

## Meetings, Transactions and Society News

### VII International Congress, Asociación Dermatológica del Caribe (Dermocaribe), Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, March 17–20, 2011

This 7th Asociación Dermatológica del Caribe Congreso Internacional (Dermocaribe), sponsored by the Asociación Colombiana de Dermatología y Cirugía Dermatológica, was adroitly led by Congress President Gonzalo Marrugo Guardo (Fig. 1), Dermocaribe President Alejandro Muvdi Chiari, Secretary Alfonso Navarro Cesar, and Treasurer Blanca Peña Zapata. The spectacular Caribbean coast region of Colombia, embracing the host metropolis of Cartagena resplendent in colonial architecture and charm, stretches from the dense jungle at the border with Panama to the desert near the frontier with Venezuela, and also encompasses Barranquilla, Santa Marta and Ciudad Perdida, the “Lost City” of pre-Colombian grandeur.

Internationally notable featured speakers from many countries beside Colombia participated (Figs 2 and 3): Reynaldo Arosemena (Panama City, Panama), Débora Amad (Buenos Aires), Julio Barba Gómez (Guadalajara, Mexico), Daniel Dal’Asta Coímbra (Rio de Janeiro), Christian Diehl (Lyon, France and Córdoba, Argentina),



**Figure 1** Congress President Gonzalo Marrugo Guardo addressing the assemblage

La Presidenta Sociedad Venezolana de Dermatología y Cirugía Dermatológica Elda Giansante (Caracas), Antonio Guzmán Fawcett (Asunción, Paraguay), Jorge Ocampo Candiani (Monterrey, Mexico), Amit Padya (Dallas, USA), Ricardo Pérez Alfonzo (Caracas), Jaime Piquero-Martín (Caracas), Antonio Rondón Lugo (Caracas), Robert A. Schwartz (Newark, USA), Jaime Soto Mancipe (Santa Cruz, Bolivia), and Antonella Tosti (Miami, USA and Bologna, Italy). Colombian dignitaries included La Presidenta de la Asociación Colombiana de Dermatología y Cirugía Dermatológica Ángela Seidel Arango (Armenia), Francisco Camacho Chaljub (Cartagena), Rafael Falabella Falabella (Cali), and Edgar Olmos Olmos (Bogotá).

The scientific program was exemplary, with more than 50 lectures in three full days, plus 25 superb short cases presented by Colombian dermatology residents. Antonella Tosti imparted diagnostic clues for yellow nail syndrome: arrest in nail growth, nail over-curvature and thickening and an absence of cuticle with or without actual yellow nail coloration. Additionally, secondary pseudomonas and sometimes candidiasis may be evident. High dose vitamin E therapy may be effective, supplemented by oral itraconazole to accelerate nail growth. Christian Diehl eruditely focused on topical superoxide dismutase in the management of wound healing, keloids, burns, and acute and chronic radiation dermatitis. The antipruritic effects of natural superoxide dismutase were also delineated. Robert A. Schwartz exhorted those from Latin America to contemplate unusual disorders such as Lyme borreliosis in tourists from endemic areas of the United States and central Europe. Jorge Ocampo Candiani extolled potential uses of stem cells in dermatology. Amit Pandya discussed rituximab therapy for pemphigus and pemphigoid. Jaime Piquero-Martín illuminated therapy for postherpetic neuralgia. Elda Giansante provided sage therapeutic suggestions. Ángela Seidel Arango elaborated cryotherapeutic pearls. Rafael Falabella evinced a timely update of future therapies for vitiligo. Antonio Rondón Lugo covered advances in androgenic alopecia. Jaime Soto Mancipe encapsulated progress in topical photoprotection. Antonio Guzmán Fawcett highlighted uses of local anesthesia in surgical dermatology. Ricardo Pérez Alfonzo enumerated therapeutic options for cutaneous lupus erythematosus.

Attendees articulated extraordinary recent accomplishments. Antonio Rondón Lugo’s book on pediatric dermatology impressed, as did Jaime Piquero-Martín’s tome on



**Figure 2** Featured speakers led by smiling Gonzalo Marrugo (4th from left)



**Figure 3** More eminent lecturers

rosacea. Jaime Soto Mancipe, after heading a dermatology postgraduate program in Bogotá, is creating one in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, as well as building a teledermatology program with the assistance of a private foundation (FUNDERMA – Fundación Nacional de Dermatología). Christian Diehl is now President of the newly created CIFAC in Guayaquil, Ecuador, featuring the first Investigation Center in Latin America for Skin Pharmacology. Dermocaribe VI President and Asociación Dermatológica del Atlántico co-founder Antonio Jaller Raad's son José Antonio Jaller Granados is a second year medical student in Barranquilla, keen on following in his father's footsteps. In a tradition established by Dermocaribe VII President Gonzalo Marrugo's eminent dermatologist

father, Rubén Marrugo Ramírez (1911–1989), Titular Professor at the University of Cartagena Faculty of Medicine, future third generation dermatologists Gonzalo and Jacqueline Marrugo Lara attended this congress as medical students at the Pontifical Xaverian University Faculty of Medicine in Bogotá. These three accomplished medical students epitomize the bright future ahead for Colombian dermatology.

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