



Congress Report ICMART Congress Sao Paulo, Brazil 2003 October 30th – November 2nd, 2003

The Brazilian Medical Association of Acupuncture (AMBA) and International Council of Medical Acupuncture and Related Techniques (ICMART) convened the World Congress of Integrated Medical Acupuncture ICMART/AMBA in the coastal town of Guarujá, Brazil, 90 km southeast of São Paulo, from October 30th to November 2nd, 2003. Over 1200 physicians were registered for the Congress, including quite a few international delegates. Dr. Ruy Tanigawa served as Congress President, with Dr. Otavio Hara as AMBA President, and Dr. François Beyens as General Secretary of ICMART. The Congress venue was the Hotel Casa Grande, set on the coast in a colonial Portuguese style.

Congress sessions and workshops were presented in eight concurrent settings for much of the time, with general sessions for the entire assembly at the opening and closing of the event. Topics ranged from general body acupuncture for various diseases and syndromes to Microsystems (Ear, Hand, Scalp) to veterinary acupuncture. Brazilian physicians made many of the fine presentations, as well as familiar friends of the AAMA, including Drs. Danny Traum and Chin Chan from Australia, Francois Beyens and Gilbert Lambrechts from Belgium, Walburg Maric-Oehler from Germany, Toshi Yamamoto from Japan, Steven Aung from Canada, and Jacqueline Filshie from the UK.

AAMA Past President Bryan L. Frank, MD, FAAMA represented the AAMA and as AAMA ICMART co-delegate and Vice President of ICMART, and as Congress Scientific Committee member. Dr. Frank participated with a session on A Critical Assessment of Functional Ear Points and their Clinical Implications and for a panel on Sport Medicine Acupuncture. AAMA Immediate Past President Marshall Sager, DO, FAAMA also represented the AAMA as AAMA ICMART co-delegate and participated in important sessions regarding international education standards for physician acupuncture training. Considerations raised included scope of training, scope of acupuncture practice, paradigm(s) of practice, and other issues. Many Congress participants were interested in learning current AAMA activities, policies and standards of training, certification, and organization. The Academy is seen as important in the international medical acupuncture community and has experienced many positive interchanges with our international colleagues through ICMART activities.

