

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT 2012

By Juan Carlos Puyana, MD, FACS

Dear Friend and Colleague,

The PTS continues to grow strongly and with a great outlook for the future. The 24th Congress of the Society, which was held in Asuncion Paraguay, in November, last year, was a success. It had a large share of young people especially, medical students and residents the vast majority of the Southern Cone, including many participants from Brazil Paraguay and Argentina. Dr. Machain and his team should be very proud of a job well done and we reiterate to the Paraguayans our message of gratitude for their warm camaraderie and their kind hospitality during the last Congress.



During the past 10 months, the directives of the PTS, its committees, and its members have continue to work tirelessly in all areas related to trauma care, including academic, administrative, and socio-political aspects of caring for the injured in all regions of the PTS.

Changes in modern society especially relevant to the technological advances that have impacted our ability to communicate with the world continue to have all sorts of effects, some more positive than others, in the manner we interact with each other. Without a doubt, I believe we are experiencing a unique moment from the sociological point of view that grant us a historical opportunity which we must use to reach every corner of America and the world and thus share our innovative ideas, experiences and new knowledge.

The PTS has completed 25 years of its founding, and for this reason we are planning a major commemorative event for this November congress in Medellin. Thanks to a combined effort of the Colombian Society of Trauma and the board of the PTS, this conference will undoubtedly be a memorable date. The tireless dedication and continuous work of both local organizers of the congress led by Dr. Maria Fernanda Jimenez and her team from the ACT and the scientific committee of the PTS has resulted in a high quality program of academic value that I'm sure will please all attendees joining us in Medellin.

Many of the past presidents of the PTS have confirmed their presence in

Medellin. Over the last 25 years, they have been involved in their countries in many activities to enhance trauma education, and promoting the improvement of care for trauma victims across all the Americas.

Since 2010, the executive management and administrative body of the PTS has moved to the hands of doctors Ivatury Rao, Michael Aboutanos and Gladys Shanklin from Richmond Virginia. Thanks to the support of the "Virginia Commonwealth University", (VCU) they have created an unparalleled and unprecedented strengthening of the PTS by increasing a number of academic and teaching activities of the PTS all over the Americas. We are looking forward to Dr. Aboutanos yearly report on the state of the PTS and to be updated on all kind of new SPT achievements over the last year.

The future of the PTS is promising; doctors, nurses, prehospital medical personnel and emergency room physicians continue to join the PTS. The expectations for Medellin conference continue to grow and we are absolutely certain that this event will have no precedent. The scientific program is of high quality; the North versus South events and panels for and against controversial issues will ensure dynamic dialogues, updated our knowledge and the opportunity to learn from the very experts. All kind of social activities have also been planned and are all very attractive, Medellin is more beautiful than ever, and we will be happy to enjoy a few days of the city with an "everlasting spring" and the warmth of the " paisas" the people of region of Antioquia in Colombia.

Yours sincerely,

Juan Carlos Puyana, MD
PTS President