

WELCOME LETTER FOR THE PROCEEDINGS BOOK 2009

It is a great honor and I am very pleased to welcome you to participate in the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) in Atlanta, Georgia.

This is the 23rd anniversary of the founding of the CMSC and LACTRIMS is going to participate once more, together with IOMSN, and ACTRIMS.

On May 30 the 2nd CMSC/ACTRIMS Joint Meeting will take place with the Donald W. Paty Memorial Research Lecture focusing on environmental factors in the development of MS.

This year's theme is "Teamwork, Trends and Technology: New Solutions in MS" and the Courses, Symposia and Workshops will address important aspects of MS diagnosis and care, rehabilitation and symptomatic interventions, new and advanced concepts in technology, new projects of investigation.

The price in memory of Dr John Whitaker will be awarded by the Foundation of the CMSC to an MS new researcher. John Whitaker was indeed an unforgettable scientist and generous professor and friend for many Latin American researchers.

LACTRIMS will also have participation in this Meeting with the LACTRIMS Lecture by our former President Dr. Victor Rivera, who will expose about MS Lessons from Latin America: History, Challenge and Future. Dr. Rivera was President of the Executive Committee of LACTRIMS for 2 consecutive periods, and has been working permanently with us since LACTRIMS foundation in 1999.

As President of the Executive Committee of LACTRIMS (Latin American committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis) I want to thank sincerely to the the CMSC Board of Governors and Executive Committee for their support to LACTRIMS. I also want to thank all the CMSC efficient staff and in a very special way I want to thank June Halper for her great dedication to the cause of MS and for her well known generosity and enthusiasm.

We look forward to see you in Atlanta and we anticipate that this Meeting will surpass the expectations of all of us, in the scientific aspects as well as in the ethic, humanitarian and social aspects.

Dr. Carlos Oehninger
President of LACTRIMS

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It is a great honor and I am very pleased to welcome you to participate in the 22nd Annual Meeting of the Consortium of Multiple Sclerosis Centers (CMSC) in Denver (Colorado), as President of the Executive Committee of LACTRIMS (Latin American Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis). This will undoubtedly be a first level scientific event, as well as an opportunity of sharing information and meeting with professionals who work in the area of Multiple Sclerosis in the United States of America, Canada, Europe and Latin America.

Our active participation and presence in this Meeting is very important, taking into consideration the foundational objectives of our LACTRIMS, which are: to promote the education, investigation and scientific interchange in Multiple Sclerosis and related diseases between the countries of our region; to improve basic and clinical investigation in MS and related diseases; to propose and stimulate epidemiological studies adequate to the reality of the respective countries; to elaborate quality criteria and standards for the diagnosis and treatment of the people who are affected by MS.

On May 29th in the evening, there will be a special event launching the MS book written in Spanish, edited by Drs. Arriagada & Nogales-Gaete and sponsored by the CMSC. The title of the book is "Multiple Sclerosis. An Ibero-American glance" This is the 2nd edition of the book which has become a regional classic and a concrete testimony of how a collaborative work can help us do a better comprehensive care of MS.

LACTRIMS will also have participation in this Meeting with excellent lecturers representing our region, who will expose about the present situation of MS as well as its particularly difficult situation in our continent. Together with experts from other countries we will continue working towards lines of action and preferential plans to be developed in the short and median time in order to improve the quality of life of our patients, the majority of whom are young persons affected by the disease in the most productive stage of their lives.

I would like to thank sincerely to the CMSC Board of Governors and Executive Committee for their support to LACTRIMS. I also want to thank all the CMSC efficient staff and in a very special way I want to thank June Halper for her great dedication to the cause of MS and for her well known generosity and enthusiasm.

We look forward to see you in Denver and we anticipate that this Meeting will surpass the expectations of all of us, in the scientific aspects as well as in the ethic, humanitarian and social aspects.

Dr. Carlos Oehninger
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