



## EDITOR'S

This issue oversees the New Year 2006, and saying goodbye to 2005. With the Local Actions against HIV/AIDS, IFMSA members proved once again their ability to make a change, no matter how little or slow it is...find out more on pages 3 and 4. Fighting discrimination needs change on the level of the mind before any steps taken on the ground, that's what Global Reflections aimed to on page 5. Don't forget to read our president's message about TOM2 on page 2, where you can find a lot about IFMSA plans in 2006. The next issue would have unique material about our next General Assembly March Meeting in Chile...So stay tuned!

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**Group photo from TOM2 in Beirut...read more on page 2!**

The IFMSA Team of Officials would like to wish all of you an amazing year in 2006, one to be remembered your whole life as a productive and happy one!

We look very much forwards to working with you all in 2006.

Yours,

Aditi (United States of America), Ahmed (Sudan), Akito (Japan), Alex (Macedonia), Ben (Germany), Carl (Sweden), Claire (United Kingdom), Djuro (Croatia), Dob (Egypt), Emily (United Kingdom), Eva (Denmark), Hannu (Finland), Hans Jacob (Norway), Henry (United States of America), Jade (Lebanon), Jan (Germany), Jana (Slovakia), Jessica (Netherlands), Jon (Malta), Karina (Denmark), Khamis (Egypt), Lara (Lebanon), Laura (Finland), Lawrence (Canada), Layal (Netherlands), Lisa (Austria), Magdy (Egypt), Manuela (Spain), Nagla (Egypt), Niina (Finland), Omar (Egypt), Sandra (Latvia), Serini (South Africa), Steffi (Germany), Troels (Denmark), Vendula (Czech Republic), Victoria (Canada), Vlad (Romania) and Vuk (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

2005-2006 IFMSA Officials Team

# TOM2 held in Lebanon

The Second Executive Board Meeting/Team of Officials Meeting of IFMSA took place during 28 December – 2 January 2006 in Beirut, Lebanon.

The aims of this meeting were not only to review the progress of our three-months work and reshape and evaluate our future plans, but also to update each other on our work and progress. Moreover, we expected to finalize plans for the excellent General Assembly meeting and create plan of action to accomplish the set goals for the March Meeting 2006.

The meeting was also a great opportunity to evaluate our work as team of IFMSA Officials, look back at our personal expectations and come up with recommendations for the future teams.

## **IFMSA priorities for 2005-2006**

We looked back at IFMSA priorities set in October 2006 and evaluated IFMSA progress in setting global health agenda, fundraising and marketing. We're working on new marketing materials for IFMSA and welcome pictures every IFMSA member.

## **Training**

Two different training sessions advanced Officials personal knowledge. The training on conflict resolution was organized by Ms. Laury Haytanian from the Centre of Conflict Resolution and Peace building in Beirut and Dr. Marwan Gharzedin from the department of clinical psychology in the American University of Beirut introduced us to stress management and burnout prevention.

## **Extreme poverty and hunger from medical students perspective**

The main topic of our meeting was final planning for the upcoming General Assembly March Meeting (1-7 March, Pucon, Chile) which will focus on the United Nations Millennium Development Goal No. 1: To eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The final agenda, special theme events focusing on raising awareness about hunger and poverty worldwide, evaluation and follow-up were discussed and agreed on final planning.

## **The IFMSA 55th birthday**

The preliminary plans for the 55th IFMSA Anniversary were also discussed. We're happy to celebrate IFMSA 55th birthday during our General Assembly August Meeting 2006 in Serbia and Montenegro. Moreover, our National Member Organizations are voting on the theme of the meeting.....will our next General Assembly focus on chronic diseases, health as a human right or conflict and health?

## **Evaluation and survey**

Decision about the biggest IFMSA potential – collecting opinions from medical students worldwide were taken and plans for future surveys made. We would like to know medical students' opinion on their curriculum, future of healthcare or exchange program affect in future careers.

We concluded the meeting on New Year's Eve, with a few New Year's resolutions for IFMSA:

- To satisfy IFMSA members
- Unforgettable IFMSA Anniversary General Assembly
- Happy and motivated IFMSA Officials Team
- Two best General Assemblies ever
- This team to be the great model for future teams
- All members to be proud to belong to IFMSA

We would like to thank LeMSIC for being such a brilliant host and presenting us amazing hospitality and beauty of Lebanon!

The next Executive Board Meeting will be in Santiago, Chile during 25-28 February 2006 and if there's anything you would like to discuss us there, let us know.

**Jana Kammeyer**  
**President, IFMSA**

## LOCAL ACTION

### 1st Y-PEER Congress

**Y-PEER** (Youth PEER) network in Serbia and Montenegro is getting stronger every day. It constantly builds its capacities with new members and new quality peer education programs. This fact was the main trigger to organise the 1st Congress on Peer Education in Kopaonik 7.12.-11.12.2005., Serbia and Montenegro.

**IFMSA**-Serbia and Montenegro during the past five years developed very successful programs on peer education and become one of the leading NGOs in this field within Y-PEER network. It is now an important partner of many organizations and institutions such as USAID who supported its programmes during those years. This time IFMSA-Serbia and Montenegro's responsibility was the complete organization of the congress.

**The** participants were young people mostly high school pupils and students who were actively involved in creation and implementation of peer education programs developed through Y-PEER network. They run their projects through their schools, NGOs and different youth friendly services.

**130** young people from all parts of Serbia had gathered their skills and knowledge, their experience and plans concerning peer education on beautiful mountain Kopaonik. This congress was one of great opportunities for final exchange of ideas related to process of standardization of peer education which is entering into its last phase. Process of standardization is on-going for the last nine months involves number of organizations in Serbia dealing with peer education through Y-PEER Serbia and Montenegro. It is supported by USAID, UNICEF and UNFPA.

**Young** peer educators had a chance to share their skills, knowledge, and their different programs with their peers. Every organization presented its most successful projects and activities. They had an opportunity to participate in each others workshops, gained new experiences and get to know different peer education methods. We had guests from Ukraine, Syria, Jordan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Macedonia, who talked about Y-PEER network in their countries.

**The** congress gives new opportunities for cooperation and stronger partnerships. We hope that many new, successful and interesting peer education programs to are presented in the 2nd Congress on Peer Education.

**Mirjana Spasojevic**

**IFMSA-Serbia and Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro**

### World Medical Ethics Manual from the WMA - NEW

The World Medical Association (WMA) is an international organization representing physicians. Founded on 17 September 1947, the organization was created to ensure the independence of physicians, and to work for the highest possible standards of ethical behaviour and care by physicians, at all times. This was particularly important to physicians after the Second World War. The funding has been by the annual contributions of its members, which has now grown to approximately 80 National Medical Associations.

The purpose of the WMA is to serve humanity by endeavouring to achieve the highest international standards in Medical Education, Medical Science, Medical Art and Medical Ethics, and Health Care for all people in the world.

**Check the latest edition of World Medical Ethics Manual**

[http://www.wma.net/e/ethicsunit/pdf/manual/ethics\\_manual.pdf](http://www.wma.net/e/ethicsunit/pdf/manual/ethics_manual.pdf)

## GLOBAL REFLECTIONS

### WAD in IFMSA

**Around** the 1st of December and like every year, IFMSA members worldwide organized various events, celebrations and campaigns aiming at raising the awareness with the HIV/AIDS problem and building partnerships with their communities to work together against HIV/AIDS!

**IFMSA** students shared with events aiming at increasing the public's awareness like the red ribbon and condom's distribution in Catalonia. Also workshops and seminars were organized to highlight the basics about HIV/AIDS and latest epidemic updates and methods for protection in Sudan, Catalonia, Egypt, Pakistan, and Turkey.

**WAD** 2005 has witnessed the launch of HIV/AIDS related activities in Bahrain. IFMSA-Bahrain organized a Workshop in their University to address the HIV/AIDS problem with an HIV positive person sharing his views of the problem, and his side of the story to break the barriers and stigma accompanying the disease. Candle Light Memorials for remembering those who lost their lives to HIV/AIDS were organized in many countries like Greece and Brazil.

**Fundraising** activities such as selling ribbons, condoms and quizzes for HIV/AIDS were organized in Denmark aiming at collecting money for the working HIV/AIDS foundations. A huge concert was held in Lebanon with massive outreach to youth for fundraising purpose.

**Using** arts and graphics to attract the public attention and sensually reflect the HIV/AIDS problem has been used through poster displays, art galleries and exhibitions of condoms in Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt, and Catalonia. Others used the media element to increase people's awareness with the global AIDS problem, through showing news papers' reports and news updates about HIV/AIDS, and movies were used in Catalonia and Turkey.

**We** have joined an international campaign, the bell is ringing campaign, where 1,000,000 bells rang at the same time all over the world to let people know that HIV/AIDS is a global problem and we all have to work together to fight it.

**Ahmed Khamis**

**Director on Reproductive Health,  
incl. AIDS, IFMSA**

*received on 19 December 2005*

## *LOCAL ACTION WAD in Nigeria*

**HIV/AIDS** has gained a prime place among Africa's many troubles. That is why the Nigerian Medical Students Association (NiMSA) organized its Worlds Aids Day programme aimed primarily at sensitizing the youth on campus and surrounding secondary schools to the seriousness of the AIDS pandemic. It was organised through the Ife University Medical Student's Association (IFUMSA) of the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. The First of December 2005, was jam packed with activities starting with a Seminar on AIDS and culminating in a candlelit walk with other organizations on campus.

**The** Seminar was attended by experts in HIV and AIDS. It was a chance to get educated and re-educated on what HIV/AIDS was and how far Africa in particular and the World in general had gone in its fight against the disease. It was also a chance to sensitize medical students to the SCORA activities and how they could do their own part to help.

**The** candlelit walk was exactly what it was meant to be a sight to behold. It drew a lot of attention from students and staff of the University alike and went a long way in sensitizing the populace to the gloom and doom of the virus and its effect on the continent.

**As** a student body, we might not be rich enough to discover vaccines against the virus, powerful enough to create government policy to curb the disease or even famous enough to convince the continent to follow the ABC's of prevention, but one thing that we can do is to persuade our friends, relatives and those in our immediate vicinity that HIV/AIDS exists, is dangerous but it can be prevented and controlled. It is by taking our message to people, one by one, that we can truly overcome one of human's greatest challenges.

**Femi Kuti**

*NiMSA, Nigeria*

## *LOCAL ACTION WAD in Bosnia & Herzegovina*

**BoHeMSA** celebrated WAD, like never before. We managed to make a real spectacle in our medical faculty and in the city with full support of the representatives of the university and professors.

**On** the 28th of November, in the educative conference at the Clinical Centre Sarajevo, we spoke about the AIDS problem from the point of view of the young people and students. On the 30th of November, we played several AIDS movies, interviews with professors and AIDS testing all day. There was a 20 meters long red ribbon, red balloons, leaflets, and we spoke about the AIDS problem in our country. A cocktail for the students, professors, and people from the government gave us a great opportunity for us to present BoHeMSA activities and listen to the ideas of others on how to fight AIDS.

**120** students marched in the rain through the centre of Sarajevo wearing red ribbons, sheering balloons and leaflets. Big posters in the main streets, main hall of the University and high schools carried an important message. We visited ten high schools to give educative presentations to a hundred pupils at each school. We went with our professor of epidemiology to see the Rector. We discussed our role in preventive medicine and in improving the health system in our country.

**Our** NORA and coordinator of this project, Lamija Gicevic, along with President, Anel Okic, were invited to take part in the government conference to speak about our achievements and role in fighting AIDS. They gave television interviews on the AIDS problem in Bosnia and Herzegovina and whole world. We are planning to continue this project the whole year as we are pleased with the results and interest shown by the students and the public.

**Nina Jovanovic**

*BoHeMSA, Bosnia and Herzegovina*

## *LOCAL ACTION WAD in Malta*

**WAD** activities kicked off with a debate in the local university quad on November 29th, with the Minister and Shadow Minister for Health, as well as a genitourinary consultant, representatives from the Health Promotion Unit and Disease Surveillance Unit. Several topics were up for discussion, including whether or not the government is doing enough towards generating awareness about HIV/AIDS, and how to get more people interested in getting tested. The issue of condom machines on campus was also raised. As a result this may be pursued a bit more over the coming months.

**On** December 1st, WAD was held in the car park just below the quad area. This involved live music, free tea, coffee and biscuits for all. Discussing everything, up to and including matters pertaining to AIDS. Punters were also invited to fill in questionnaires about their knowledge on STIs and their sexual health. A few medical students also took it upon themselves to hold an impromptu outreach on campus to spread the 'good word' and generate awareness.

**In** the evening, several MMSA members attended the candle light vigil held in co-operation with the Malta Gay Rights Movement. Walking through Valletta as a sign of solidarity with all those people infected or affected by AIDS.

**On** Friday and Saturday, we executed outreaches in several areas around Malta, including Junior College, Gzira, Valletta, Sliema and Paceville. A concert was held on December 3rd at The Alley in Paceville. Bands playing included local stars as Bitterside, PL4Y, Stiller and Scream Daisy. The place was packed with people spilling out into the street.

**It** happens every year, a bit like the flu, and just like the flu, it is different every time. This year's activities were a success through and through, and a big 'hats off' to the SCORA team for that. Well done, and be safe!

**Paul Cacciottolo**

*MMSA, Malta*

## LOCAL ACTION *Cake Sale*

**A** cake sale is not a cake sale if it doesn't have two functions, to promote fair trade coffee and to collect lots and lots of money for a good and worthy cause. The events could not have happened without the dedication of the SCORP members, some interested students and the generosity of our sponsors. The €450 raised from our cake sale went towards a party for the children of the refugees living at the Hal Far Open Centre and another one for the unfortunate asylum seekers who are detained at Lyster Barracks, a closed detention centre.

**The** Children's party seemed to rush by, with an absurd amount of children running about with spoons and potatoes in a deranged relay race, dancing to music and playing musical statues that never seemed to end and for some reason no one seems to get lost. Local children were running about playing with the Hal Far residents and none of them could care less whether their playmate was white, black, orange, blue or pink! This was a statement that no words could make and that many adults would do well to pay attention to.

**The** next place, in stark comparison to a yard full of children, was a cold room packed with 200 men happy for some company and something different on the menu for once. The party at Lyster touched my heart: grown men crowded round for a glass of soft drink, waiting patiently for a writing pad, teeming with energy and craving for something to do. A party will not solve their problem, the music will not stop the pain but it shows them that there are people who care, it gives them courage to go on and it gives them some relief for the day.

**Moreover**, it shows us what the real situation in the world is; what life can mean. It lights the fire of change - change that has to come from each and every one of us.

**Claude Bajada**  
*MMSA, Malta*

### GLOBAL REFLECTIONS

#### Find the Link

**Congo** (DR), Colombia, Somalia and Chechnya...

**At** first glance these countries do not seem to have anything in common, but they do. All of these countries appeared in the four past "Most Underreported Humanitarian Stories" reports, issued by 'Doctors Without Borders'. These reports have been issued every year on the 31st of December since the late 90's. These "humanitarian crises", as the United States' division of Medicins sans Frontieres (MSF) calls them, are long ongoing conflicts, of which the 'oldest', the crisis in Colombia, has been going on for decades.

**A** staggering 90% of the population and displaced peoples of Chechnya have lost someone close; be it a family member, friend or neighbour. In Colombia, violence is a major public health problem and the leading cause of death in the area. It is not only the armed nature of these conflicts which raises concern, but also the medical consequences. It is estimated that over 3 million people have died needlessly since civil war started in 1998 in Congo (DR). A percentage of these deaths were as a direct consequence of the violence, but the great majority died from preventable diseases like malaria and measles. In Somalia, after 14 years of civil strife, an estimated 72% of the 8 million inhabitants; still have no access to basic health care.

**Even** though, NGOs, such as MSF and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), spend ever increasingly on financial and human resources, broad international public awareness is not present for these ongoing human disasters. You would expect a link as to why these particular crises are not prevalent on the evening news. This link I, myself, have not been able to find.

**If** you would like to educate yourself beyond the headlines, the decision is up to you. Find the link below;  
[www.doctorswithoutborders.org/publications/index.cfm](http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/publications/index.cfm)

**Loyal Chaker**  
*Human Rights and Peace Director, IFMSA*

### GLOBAL REFLECTIONS

#### A Matter of Priorities

**What** would be the first thing to do if faced with an enormous amount of injured people that expect help? Making a fast selection would most probable be the first choice. It is actually what trained people do in a "disaster situation". But isn't this a form of discrimination? It certainly is impossible to attend everybody in the same time, and prioritising can be very useful. But do we always select the risk groups correctly?

**The** Sphere Handbook (2004), an international initiative aiming to improve effectiveness and accountability of disaster response, recognizes six major vulnerable groups as most frequently identified: women, children, older people, disabled people, people living with HIV/AIDS and ethnic minorities. However, an extensive research performed by Help Age International on concrete activities in the field shows that "older people tend not to be considered among the most vulnerable" and thus the humanitarian agencies fail in providing the necessary support for this group of population.

**It** seems that common patterns of discrimination and marginalization are often increased in the drive for survival in humanitarian crises. Isolation, lack of mobility and physical, sight or hearing impairment and trauma may cause a gap between the injured and the medical staff. These people face major difficulties in accessing the services offered. When or if disabled people manage to reach the service delivery points, they may face competition with stronger fellows; that is patient-patient competition.

**It** is difficult to avoid competition among the affected, but what should not be tolerated is discrimination coming from the aid providers. Finding the best way to ensure equal access to vital services is not an easy task, but surely not an impossible one.

**Manuela Moraru**  
*Projects Director, IFMSA*

## THE INSIDER

The Fourth Executive Board Meeting will be in Ljubljana, Slovenia during 15-20 May 2006, hosted by SloMSIC.

New EBs have been taking over in Bulgaria, Croatia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Poland, Portugal and Romania all over the last month.

Executive Board appointed Ms. Niina Markkula (FiMSIC, Finland) as IFMSA Think Global Coordinator, [thinkglobal@ifmsa.org](mailto:thinkglobal@ifmsa.org) for 2005-2006.

Executive Board appointed Mr. Eduardo Rodriguez Useros (IFMSA-Spain, Spain) as IFMSA Focal Point on Ageing, [ageing@ifmsa.org](mailto:ageing@ifmsa.org) for 2005-2006.

IFMSA had a statement on World AIDS Day 2005 ; "Stop AIDS. Keep the Promise", check it out at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ifmsa-general/message/4760>

Call for hosts for IFMSA General Assembly March Meeting 2007, deadline: 2 March 2006, contact: [gs@ifmsa.org](mailto:gs@ifmsa.org).

## DATES for your DIARY

\*31 March-1 April 2006.Lodz,Poland - The 44th Polish and 2nd International Conference of Students' Scientific Societies and Junior Doctors.Further details are available at [www.stn.eraur.com](http://www.stn.eraur.com)

\*23 April-3 May 2006.Riga,Latvia - European Medical Students' Choir (EMSC).Further details are available at [www.emsc.org](http://www.emsc.org)

\*12-14 May 2006.Istanbul,Turkey - The 20th International Medical Sciences Congress. Further details are available at [www.obak.org](http://www.obak.org)

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