



ELSEVIER

EDITORIAL

The Sixth International Conference on Preventative Cardiology held in Iguassu Falls, Brazil has passed into history. It is useful to reflect on the experience, while it is still fresh in memory. It was certainly good to see many familiar friends, hear renowned speakers and make new acquaintances. However the small number of younger (than I) cardiologists and researchers particularly from developing countries was conspicuous. Especially lacking were the anticipated large numbers of Brazilian and other Latin American participants. Of the nearly 800 registrants, there were fewer than 10% from Latin America. Arguably the main reason for organizing the conference in Brazil was to attract and facilitate the participation of young men and women from the developing world. It is important to understand the reasons for this disappointing outcome when planning the next meeting. While Iguassu Falls, a UNESCO designated site, indeed provided a very attractive venue, it was nevertheless difficult to reach. Several chairpersons and speakers as well as participants either arrived late or not at all because of problems with visas, missed connections etc. With a lower than anticipated number of participants and the large number of scheduled simultaneous sessions, attendance was sparse at many of the sessions. This is unfortunate since the program included several prominent speakers who gave excellent presentations.

Also reducing the attendance were participants who signed up for visits to the local attractions. Perhaps a half-day of sightseeing, incorporated into the program and organized for all interested participants, would avoid such competing choices. It would also promote more social interaction. I am curious how many attendees share my observations and concerns. Curiously if not disturbingly there were no evaluation forms to provide feedback. Unless we solicit feedback, garner new ideas and dispassionately analyze the results, we risk perpetuating the same organizational shortcomings and we will fail to improve the quality of our meetings.

It is not too late for the organizing committee to distribute a questionnaire by e-mail to all the participants. Software exists to provide an expeditious analysis of the responses as they are returned via the Internet. Of course, positive feedback is also welcome and there were several successes to acknowledge at this conference. Discussions focussed on concrete interventions to promulgate cardiovascular disease prevention. Multidisciplinary approaches were also encouraged, reflecting perhaps the presence of participants from various related backgrounds including diabetes, stroke and hypertension to name a few. The Conference helped renew enthusiasm with a strong commitment to collaboration.

The Editorial Board had the opportunity to meet while in Iguassu Falls. We appreciate the many favourable comments about the inaugural issue yet we remain challenged to provide our readers with a journal that balances excellent science with informative and inspiring news about innovative preventive activities from around the world. Discussions with Catherine Coleman and Brian Bilchik while in Iguassu, have resulted in a plan to provide space in the Journal for news from ProCor, which is linking so many of us electronically. Planning for the writers' workshop at the World Congress of Cardiology in Barcelona, Spain next fall has begun and we will provide more details early next year.

I have been asked by several readers and potential authors, whether this journal is indexed. The Publisher will apply to have the articles listed on Medline and PubMed after four issues have appeared. Indexing with tracking of the impact weightings will then be backdated to the first issue. Already, articles are available on Science Direct www.sciencedirect.com through a subscription. Individual articles are also available on a pay-per-view basis. You can register at no charge to receive the table of contents as each issue appears <http://contentsdirect.elsevier.com> For eligible institutions in low income countries,

the Journal is available as part of the HINARI project <http://www.healthinternetwork.org/src/eligibility.php>.

I hope you continue to enjoy these issues, supporting them with submissions of manuscripts and news items and as always, I look forward to your feedback including new ideas and suggestions for improvement, as we continue to refine

our vision of what Prevention and Control should be.

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