

SUMMARY

Forum on Nigerian and African Child Health Session 44 of the IPA Standing Committee Abuja Nigeria, October 25-29, 2006

This special gathering of the Executive and Standing Committees of the IPA in Abuja Nigeria was planned and organized by IPA President Professor Adenike Grange of Lagos with expert help from her colleagues in the Pediatric Association of Nigeria and M. Cherif Rahimy and his associates from the Union of African Pediatric Societies and Associations.

The Forum on Nigerian and African Child Health

The meeting began with a special Forum on Nigerian and African child health on October 26th and 27th. The Forum opening ceremony on the morning of the 26th included welcoming comments from President Grange and an important statement from the Nigerian Minister of Health concerning his commitment and the commitment of President Obasanjo of Nigeria to issues of Nigerian child health. The Minister of Health announced that President Obasanjo would be pleased to be a Patron of the Child WATCH Program of the Pediatric Association of Nigeria. The program of the Forum included in depth sessions and discussions of newborn survival led by Joy Lawn (IPA consultant and a principal of Saving Newborn Lives), children's environmental health led by Ruth Etzel (Chairman of IPA Committee on Children's Environmental Health), nutrition led by Ricardo Uauy (IPA Standing Committee member and IPA Technical Advisor for Nutrition), immunization led by IPA President Grange (GAVI board member), and Child Watch Africa and Child Watch Nigeria led by M. Cherif Rahimy (Secretary General of UNAPSA) and Kike Osinusi, Gbenro Sodeinde, and Ralph Oruamabo of PAN. After the forum, President Grange, accompanied by Standing Committee member Ricardo Uauy and Executive Director Jane Schaller, was invited to meet with President Obasanjo, whereby she formally installed him as Patron of the Child WATCH Program of the Pediatric Association of Nigeria and presented a request for a meeting of Nigerian stakeholders in child health. (Follow-up—This is likely to occur in February 2007.)

The Meeting of the Standing Committee Session 44

The meeting was called to order at 3pm on October 27th, with a note that the agenda had been reviewed by the Executive Committee to prioritize and refine issues to be brought to the Standing Committee for discussion and decision.

Attendance:

Present

Dr. E. Avner*
Dr. J. Boix-Ochoa
Dr. S. Cabral*
Dr. C. W. Chan*
Dr. A. Grange*
Dr. A. Gupta
Dr. M. Katz
Dr. A. Khan*
Dr. N. Khuri-Bulos
Dr. S. Lie*
Dr. M. Moya
Dr. M. C. Rahimy*
Dr. J. Schaller*
Dr. G. Tamburlini
Dr. R. Uauy
Dr. A. Younes*

Absent

Dr. S. Bhave[†]
Dr. Z. Bhutta[†]
Dr. A. Bissot[†]
Dr. A. Constantopoulos*[†]
Dr. A. Craft[†]
Dr. I. Dogramaci*[†]
Dr. Y. Eto[†]
Dr. P. Evrard
Dr. J. Hall[†]
Dr. J. Lewy[†]
Dr. J. Tumwine
Dr. P. Visudhiphan[†]
Dr. K. Yurdakok[†]
Dr. K. Forsyth, Guest seat, IPCA[†]

[^]Executive Committee
[†]Apologies

Adoption of Minutes of Standing Committee Session 43, Geneva, March 2006

Minutes of the prior Standing Committee meeting of March 2006 were adopted with minor changes.

President's Report

President Grange reported on a number of recent events she had attended.

- In April 2006 a conference on "Vision 2010 for the West African Region" was held in Abuja to address issues of maternal and child health in West Africa, and achievement of MDGs 4 and 5.
- In August 2006 President Grange and EC member M. C. Rahimy attended the 56th Session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa held in Addis Ababa.
- In September 2006 the 16th Congress of the International Society for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (ISPCAN) in York England highlighted issues of child protection, which President Grange emphasizes are important issues for IPA.
- The annual meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Atlanta in October 2006 was attended by President Grange and EC members Sergio Cabral and Andreas Constantopoulos. IPA representatives attended meetings organized by Executive Director Errol Alden's office on international health.
- President Grange also commented on her activities as a member of the GAVI board: She has been active in spurring the formation of a GAVI Task Team for civil society, and in preparing a proposal for the GAVI board concerning participation of and funding of civil society initiatives in immunization at country level in GAVI-active countries.
- President Grange commented on activities of her Lagos office, including their assistance with organization of this Abuja Forum and Standing Committee meeting.

Executive Director's Report

The Executive Director reported on a number of business matters of the IPA and the general status of IPA work.

- The IPA administrative office in Geneva, currently managed by IPA professional congress organizing company Kenes International, is being reorganized under the direction of the new office manager of the Kenes Geneva office, Grégoire Pavillon. A permanent Administrative Assistant will be soon identified for IPA.
- The Executive Director's office in Vancouver will be welcoming a new assistant, Jennifer Hanson. Ms. Hanson is a graduate of the University of British Columbia, and has degrees in child development and community development, a passion for international child health, and excellent technical skills.
- Patricia Guerra and her associates of Meyer Lustenberger law firm in Zurich continue to provide helpful legal advice as needed to IPA on a pro bono basis.
- Completion of the program for the 25th ICP in Athens is well underway, and arrangements for this important Congress are proceeding smoothly thanks to ICP President Andreas Constantopoulos and his colleagues.
- Procedures for elections of new Standing Committee members at the time of the 25th ICP were clarified.
- A brief overview of IPA program areas was presented with further discussion to follow during the Standing Committee meeting. Two program items were presented and approved by the Standing Committee: Judy Hall was nominated to represent IPA at a March of Dimes conference on birth defects and newborn screening in the developing

- world in October, and the concept of forming an IPA Technical Advisory Group (TAG) consisting of leadership in IPA program areas was approved.
- A web mail survey to assay attitudes of pediatricians globally on HPV immunization is now designed, following a grant received by President Grange in 2005 from the Merck Company. This survey will be posted on the new IPA website, and all IPA Standing Committee members were urged to pilot it before leaving Abuja.
 - The IPA SWOT analysis proposed by the Standing Committee in 2005 needs formal review prior to the end of the 2004-2007 IPA triennium.

Committee Reports

- President Elect Chok-Wan Chan, Chairman of the IPA Ethics Committee, presented his report. There was a discussion of the International Baby Food Action Network (IBFAN) principles which had been sent to IPA for comment. The Standing Committee recommended that IPA thank IBFAN for sharing this information, noting that IPA firmly supports the infant and young child nutrition policies of WHO and UNICEF and will continue educating its member societies in this regard. These matters will be discussed at the next Council of Delegates meeting. IPA suggests promoting workshops related to young child nutrition jointly with UNICEF and IBFAN. The Ethics Committee also offered to contribute to the 25th ICP in Athens by assisting the Organizing Committee with ethical issues prior to the Congress, monitoring implementation of ethical principles during the Congress, and reporting back to the Standing Committee after the Congress.

Reports on Activities of Member Societies

Activities of IPA member societies (National Pediatric Societies, Regional Pediatric Societies, and International Pediatric Speciality Societies) are important to the IPA. The following recent meetings and activities were noted:

- Dr. Boix-Ochoa presented a verbal report concerning WOFAPS (the World Federation of Associations of Pediatric Surgery). WOFAPS now includes 85 national societies. Its programs include bringing children for care, training residents in the developing world, and enlisting retired surgeons to visit and work in the developing world.
- President Grange reported on the recent meeting of the American Academy of Pediatrics in Atlanta.
- Jane Schaller reported on the June meeting of the Canadian Pediatric Society in St. John's Newfoundland.
- Jane Schaller reported on the October regional meeting of the Turkic/Central Asian Pediatric Societies in Baku Azerbaijan. Our Central Asian colleagues drafted a Baku Declaration committing the Central Asian Pediatric Societies to focus on breastfeeding and immunization as MDG related goals for 2007.
- Manual Katz reported on a recent meeting of UNEPSA in Rome which elected officers and nominated candidates for European representation on the IPA Standing Committee for election in Athens. He noted that a history of UNEPSA is in press and that UNEPSA will organize the next Europediatric meetings in 2008. UNEPSA includes national pediatric societies from both Western and Eastern Europe.
- Jane Schaller conveyed a report on behalf of Kevin Forsyth concerning a meeting of the ad hoc Executive of the International Pediatric Chairs Association in Vancouver which drew up organizing documents and laid plans for formal elections of officers and a governing board at the time of the 25th ICP. The IPCA will present several sessions at the 25th ICP related to education and training in pediatrics and child health.
- ALAPE, the Association of Latin American Pediatric Associations, will meet in the Dominican Republic in early November.

- Chok-Wan Chan brought apologies from Asian Pacific Pediatric Association President Pongsakdi Visudhiphan who could not attend this meeting. Unfortunately, because of civil unrest in Sri Lanka, the APPA Regional Congress has been postponed from September 2006 until March 2007.
- It was suggested that the histories of all the IPA Regional Societies should be compiled and posted on the IPA website.

IPA Program and Action Areas

IPA program and action areas are of paramount importance to the Standing Committee and to our organization. The following discussions took place:

- The concept of forming an IPA Technical Advisory Group was adopted unanimously by the Standing Committee, and will be further developed. Technical Advisors will be appointed for all IPA program and action areas to guide IPA programmatic activities in these areas with the help of a co-chair appointed from the Standing Committee.
- The Standing Committee noted with thanks the excellent presentations on five IPA program areas during the Abuja forum on Nigerian and African child health. These areas include newborn survival, children's environmental health, nutrition, immunization, and African child health.
- Ruth Etzel, a guest of the Standing Committee, had previously presented activities in children's environmental health during the Abuja Forum. She reviewed a very successful workshop on children's environmental health held in Nairobi in October 2005 in partnership with EHO and UNEP. This represented the first of three regional workshops funded by a grant obtained by her IPA Program Committee from the Environmental Protection Agency. The second workshop for the Asian region will be held in Delhi India in February of 2007, and the third for the Americas will be in Haiti in June of 2007. These regional workshops have been planned in conjunction with the national and regional pediatric societies involved. They aim to present a practical approach for pediatricians to understanding of and advocacy for children's environmental health issues. Dr. Etzel emphasized that children's environmental health has profound effects on the overall health of children in poor and rich countries alike, and represents a crosscutting issue which warrants basic understanding of pediatricians everywhere.
- President Grange commented on current events in immunization, particularly those regarding formation of a GAVI Task Team on civil society which is drafting a proposal for the GAVI board concerning participation of civil society organizations at country level in immunization activities of GAVI. She noted that immunization is one of the basic and most important activities of pediatricians in promoting child health, and suggested the formation of an IPA immunization committee of the Standing Committee.
- Standing Committee members Ricardo Uauy and Manuel Moya commented on current events in nutrition involving the Global Alliance for Prevention of Obesity and Chronic Disease of which IPA is a founding member. This Alliance has been sponsoring meetings and workshops in different regions of the world; IPA has designated pediatricians to attend these meetings whenever possible. Manuel Moya has represented IPA at meetings concerning nutrition in the European Union region. The IPA recognizes nutrition as another cross cutting and extremely important issue in global child health. Ricardo Uauy and Manuel Moya were appointed as Technical Advisors and program chairs in this area.
- Jane Schaller reported the formation of an International Alliance for Better Medicines for Children which joins programmatic activities of the IPA with those of the International Union of Pharmacology's Committee on Pediatric Pharmacology. This Alliance was officially formed at a meeting of the IUFAR International Congress in Shanghai in June 2006. The interest of the International Pediatric and Pediatric Pharmacology worlds in essential drugs and better medicines for children has been noted by WHO; Jane Schaller, Sverre Lie, and Kalle Hoppu of IUFAR participated in a WHO consultation on

- essential medicines for children in August 2006. Giorgio Tamburlini reported that the EU will be convening a meeting addressing medicines for children.
- Ongoing activities concerning child survival and the MDGs were discussed with a report of a recent conference organized by UNICEF, the Prime Minister of Norway, and the Countdown to 2015 in New York in September 2006. The International Pediatric Association is firmly committed to working with this network toward the achievement of MDG goal 4 and other MDG goals pertinent to child health.
 - Sverre Lie commented on the commitment of the Government of Norway to generous bilateral support of child survival efforts including a bilateral partnership with four countries (India, Pakistan, Nigeria, and Tanzania), increased support for GAVI, and an initiative to develop a global business plan for needs to achieve MDGs by 2015.
 - Giorgio Tamburlini presented information and suggestions concerning a formal IPA program in quality of care and evidence based pediatrics. Dr. Tamburlini has been working with WHO and its Pocketbook of Pediatric Care of which IPA has been a sponsor. He reported on the establishment of the International Child Health Review Collaboration (ICHRC), a network of academic institutions from both developing and developed countries which is supported by WHO, and on ICHRC plans for regular updating of the Pocketbook and promotion of a broad network of collaborators which should include pediatricians around the world. Practice guidelines will be developed and evidence based practice made accessible to a wide audience. Research aspects and controlled trials can be developed through this process. The IPA endorsed this process with enthusiasm and anticipates further information and activities in this regard. Giorgio Tamburlini was appointed Technical Advisor and IPA program committee chair for the area of quality of care and evidenced based pediatrics. The annual update of RCT's regarding pediatrics and child health in developing countries developed by Trevor Duke of Melbourne Children's Hospital, and the ICHRC site, will be linked to the new IPA website.
 - President Grange reported on activities in adolescent health: the `WHO/IPA` Workshop on Adolescent Counselling held on Delhi in July 2006, and the database of pediatricians engaged in adolescent projects which is being assembled by Swati Bhawe with the assistance of Kadriye Yurdakok and the backing of President Grange.
 - The Standing Committee emphasized that all IPA program areas should be geared to country level action with assistance from the IPA international offices as appropriate.

External Relations

- The International Pediatric Association holds board seats on two important external partnerships: The Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH). President Grange represents IPA on the GAVI board. The IPA seat on the GAVI board represents all non-governmental organizations with an interest in GAVI. As noted above, President Grange commented on recent IPA activities at the GAVI board which have resulted in the formation of a Task Team on civil society and an upcoming proposal for the GAVI board which will permit participation and funding of civil society organizations at national level in immunization activities.
- Zulfiqar Bhutta represents IPA on the Steering Committee of the PMNCH. This Partnership is geared to promoting country level action in maternal and child survival and health in the countries with the most difficult problems. Initial action will focus on countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, with future planning to include countries in South Asia and Latin America as well. Plans for these activities are still on the drawing board. IPA feels it is essential to involve our national pediatric societies at country level in all countries being targeted. A number of professional organizations are involved in the PMNCH: FIGO (the International Federation of Obstetrics and Gynecology), the International Council of Midwives (ICM), and IPA each have a seat on the Partnership Steering Committee. Zulfiqar Bhutta, Jane Schaller, M. Cherif Rahimy and Peter Cooper

(President of UNAPSA) represented IPA at a meeting of the Professional Organizations of the Partnership in Geneva in August of 2006. IPA representatives made important contributions, including drafting a document which has subsequently been formalized as the policy of the PMNCH concerning involvement of professional societies in its activities at country level.

- IPA has been enhancing its relationship with our sister organization of International Obstetrics and Gynecology (FIGO). Jane Schaller attended a meeting of the WHO/FIGO Alliance for Women's Health in London this summer. IPA has now been made a formal member of this Alliance, and the name of the Alliance has been extended to include Maternal and Newborn Health. The incoming President of FIGO, Dorothy Shaw of Vancouver, has met with IPA leaders.
- IPA also seeks to enhance relationships with the International Council of Nurses with particular interest in identifying a truly international organization of pediatric nurses, and with the International College of Midwives, recognizing that nurses and midwives play critical roles in maternal and child health. The International Federation of Pharmacists (FIP) is also a member of the PMNCH, and as noted previously IPA is working through the Alliance for Better Medicines for Children with the pediatric pharmacologists of the International Union of Pharmacology.
- The IPA is pursuing a more formal relationship with WHO Child and Adolescent Health. The Standing Committee expresses great enthusiasm about this initiative and looks forward to definitions of future joint activities. The IPA also remains in contact with UNICEF New York and anticipates continuing working relations.

International Congresses of Pediatrics

The IPA noted with commendation the progress in finalizing planning for the 25th ICP which will be held in Athens from August 25-30, 2007. An exciting program is being planned with a number of new events such as a round table of major stakeholders in global child health, a focus on achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the presence of a number of world leaders, a special meeting of Ministers of Health, a session with editors of major medical journals, and participation of pediatricians from all regions of the world. The program is planned to emphasize science, academics, pediatric practice, and child health policy. We anticipate attendance of more than 5000 pediatricians from all regions of the world. The Standing Committee acknowledges the efforts of 25th ICP President Andreas Constantopoulos and his colleagues of the Greek Pediatric Association, and looks forward to the Congress with enthusiasm.

In January 2006 President Grange, Executive Director Schaller, and representatives of Kenes International made a site visit to Johannesburg, site of the 26th ICP. Plans are underway for this first IPA International Congress in Sub-Saharan Africa which will be held in 2010. Peter Cooper, President of UNAPSA, and Keith Bolton are our capable 26th ICP co-Chairs, along with along with Raziya Bobat, President of the South African Pediatric Association.

Governance

The IPA Standing Committee expressed great enthusiasm for a more active role in IPA governance, a request which was welcomed by the Executive Committee. Discussions included upcoming elections of IPA officers and Executives and of the incoming IPA Standing Committee. These elections will take place in Athens at the time of the 25th ICP. The Standing Committee also requested that if funds are available, a Spring 2007 meeting of the Standing Committee be convened for further discussions prior to the 25th ICP. The Treasurer's report was accepted with the request that the budget for year end 2006 and first quarter 2007 be developed as soon as year end financial results are available. Some dismay was expressed at the slowness of launching the new IPA website; the website will be launched as close to the first of the year 2007

as possible, with thanks to Kevin Forsyth and his web colleagues from Flinders University in Australia.

New Business and Adjournment

No other new business being identified, the meeting was adjourned with special thanks to President Grange and her African colleagues for the organization of the Forum on Nigerian and African Child Health and for their gracious hosting of the meetings of the Executive and Standing Committees.

Respectfully submitted to the IPA Standing Committee by J. Schaller, Executive Director.