of lectures on a wide spectrum of medical ultrasonography, including abdominal, transvaginal and transrectal examinations, small part and obstetrical scanning and hands-on-training.

An evaluation performed the last day showed that the workshop had been extremely successful.

*K. Vairojanavong, Chairman*

## REPORTS FROM WFUMB'S AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

### EFSUMB

The annual EFSUMB congress is the most important indicator of the activity and vitality of EFSUMB. EFSUMB gives high priority to the organization of upcoming EUROSON congresses. EUROSON 2003 was organized as the first joint Scandinavian meeting and was held in Copenhagen April 27-30, 2003. The local organizing committee under the presidency of Michael Bachmann Nielsen presented an outstanding program, both from a scientific and a social point of view. More than 80 invited speakers gave a summary of the actual state of the art in ultrasonography, and in about 300 free communications, researchers from all over Europe presented the newest results of their excellent work.

The newly established EUROSON committee will do everything to maintain the acquired expert knowledge in congress organization and to

guarantee or even improve the quality of future EUROSON congresses.

The successful organization of the EUROSON congress as well as the realization of any activity within the Federation requires a certain amount of resources. Changing economic conditions encourage us to achieve the best possible utilization of diminishing resources. This holds true both for EFSUMB and for the health care industry as a whole, and necessitates closer cooperation between these two key players. The aim of our Industrial Board is therefore mutual information and improved communication. We expect this to result in productive cooperation on selected topics of common interest. In this connection, we would like to draw attention to the activities of the Safety Committee (ECMUS) and the Education and Professional Standards Committee. Both these committees have organized scientific sessions at the EUROSON congresses and will continue to

organize similar sessions at future meetings. Some of their work has been supported by unrestricted funds from the industry.

Another important factor that guarantees the cohesiveness of a society or federation is the link between the board and the individual members or the national societies, respectively. The Publication Committee is responsible for this interaction. Their main task is the popular biannual newsletter and the highly visited web page.

In 2003, an additional highlight awaits EFSUMB. In cooperation with the International Union of Angiology, we are involved in the organization of the Vascular Medicine Congress to be held in Toulouse, France, on October 8-10, 2003. Five symposia on quality control in vascular duplex scanning (carotid, renal, mesenteric, peripheral arterial and peripheral vein) are planned. This will be a sequel to the basic work performed



by the Education and Professional Standards Committee (see "Minimal training requirements for the practice of Medical Ultrasound in Europe," *EFSUMB Newsletter*, 16:2, 2003).

Finally, we would like to note the continuously increasing number of EFSUMB members (now greater than 16,000) which can be considered an indicator of the organization's vital activity.

*K. Jäger, President of EFSUMB*

## ■ AFSUMB

The WFUMB Asian Cooperation Group on Education, in collaboration with the Bangladesh Society of Ultrasonography, organized a successful WFUMB "Training the Trainers" advanced ultrasound course in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on June 6-8, 2002.

A week later, an AFSUMB Administrative Council meeting was held in Utsunomiya, Japan, where the next AFSUMB congress will be held.

An ultrasound workshop sponsored by AFSUMB was held in Kolkata, India, on November 28-30, 2002. Seventy participants from all parts of the country attended. The faculty consisted of members of the AFSUMB Education Committee, Dr. Y. H. Chou, Chairman; Dr. C.V. Vanjani; Dr. M. Setiawan; Dr. K. Bala; as well as Dr. M. Kudo, AFSUMB Councillor; and Dr. K. Vairojanavong, AFSUMB President. Lectures, demonstrations and hands-on sessions were given. Five ultrasound machines were used for the hands-on training. All participants received a handbook containing articles, short notes and abstracts. A certificate was given to all participants during the closing ceremony. The evaluation indicated a high level of appreciation from all the participants.

An ultrasound workshop sponsored by AFSUMB and organized by the AFSUMB Education Committee will be held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

The 7th AFSUMB Congress will be held in Utsunomiya, Japan, on May 17-22, 2004. For information, please contact: AFSUMB7@aol.com or afsumb2004@congre.co.jp

The 11th WFUMB Congress will be held in Seoul, Korea, on May 28-June 1, 2006. For information, please contact:

choibi@radcom.snu.ac.kr or  
kimsh@radcom.snu.ac.kr or  
www.wfumb2005.com

Collaboration between the two past AFSUMB presidents, Dr. Stan Barnett, president of ASUM, Dr. Andrew Ngu, Dr. Glenn McNally and Dr. Caroline Hong, ASUM and the Medical Ultrasonic Society of Thailand (MUST) has resulted in the ASUM-MUST Link Program. Two advanced ultrasound workshops, an advanced vascular workshop and an obstetrics and gynecology ultrasound workshop, have been planned. The workshops will be held on November 6-7, 2003, at the Siam City Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. For information, please contact: www.asum.com.au

*K. Vairojanavong, President of AFSUMB*

## ■ AIUM

The American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) is pleased to have been given the opportunity to host the 10th Congress of the WFUMB, June 1-4, 2003, at the Palais des Congrès de Montréal in Montréal, Canada.

By the time you read this, the congress may be over, but we know that ultrasound professionals from all specialty areas, whether at the beginner, intermediate or advanced level, will have attended. Eighteen different ultrasound specialty tracks will have allowed attendees from around the globe to custom-design a program that met their specific needs.

The AIUM last hosted this prestigious event 15 years ago, and we look forward to working with WFUMB over the next 15 years. The WFUMB Congress is a wonderful opportunity for physicians, professors, scientists, and sonographers from all over the world to meet, share ideas, debate issues, and discuss ultrasound concerns.

No matter what country an ultrasound professional lives in, there is a WFUMB affiliate that he or she can join. Although AIUM members are primarily from North America, we know that many scientists, physicians, and sonographers would like to have access to some AIUM resources. Thus, in January, 2003, the AIUM began offering an e-associate outreach program intended primarily for individuals living outside North America who are interested in the

AIUM's web-based educational opportunities, but who are not interested in the full benefits of AIUM membership. The e-associate program offers specific AIUM web-based benefits at a significantly reduced cost. For only \$125 a year, e-associates receive access to the following AIUM resources:

- On-line *Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine (JUM)*
- On-line *Sound Waves* newsletter
- On-line annual convention proceedings
- On-line membership directory
- Listserv and section participation (11 different specialty listservs and sections are available)

All those who attended the 2003 WFUMB Congress hosted by the AIUM were invited to register for a free trial subscription to the e-associate program.

For more information on the e-associate program, contact the AIUM Membership Manager, Jennifer Hilderbrand, at +1 301-498-4100 or jhilderbrand@aium.org or visit the AIUM website: www.aium.org.

AIUM's official journal, the *Journal of Ultrasound in Medicine (JUM)* is now available on-line to AIUM members, e-associates, and subscribers. *JUM Online* is probably the most exciting and valuable resource for e-associates.

*JUM Online* allows 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week access to past and present issues of *JUM*, as well as many convenient search capabilities and links. *JUM Online* users can easily search for an article on a particular topic, search for related topics, access abstracts for all issues of *JUM*, and view or print copies of articles formatted exactly as they appeared in the printed journal. *JUM Online* users can even sign up for e-mail alerts that send them the tables of contents for *JUM* or, alternatively, notify them when new issues of *JUM* are published on-line. Users can also ask to be notified whenever a particular subject or word appears in new content, whenever certain authors publish a paper, or even whenever a paper of interest is referenced by another paper.

*AIUM*

## ■ FLAUS

The Latin American Federation of Societies of Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, FLAUS, was founded in 1983, during the first Latin American Congress of Ultrasound held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Its intention was to invite all



the national societies of the Latin American community and the associated physicians working in medical ultrasound to join efforts for education and the dissemination of information in this field. The idea was proposed by Dr. Ricardo Parada of Uruguay and was well accepted by the entire ultrasound community at that time.

FLAUS has a membership of 6000 physicians, registered through 12 national societies that represent the entire South American continent. The national societies of Guatemala, Honduras and Peru will also be affiliated soon.

During the two decades since it was formed, FLAUS has successfully organized ten regional congresses in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Venezuela and has hosted the 7th Congress of the World Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology, which was held in Buenos Aires in 1997.

FLAUS encourages the promotion of ultrasound through educational programs and national congresses in the affiliated countries. They organize meetings once a year or once every two years, depending on the local society criteria.

Dr. Hiroki Watanabe and Dr. Barry Goldberg honored the last FLAUS meeting, held in Margarita Island, Venezuela, with their visit and lectures. FLAUS will host the 3rd World Congress of Three-Dimensional Ultrasound, which will be held simultaneously with the 11th Latin American Congress of Ultrasound on August 20, 2003, in Cancun, Mexico.

FLAUS maintains a close relationship with WFUMB through its representatives on the boards and committees.

*Leandro Fernandez, President of FLAUS*

## ASUM

ASUM adopted a new constitution in 2002, which resulted in a smaller and more effective Council size of 12 members. Dr. Glenn McNally in his term as President continues to focus on ASUM's initiatives, the ASUM Asia Link Program, collaboration with other medical colleges for ultrasound training, and expansion of the DMU and DDU alternatives to overseas candidates. Dr. Stan Barnett continues to remain active in ASUM as the Chair of the ASUM Asia Link Program as well as the Convenor of the WFUMB 2009

Congress, should it be awarded to ASUM with Sydney as the host city.

ASUM's educational activities started in 2003 with another DMU preparation course. This course continues to be popular with candidates who wish to sit for the DMU examinations conducted by ASUM. Each year, about 300 candidates sit for the DMU examination for sonographers and about 50 for the DDU examination for medical doctors. Both qualifications are recognized by the Australian government for the purpose of Medicare rebates.

ASUM, with support from the Sydney Convention and Visitors' Bureau and various sponsors from Sydney, hosted the WFUMB Executive Committee meeting in Sydney from February 20-24, 2003. The WFUMB Education Committee also met. This was ASUM's opportunity to showcase Sydney and to promote ASUM's capabilities for hosting the WFUMB 2009 World Congress in Sydney.

In May and June this year, several ASUM members and officers will be attending the AIUM/WFUMB 2003 Congress in Montreal to present ASUM's final bid for hosting WFUMB 2009. ASUM will also have a booth at the exhibition during the Congress (booth no. 1026).

ASUM held its first multidisciplinary workshop in Sydney on March 21-22, which attracted about 300 people. WFUMB Councillor Dr. Elisabetta Buscarini, Italy, spoke on Ultrasound Diagnosis of Liver Vascular Malformations. ASUM, as part of its Asia Link Program, was also pleased to sponsor the participation of two representatives from the Medical Ultrasonic Society of Thailand (MUST) in this workshop: Dr. Laddawan Vajragupta, President, and Dr. Supranee Nirapathpongorn, Secretary General.

ASUM's meeting showcase each year is the Annual Scientific Meeting, which attracts between 500 and 800 delegates. This year, it will be held at the Burswood Casino Resort in Perth, Western Australia, from September 4-7, 2003. The invited overseas speakers include Dr. Anil Ahuja from Hong Kong, Mr. Timothy Hartshorne from the UK, Professor Wolfgang Holzgreve from Switzerland, Dr. Thomas Stavros from the USA and Professor Seung Hyup Kim from Korea. The organizing committee is proud to announce that a fantastic program for the Skills Day, the Nuchal Translucency Day and the Scientific Meeting days has been organized to ensure another successful

annual scientific meeting. On-line registration for ASUM 2003 is available on [www.icms.com.au/asum2003](http://www.icms.com.au/asum2003), or a registration form can be downloaded from our website: [www.asum.com.au](http://www.asum.com.au). We are pleased to announce that TOSHIBA is our Platinum Sponsor and GE Medical Systems and Philips Medical Systems are our Gold Sponsors for ASUM 2003.

ASUM has also forged close links with BMUS and KMSU. There is now a mutual presidential exchange program between ASUM and BMUS. ASUM and KMSU have also agreed on a mutual keynote speaker exchange at their annual scientific meetings. We are also pleased that the success of the previous ASUM 2002 Annual Scientific Meeting has resulted in a generous surplus which the Council allocated for ASUM Research & Grants, the ASUM Asia Link Program and other worthwhile projects.

In October 2003, the Indonesian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ISUM) is holding its 7th Annual Scientific Congress in Surabaya, Indonesia. Dr. Daniel Makes, President of ISUM, has kindly invited four speakers from ASUM: Dr. Glenn McNally, Dr. Matthew Andrews, Stan Barnett and Dr. Caroline Hong.

The ASUM Asia Link Program continues to progress further, with an agreement between ASUM and MUST to hold a first joint meeting on November 6-7, 2003, in Bangkok. This meeting has an interesting Obstetrics & Gynecology and Vascular program. All members of WFUMB-affiliated societies are welcome to attend. Information is available on the ASUM website: [www.asum.com.au](http://www.asum.com.au)

All members of WFUMB are welcome to contact ASUM CEO Dr. Caroline Hong if they need any information about ASUM or if they wish to join ASUM as an overseas member or to receive the *ASUM Bulletin* as a subscriber.

*Caroline Hong, Chief Executive Officer of ASUM*

## MASU

The Mediterranean and African Society of Ultrasound (MASU) was born in 1986, and it is thus now 17 years old – at the end of adolescence and the beginning of adulthood.

The various boards that have led MASU have done

their best to promote knowledge and good use of ultrasonography in the African and Mediterranean countries that are most in need.

Our present message is:

- To our friends on the African continent: join us and benefit by our structure and tools, which, although small, are reliable.
- To our friends in other countries: assist our efforts by donating second-hand equipment, keeping our teaching programs going, and finding financial support for basic and refresher courses whenever possible.

For 2003, we have planned several courses and have proposed the creation of a Center of Excellence in Ultrasonography in Africa under the sponsorship of WFUMB.

The MASU board is available to study proposals for an international course on ultrasonography in African countries. Proposals may be made by a MASU chapter, a group of physicians, or a medical authority.

We would like to remind you of MASU's rules for organizing a course:

1. Apply to the MASU Secretary for the organization of an international course and specify the goals and topics of the course, the course language, one or more potential dates, and the required conference room facilities (e.g., laptop projection, slide projection, sonographic equipment for practical sessions).
2. MASU may support travel fees for speakers, while local organizers should, if possible, bear the expenses for the speakers' accommodation and meals.
3. It is advisable that attendees pay subscription fees, so the revenue can cover the organizational expenses.
4. Every course must be held under the sponsorship of local authorities such as a Hospital Board, the Health Ministry, or a university dean.
5. One or more speakers should offer both theoretical and practical training on every topic. The stay may be from one to four weeks, depending on local needs.

We have been striving for certification of the courses we organize in Africa; local authorities should give this certification.

We also hope that African physicians will gain greater access to efficient and portable

equipment, so-called ultra-portable equipment, in compliance with WHO recommendations and our needs.

We gratefully acknowledge WFUMB's support and long standing assistance towards achieving our goals. Collaboration with the WFUMB African Cooperation Group on Education has greatly enhanced MASU's effectiveness.

Finally, MASU would like to invite every one of you to attend our next congress, the 9th MASU International Congress, in Damascus, Syria, May 19-23, 2004.

*E. Buscarini, Secretary of MASU*  
*N. Al Moudarres, President of MASU*  
*H.A. Gharbi, Founder of MASU*

## ■ Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology

**The official WFUMB journal, *Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology*, goes from strength to strength and continues arguably to be the premier peer-reviewed publication devoted to the whole field of ultrasound in medicine and biology.**

*UMB* attracts high-quality papers from all over the world that describe developments in clinical applications, biophysics and bioeffects, transducers and signal processing, and therapeutic applications.

During the last few months, the triennial reconstitution of the Advisory Editorial Board has taken place. Very grateful thanks are due both to those whose terms of office have ended and to those who have stayed or joined the Board.

It is the members of the Board who bear much of the burden of refereeing papers submitted for consideration for publication. Refereeing is not an easy task, and the success of the journal is very largely due to the diligence of those who assist authors and the Editor-in-Chief by providing timely and insightful reviews.

An important innovation has been the appointment of the Board of Associate Editors,

nominated by affiliated societies. There are now six of these Associate Editors, whose tasks include the promotion of the journal in their individual geographical areas.

Because its members come from all over the world, it is only possible for the Advisory Editorial Board to meet on the occasions of the WFUMB triennial congresses. The next meeting of the Board will be in Montreal at the beginning of June, 2003. This will provide an opportunity for the assessment of past performance and for the course of the journal to be set for the next three years.

Apart from guidance given by the Board at this meeting and statistical data concerning such factors as submission and rejection rates, the Editor-in-Chief works largely independently. Because of this, I welcome comments and advice about the journal from readers, societies and the whole medical and biological ultrasonic community. Please send me your comments by e-mail to [peter.wells@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:peter.wells@bristol.ac.uk).

Thank you for your help and support of what truly is your own journal.

*P. N. T. Wells, Editor-in-Chief of UMB*

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### WFUMB's Affiliated Organizations

Asian Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (AFSUMB)

European Federation of Societies for Ultrasound in Medicine and Biology (EFSUMB) [www.efsumb.org](http://www.efsumb.org)

American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine (AIUM) [www.aium.org](http://www.aium.org)

Latin American Federation for Ultrasound in Medicine (FLAUS) [www.flaus.org](http://www.flaus.org)

Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) [www.asum.com.au/open/home.htm](http://www.asum.com.au/open/home.htm)

Mediterranean and African Society of Ultrasound (MASU) [www.agonet.it/masu](http://www.agonet.it/masu)