



# INTERACADEMY MEDICAL PANEL NEWSLETTER

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## Editorial

With the induction of 11 new members at the 2nd General Assembly in Beijing, IAMP's membership now stands at 64. Members attending the Assembly also endorsed seven major projects. Successful implementation of these projects will help raise the profile of our fledgling health network. Our efforts, however, will be compromised unless each lead academy builds strong and energetic partnerships with other member academies – not only to generate funds but to help shape an effective action-oriented agenda.

IAMP's task is an ambitious one: to improve global health. We aim to achieve this goal through activities that promote institutional collaboration among our members. Building membership capacity, however, is not an end in itself. Ultimately, IAMP's value will be measured by its contributions to improving the health of the world's poorest people and by the reaction of policy makers to our advice and recommendations. As Executive Committee (EC) co-chairs, Guy de Thé and I promise to work tirelessly to maximize IAMP's chances for success – Guy working primarily from his base in Paris and I from my base in Cape Town. IAMP's secretariat in Trieste will serve as the nexus between us.

The lead academies assigned to championing each project have been quick out of the blocks since our meeting in Beijing in early April. Project teams have been created and meetings are scheduled to take place later this year in Trieste to develop action plans. IAMP members are also energetically promoting the Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP). IAMP member academies, for example, organized press conferences in Pretoria, South Africa, in April, and in Rome, Italy, in June.

Raising revenues for project implementation remains IAMP's biggest challenge. The EC plans to spend a good deal of time and energy seeking external funds. We also plan to ensure that the IAMP secretariat continues to operate smoothly and effectively as we expand our reach and impact. The website and better communications represent other areas of primary concern. We need your help in all these matters.

IAMP is home to some of the world's foremost public health researchers. Let us use our global brain trust wisely.

Anthony D MBewu  
EC Co-Chair  
Pretoria, South Africa

## Second Global Meeting of the IAMP

The InterAcademy Medical Panel's 2nd Global Meeting took place 3-6 April 2006 in Beijing, China. The Chinese Academy of Engineering (CAE) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) generously hosted the conference, which was attended by more than 320 policymakers, international health experts, journalists and scientists from 49 countries.

The meeting was held in conjunction with the official launch of the publications of the Disease Control Priorities Project (DCPP). IAMP members had served on the DCPP's advisory committee to the editors. A full list of participants is available on the IAMP website ([www.iamp-online.org](http://www.iamp-online.org)).

In addition to the official launch of the DCPP's publications featuring cost-effective strategies for improving public health in the developing world, conference attendees examined such related topics as the public health threat posed by avian influenza and the alarming state of road safety in poor countries that are experiencing enormous increases in traffic.

For a detailed discussion of the meeting, see the *TWAS Newsletter*, Vol 18, No. 2 (2006).

## General Assembly Highlights

### Executive Committee 2006-2009

#### Co-chairs

- Guy de Thé, Académie de Médecine, France
- Anthony MBewu, Academy of Sciences of South Africa

#### Members

- African Academy of Sciences
- Chinese Academy of Engineering
- Accademia dei Lincei, Italy
- Science Council of Japan
- Mexican Academy of Medicine
- Polish Academy of Sciences
- Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- Institute of Medicine, US NAS
- Secretariat and Ex-Officio Member
- TWAS – The Academy of Sciences for the Developing World, Trieste, Italy

### Statutes

Changes to IAMP's statutes proposed by member academies and approved by the EC were presented to the General Assembly. All proposed changes were endorsed. The text will soon be mailed to all members academies and posted on the website.

### New members

- Bangladesh Academy of Sciences
- Cameroon Academy of Sciences
- Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
- Académie des Technologies, France
- The German Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina
- Indonesian Academy of Sciences
- Academy of Medical Sciences (IRI)
- Kenya National Academy of Sciences
- Nigerian Academy of Sciences
- National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka
- Uganda National Academy of Sciences

IAMP membership now totals 64.

### Statements

A majority of IAMP members have endorsed two statements: the first in support of the DCPP, and the second outlining a programme for action that served as the basis of discussions at the IAMP meeting in Beijing. To review the full text of the statements, see [www.iamp-online.org](http://www.iamp-online.org).

## IAMP Members

- Academia Nacional de Medicina de Buenos Aires
- Academy of Medical Sciences of Armenia
- The National Academy of Sciences, Armenia
- Australian Academy of Science
- Austrian Academy of Sciences
- Bangladesh Academy of Sciences
- Belgian Royal Academy of Medicine
- Federation of European Academies of Medicine
- Academia Boliviana de Medicina
- Academia Nacional de Medicina, Brazil
- Brazilian Academy of Sciences
- Cameroon Academy of Sciences
- Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
- Academia Chilena de Medicina
- Chinese Academy of Engineering
- Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS)
- Academia Nacional de Medicina de Colombia
- Croatian Academy of Medical Sciences
- Croatian Academy of Sciences & Arts
- Cuban Academy of Sciences
- Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic
- Academy of Scientific Research & Technology
- The Delegation of the Finnish Academies of Science & Letters
- Académie Nationale de Médecine
- Académie des Sciences
- Académie des Technologies, France
- Union of German Academies of Sciences & Humanities
- The German Academy of Sciences, Leopoldina
- Academy of Athens
- Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- National Academy of Medical Sciences, India
- Indonesian Academy of Sciences
- Academy of Medical Sciences, Iran
- Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei
- TWAS
- Science Council of Japan
- African Academy of Sciences
- Kenya National Academy of Sciences
- The National Academy of Sciences, Rep. of Korea
- Latvian Academy of Sciences
- Lithuanian Academy of Sciences
- Macedonian Academy of Sciences & Arts
- Academy of Sciences Malaysia
- National Academy of Medicine of Mexico
- Mongolian Academy of Sciences
- The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts & Sciences
- Nigerian Academy of Sciences
- Norwegian Academy of Sciences & Letters
- Palestine Academy for Science & Technology
- National Academy of Science & Technology, Philippines
- Polish Academy of Sciences
- The Caribbean Academy of Sciences
- Russian Academy of Medical Sciences
- Académie des Sciences et Techniques, Sénégal
- Slovak Academy of Science
- Slovenian Academy of Sciences & Arts
- Academy of Science of South Africa
- National Academy of Sciences of Sri Lanka
- Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences
- Turkish Academy of Sciences
- Uganda National Academy Sciences
- Academy of Medical Sciences
- Institute of Medicine, US NAS

Contact details are available from the IAMP Secretariat.

## Programmes

The General Assembly has voted to endorse seven programmes. Members are invited to sign up for those projects in which they are interested. Full details are available on the IAMP website.

### • *DCPP (renewed)*

IAMP will continue to work with DCPP in efforts to disseminate and examine the reports recommendations.

### • *Mother-Child Health Research Network (renewed)*

R. Hamilton (Canadian Academy of Health Sciences) announced that coordinators of the network website ([www.mother-child.org](http://www.mother-child.org)), which promotes and facilitates scientist-to-scientist discourse and critical debate, will strive to encourage greater participation on the part of IAMP academics.

### • *Perinatal Mortality (new)*

This project will link academies in the North and South to investigate the high rates of perinatal mortality and morbidity among children and their mothers, especially in poor countries. J. Lindsten (Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences) expressed optimism for obtaining outside funds to pursue this project. A planning meeting will take place in Trieste later this year.

### • *Rheumatic Fever (new)*

A. MBewu (Academy of Sciences of South Africa) informed participants at the Beijing conference that this project will seek to develop improved strategies for the prevention and treatment of rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease.

### • *Scientific Writing and Communication*

G.B. Okelo (African Academy of Sciences) informed the IAMP General Assembly that this project will seek to improve the writing capabilities of young scientists and clinicians in developing countries. Pending funding, the initiative will hold a series of workshops on improving scientific writing for both publications and grant proposals.

### • *Emerging Infectious Diseases*

P. Santos-Ocampo (National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines) will seek to convene an international working group consisting largely of IAMP members (possibly in association with representatives of other institutions) to prepare a detailed study of the transmissibility, treatment, containment and state of preparedness for emerging infectious diseases, especially in the developing world.

### • *Healthcare Quality*

D. Challoner (US Institute of Medicine) proposed a project, to be led by IAMP, to evaluate quality issues in global health care.

## Meetings

• *XVI International AIDS Conference*, Toronto, Canada, 13-18 August 2006. [www.aids2006.org/start.aspx](http://www.aids2006.org/start.aspx)

• *11th World Congress on Public Health "Public Health in a Globalized World: Breaking down Political, Social and Economic Barriers"*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 21-25 August 2006. [www.saudecoletiva2006.com.br](http://www.saudecoletiva2006.com.br)

• *Malaria Control and Prevention: Strategies and Policy Issues*, Uganda National Academy of Sciences, Kampala, Uganda, 27-28 September 2006. Contact: [PCuff@nas.edu](mailto:PCuff@nas.edu)

• *The First International Congress of Central Asia on Infectious Diseases*, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. 30 Sept.-2 October 2006. [www.iccaid.org](http://www.iccaid.org)

## Awards and Prizes

• Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan announced a major international prize for medical researchers and health care providers in Africa to be presented in Tokyo in 2008 at the *Tokyo International Conference on Africa's Development* (TICAD). [www.ticad-csf.net/eng/e-index.htm](http://www.ticad-csf.net/eng/e-index.htm)

• US Institute of Medicine is accepting nominations for the *Rhoda and Bernard Sarnat Award in Mental Health*, an international award that recognizes achievements in mental health. It is accompanied by a medal and \$20,000. [www.iom.edu/Sarnat](http://www.iom.edu/Sarnat)



IAMP Executive Committee Meeting on 2 April 2006. From top left: A. MBewu, IAMP Co-Chair; M.H.A. Hassan, TWAS; G. de Thé, IAMP Co-Chair; D. Challoner, US Institute of Medicine; M. Kareithi Fanin, IAMP Secretariat; P. Santos-Ocampo, National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines.

INTERACADEMY MEDICAL PANEL

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