

**Minutes of the 29th General Assembly
LATIN AMERICAN THYROID SOCIETY (LATS)
Held during the XIV LATS Congress**

On August, 6th, 2011, at 18h30, in the city of Lima, Peru (Room Mediterraneo, at Los Delfines Hotel), members of the Latin American Thyroid Society joined at the General Assembly, chaired by LATS president, Dr. Hans Graf, LATS President-Elect Dr. Marcos Abalovich, LATS secretary Ana María Masini-Repiso and LATS Treasurer Dr. Eduardo Tomimori.

Dr. Ana María Masini-Repiso opened the Session and presented the points for discussion at the General Assembly.

1. Welcome and opening message – Dr. Hans Graf

Dr. Hans Graf welcomed the LATS members present at the Assembly and thanked the work of the LATS Executive Committee in the period 2009-2011. He also acknowledged the important task of the LATS Scientific Committee, chaired by Dr. Marcos Abalovich and the Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Dr. Eduardo Pretell, of the XIV LATS Meeting.

2. Proposals for LATS Task Force revision, creation and rules (Ana Masini-Repiso).

It was reminded that our laws establish that **“The President, the Secretary and the Executive Committee shall the right to establish sub-committees or call the members to work on specific problems. Sec. 18.”** and that at present we have the following task forces:

Finance & Audit Committee, IDD Task Force, Thyroid Nodule Task Force, Neonatal Screening Task Force, Familial Thyroid Neoplasia

It was informed by the Secretary that the Executive Committee, after consulting with the Scientific Committee, has proposed to revise the Task Force activities and the creation of new Task Forces. Some names of candidates to integrate the Task Forces were also suggested. Among the Task Force proposed were:

Educational Task Force, Educational and Guidelines, Thyroid Cancer Task force, Thyroid Nodule Task force, Familial Thyroid Neoplasia Task Force, Pediatric Thyroid Diseases Task force, Hyperthyroidism Task force, Thyroid and Pregnancy Task force

It was also proposed the creation of a **Financial Department** and a **LATS Electronic Journal Editorial**. Suggestions for Task Force regulation were also made.

Assembly members made comments and suggestions including the possible joint of some of the proposed Task Forces.

The Assembly was informed that the LATS Executive Committee will work on the setting-up of Task Forces and their rules taking into account the opinion of assembly members.

3. Report on membership status (Ana Masini-Repiso).

Graphs reflecting the current status of LATS membership were presented. Attention was called to the large number of LATS members not in good standing with the Society. It was stated the need to send a demand letter to request the overdue payment and proceed to cancel the membership of members who are not really interested in belonging to LATS.

4. New LATS members' approval 2009 – 2011 (Ana Masini-Repiso).

Assembly members proposed that all new members of LATS (Active and Associate) were approved except those that applied before the XIII LATS Meeting in Gramado, 2009, and never paid the Society fees.

5. LATS Finance Balance 2009 – 2011 - (Eduardo Tomimori).

The LATS Finance Balance presented by Dr. Eduardo Tomimori was approved without objection by the General Assembly.

6. Update of the World Thyroid Federation (WTF) activity (Alicia Gauna)

Dr. Alicia Gauna reported information about the WTF activity which was provided by Dr. Hugo Niepomniszczce, Founder Coordinator of the WTF, who was absent. Dr. Gauna announced that the next meeting of the WTF Executive Committee will be held during the 35th Meeting of the European Thyroid Association in Kraków, Poland, September 10-14, 2011. Some members of the Advisory Committee of the WTF, representatives of the four sister thyroid societies, have to be renewed during the WTF Meeting. Since one of the LATS representatives in the Advisory Committee of the WTF, Dr. Guillermo Juvenal, finishes his one-year term, Dr. Niepomniszczce suggested to renew the appointment of Dr. Juvenal for the next three years (2012, 2013 and 2014). The proposal will be analyzed by the LATS Executive Committee.

7. Preliminary report of the XIV LATS Congress 2011 (Eduardo Pretell)

The chairman of the Local Organizing Committee, Dr. Eduardo Pretell reported about the successful development of the XIV LATS Meeting held in Lima, Peru, August 4th– 7th, 2011. The total number of registered participants was 634 (Argentina 61, Bolivia 2, Brazil 471, Chile 14, Colombia 4, Cuba 2, Ecuador 1, Honduras 2, Italy 1, Mexico 8, Nigeria 7, Panama 1, Paraguay 4, Peru 28, Dominican Republic 16, Spain 1, United States 4, Uruguay 2, Venezuela 5).

8. Report of the Scientific Committee (Marcos Abalovich).

Dr. Marcos Abalovich reported on the main scientific activities of the XIV LATS Meeting. It includes 7 Conferences (including the LATS Winner Prize), 6 Oral Sessions (3 Basic and 3 Clinic), 13 Symposia (Basic and Clinic), 6 Meet the Expert and 5 Debate Sessions. Eight international speakers from USA, Italy and Australia gave Conferences, participated in Symposia and Meet the expert sessions. Additionally, two international speakers from USA participated in Pre-Congress Satellite Symposia.

Two first authors presenting the best papers will receive the Merck Young Prize Investigator (One Clinic and one Basic). 30 Travel Grants will be distributed to the best works presented (oral communications and posters).

The posters sent were 148, mainly from Brazil, Argentina and Peru. The majority of posters submitted were of the clinical area (70 %). The 65 % of the posters were presented by young people (less than the age of 40).

Regarding the 30 papers presented for the Young Prize Investigator, they were from Brazil (90 %) and Argentina (10 %), being the 60 % clinic.

Finally, Dr Abalovich thanked to the members of the Scientific Committee and the Merck Prize Award Committee for their excellent work.

9. Election of LATS President, LATS President-Elect and LATS Executive Committee 2011 – 2013 (Electoral Committee).

The results of the voting through the webpage of LATS were presented to the Assembly by the Secretary. The LATS new Executive Council elected for the period 2011-2013 is:

President

Marcos Abalovich - Buenos Aires, Argentina

President-Elect

Ana Maria Masini-Repiso - Córdoba, Argentina

Secretary

Eduardo K. Tomimori - São Paulo, Brazil

Treasurer

Erivelto Martinho Volpi - São Paulo, Brazil

Directors

Ana Maria Orlandi - Argentina

Celso Friguglietti - Brazil

Denise Pires de Carvalho - Brasil

Eduardo Nestor Faure - Argentina

Eduardo Pusiol - Argentina

Gabriela Brenta - Argentina

Hans Graf - Brazil

Marco Aurélio Vamondes Kulcsar - Brazil

Mario Vaisman - Brazil

10. Presentation of cities/countries to host the next LATS meetings (to be finally defined by the LATS Executive Committee).

Dr. Guillermo Pereira, an active LATS member from Paraguay, presented the City of Asuncion del Paraguay to hold the LATS Congress. Dr. Guillermo Pereira suggested to hold a future LATS meeting other than the next 2013 meeting in Asuncion del Paraguay.

Dr Marcia Netto de Campos da Silva, an active LATS member from Brazil, proposed the City of Florianopolis, Brazil, as the venue of the XV LATS Congress in 2013.

It was stated that the next 15th International Thyroid Congress will be held in Orlando, Florida, USA in 2015. This event is a joint meeting of the 4 thyroid sister societies and will include the XVI LATS Congress in 2015.

The proposals presented will be evaluated by the LATS Executive Committee which finally will decide the venue of the 2013 LATS Congress.

11. Any other business

Members of the last and new Executive Committees were invited to a joint Meeting in the Oppian Room, Hotel Los Delfines on Sunday, Aug 7th at 7:00AM.

12. Closure (Hans Graf)

As nothing else was raised, LATS President Dr. Hans Graf finished the General Assembly, which minutes are signed by LATS President and by LATS Secretary.

Hans Graf
LATS President

Ana Maria Masini-Repiso
LATS Secretary