

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT 2014

By Gustavo P. Fraga, MD, FACS

Esteemed PTS members, speakers, and guests:

The Panamerican Trauma Society (PTS) celebrated its 25th Annual Congress in Medellin, Colombia, in 2012, with over 700 people from 19 countries, with a festive meeting. In 2013 the Panamerican Trauma Congress was held in Santiago, Chile, attracting 1,100 international participants and 63 foreign speakers. Last year in Panama City 400 people attended the congress and more than 80% of the participants were from outside Panama. Every year we have observed improvements in the scientific program and a higher quality in the events, become updated in trauma, emergency surgery and critical care, visited new countries and made more friends.



This year the XXVIII Panamerican Trauma Congress is going to Bolivia for the first time, in the beautiful city of Santa Cruz, organized with the support of the *Sociedad Boliviana de Cirugía*, under the leadership of the very active and international member, Dr. Esteban Foianini. From November 10th to 13rd the Los Tajibos Hotel & Convention Center will host the congress with a modern infrastructure, three international cuisine restaurants, just 15 minutes from downtown Santa Cruz and 30 minutes from the International Airport.

The scientific program has been prepared to include more than 50 international speakers, promoting young surgeons and sharing more experiences from Latin America. The PTS courses will be organized to increase trauma education in Bolivia and to help the local society run the courses in its own way. The submission of abstracts and stimulus to residents and healthcare students to attend is fundamental for the congress' success. The scholarships and competitions will attract the young generation to Santa Cruz, looking to the future of its society.

As this year's PTS President, it is an honor and privilege for me to work with the Executive Committee and colleagues from Bolivia in preparing this meeting. The local committee has worked very hard to prepare a wonderful meeting. I'd like to invite you to go to Santa Cruz with your family, residents, students, and friends, bringing your experience of trauma, a willingness to learn, and your friendship. Your participation is very important in achieving an outstanding meeting, and together we are stronger to improve trauma care in the Americas.

See you in Bolivia in November. A very warm welcome to Santa Cruz!

Gustavo P. Fraga