



## EDITOR'S

e-VAGUS would be published bimonthly to ensure enough supply of material. The content has been simplified into 3 categories as you can see opposite to this column. The colours, font types and font sizes has been standardised to keep a cooperate identity – something we are missing in IFMSA and now there are efforts to formulate it. In the news, you can read about external meetings where IFMSA has been represented – something we don't expose much too. As a short say on the current Pharma debate in IFMSA, have a look at the glimpse in page 5. Don't miss 5X5 series and the interesting activities from South America and Malta. Of course, you're most welcome to write to e-VAGUS!



## The 1st IFMSA Team of Officials Meeting - Albacete, Spain

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# News & Announcements

17 - 21 October 2006 | ALBACETE, SPAIN -- The IFMSA Team of Officials had their first meeting of the term 2006/2007. 20 Medical students and young doctors from more than 10 countries have attended the meeting. The Team of Officials have set strategic plans and decided upon the team priorities as; Global Health, Networking, Marketing and Branding, and Development of skills and resources. In addition, the team discussed fundraising strategies, the agenda of next General Assembly meeting and much more. The next Team of Officials Meeting will be held in Tunis, Tunisia from 31 December 2006 to 4 January 2007.

1 - 6 October 2006 | PECS, HUNGARY-- Jacob Hejmdal Gren, IFMSA Regional Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia, and Maja Sidelmann Basnov, IFMSA Medical Education Director have attended the 16th European Medical Students' Association (EMSA) General Assembly. The delegation has looked into future opportunities of cooperation and has also discussed the new partnership agreement with EMSA Executive Board. Both parties agreed to extend the current agreement until March 2007. Visit EMSA website at [www.emsa-europe.org](http://www.emsa-europe.org).

Articles are now invited for the next issue of Medical Student International (MSI), the thematic magazine of IFMSA. The theme of MSI 15 is "Rural and Remote Health". Submissions should be original articles that have not been published elsewhere. They can be, but not limited to, personal essays, interviews, short review articles, commentaries and photographs addressing the theme. Articles should be no longer than 1000 words. Please send your articles to [publications@ifmsa.org](mailto:publications@ifmsa.org) by 15 December 2006.

14 - 18 September 2006 | GENOA, ITALY -- Jan Hilgers, Hans Jacob and Maja Sidelmann Basnov, former and current IFMSA Medical Education Directors and Liaison Officers, made up the IFMSA delegation in the annual conference of the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE). A wide range of topical issues on medical and health care professions education was included in the conference and covered the spectrum of healthcare professions education from undergraduate education through postgraduate training to continuing professional development. Visit AMEE website at [www.amee.org](http://www.amee.org).

"Rural and Remote Health" has been decided as theme for the 56th IFMSA March Meeting to be held in Mandurah, Australia. Check [www.mm2007.org](http://www.mm2007.org) for more details.

IFMSA is conducting a survey about the future of healthcare, which has been designed to collect and analyze the opinions of medical students worldwide. Our goal has been to gather various perspectives and insights regarding the effectiveness of medical education and the quality of healthcare across the globe today. The survey is conducted together with the Consensus Research Group, an independent public opinion research organization with many years of experience in conducting global research. The "Future of Healthcare" survey is anonymous and available to IFMSA members in 8 different languages. Voice your opinions before 1 December 2006 at [www.ifmsa.org/healthcare](http://www.ifmsa.org/healthcare).

11 - 14 October 2006 | BATAM, INDONESIA -- IFMSA has been represented in the Asian Youth Forum (AYF) 2006. IFMSA delegation composed of Farid Abdul Hadi, Regional Coordinator for Asia Pacific, Fina Hidayati Tams, IFMSA Fundraising Team Arum Werdi Ratri and Sri Widiastuti, CIMSAs-Indonesia. 118 delegates from 20 countries have attended the Asian Youth Forum 2006 with theme of "Millennium Development Goals: Is the Future Within Reach?" and have made a declaration. Visit AYF website at [www.asianyouthforum.org](http://www.asianyouthforum.org).

Applications are now invited for 2nd issue of Projects Bulletin. Projects Bulletin publishes the best 5 projects of IFMSA. If you would like to join the competition please send to [projects@ifmsa.org](mailto:projects@ifmsa.org) for an application and send it back by 15 December 2006.

# News & Announcements

8 - 12 October 2006 | BERLIN, GERMANY -- Karolina Tuomisto, IFMSA Research Exchange Director, has attended the 17th European Students' Conference (ESC). ESC is a scientific conference for medical students and young doctors. IFMSA had a presentation and workshop on research exchange and its academic quality. Both sides discussed possibility of a new joint publication. Visit ESC website at <http://esc.charite.de/>.

New national boards have been taking over in National Member Organisations of Canada, Chile, Egypt, Lebanon, Pakistan, Palestine, Norway, Quebec, Slovenia and Spain recently.

18 - 22 September 2006 | AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND -- IFMSA has been represented in the 57th session of WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific. The IFMSA delegation composed of Tsutomu Isada, IFMSA-Japan, Tam Wing Sun, AMSA-Hong Kong and Nick Fancourt NZMSA- New Zealand. The conference had various briefings on HIV/AIDS pandemic, measures to reduce alcohol-related harm and TB prevalence in the region. Visit WHO website at [www.who.int](http://www.who.int).

11 - 14 September 2006 | COPENHAGEN, DENMARK -- IFMSA has been represented in the 56th session of WHO Regional Committee for Europe. The IFMSA delegation composed of Anne-Karina Larsen, the outgoing Public Health Director, Jacob Hejmdal Gren, Regional Coordinator for Europe and Central Asia, and Louise Hammer Pettersen, Training Director. The conference had various briefings on HIV/AIDS prevention, Avian Flu, health policy and Obesity in the region. IFMSA has established contact with Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) and had an article published in its newsletter. Visit WHO website at [www.who.int](http://www.who.int).

The Medical Women's International Association (MWIA) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) representing women doctors from all five continents. The association was founded in 1919 and is therefore one of the oldest professional bodies at the international level. MWIA is non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit making aiming to overcome gender-based inequalities in health and medical profession. International Congresses and General Assemblies are held every 3 years in various countries. MWIA sponsors a Scholarship Programme to fund postgraduate education for its members. Visit MWIA website at [www.mwia.net](http://www.mwia.net).



Applications are now invited to join the Editorial Board of Medical Student International (MSI), the thematic magazine of IFMSA. The Editorial Board consists of 9 members who are responsible for the structure, layout, content, editing, and fundraising for the journal. If you would like to join please send CV, covering letter and critique of MSI 14 to [publications@ifmsa.org](mailto:publications@ifmsa.org) by 27 November 2006.

6 - 10 September 2006 | HELSINKI, FINLAND -- Niina Markkula, IFMSA Think Global Initiative Project Coordinator, has attended the World Congress and Student meeting of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). IPPNW has biannual world congresses, where mainly issues related to nuclear weapons and the threat they are posing to the world are discussed. At the student meeting, the national student chapters presented their various projects. New international student representatives were elected. Visit IPPNW website at [www.ippnw.org](http://www.ippnw.org).

7 - 10 October 2006 | GDANSK, POLAND -- Alexej Kuiper, IFMSA Vice President on External affairs elect, has attended the 2nd ESN fundraising conference organised by the Erasmus Student Network. The conference provided workshops about gathering funds from the European Union and commercial sources, non profit organisations, project management and creating fundraising strategies. The upcoming fundraising conferences of ESN can also be useful for other interested IFMSA members. Visit the ESN website on [www.esn.org](http://www.esn.org).

# Projects & Activities

## MMSA's Training and Resource Development Seminar 2006

Imagine a hotel packed with students. Now imagine a hotel packed with medical students. Yeah?

Well that's what it was like at the Malta Medical Students' Association's (MMSA's) sixth annual Training and Resource Development (TRD) Seminar from the 20th to 22nd of October this year. Around 200 Maltese medical students, most of whom were first years, participated.

TRD serves a dual purpose – standing committee (SC) recruitment and training. MMSA, like any other NMO, is fueled by manpower and thus depends on new blood every year to keep it going. This year, TRD commenced with 'speed dating' sessions, which allowed every first year to get a glimpse of each of the MMSA's standing committees, and consequently introducing them to MMSA's infrastructure. Many became strongly drawn to certain SCs, while others couldn't quite decide on which one to join. In short, TRD was already a success, with first years signing up left, right, and centre, and the weekend had barely begun.

Apart from recruitment, MMSA's members had the opportunity to attend training sessions held by some of Malta's IFMSA trainers. Training included sessions on marketing, exchanges and electives. On top of that, guest lecturers were invited to hold round-table discussions on various issues of interest to medical students and professionals alike.

Preparations began back in August when the Organising Committee (OC) was formed. Through sheer hard work, commitment and dedication, the team came through and pulled off a truly spectacular seminar in true MMSA style.

**Candice Galea,**

*University of Malta Medical School, Malta*

## Night Ambulance Project

This is one of SCORP-Chile's biggest projects, which was born in Concepcion City in 2003 and is now happening in Santiago, our capital. This project aims to create awareness among medical students about the social reality of our country and to commit to helping improve the very poor health conditions in which many people are subjected to, due to the extreme poverty in the cities. We would like to give them back the dignity that society took away, when they were left alone and marginalized.

Every week this Ambulance begins its work at sunset, where we (6-8 Medical Students plus a Doctor) meet to discuss the places we plan to visit, the things we will possibly do, check all the material and medicines and THEN OFF WE GO!

Our nightly round begins by providing primary health care, mostly to homeless people or those living in shelters. In addition to the primary health care, those requiring surgery and other medical specialties are sent to the nearest health centres taking care of 10 people per night, on average. We also have the presence of psychology students, who take care of the mental health of the patients.

Up to now, more than 150 medical students from 9 different Universities have participated in this beautiful activity and, because of the good results, we are actually working to start this in more cities of Chile.



I have to mention that this project can only happen with the help of another NGO, called "Hogar de Cristo", that lend us their ambulance, which enables us to make this vision a reality.

**Cristóbal A. Cuadrado Nahum**

*NORP 2006-2007, IFMSA-Chile, Chile*

# Projects & Activities

## Sembrando

On 21st October, members from APEMH participated in the closing ceremony (TELETON) of the “SEMBRANDO (Planting) Campaign” launched by the “Instituto Trabajo y Familia” and the First Lady, Pilar Noreas de García. This campaign consists of an integral plan which focuses on the families of the high-Andean communities in Peru, located 2500-5000m above sea level and living in extreme poverty. The campaign is concerned with providing them with the capacity, technological innovations and the educational tools for their social and economic development.

“SEMBRANDO” is a program that has several aims - to eradicate extreme poverty, reduce child mortality, fight the struggle against endemic diseases, reduce infant under-nutrition, improve maternal health, promote gender equality and ensure environmental sustainability. Its main goal is to reach almost 5 million people (1 million families) living in extreme poverty.

The event had the support of all national TV channels, the media in general, national and international artists and was graced with the presence of Alan Garcia, President of Peru. The activities, which began at 2pm, lasted until midnight and APEMH members were involved in this campaign by volunteering to answer the telephones to people calling to offer donations, and by going to different parts of the city to collect donations.

As we passed midnight, we were all very anxious to know how much we had raised. Finally the First Lady gave the final announcement: S/. 4'007,138 nuevos soles (987,690.32 euros) which will be used to help 8,014 Peruvian families living in extreme poverty.



This was a very gratifying experience for all of us, observing how all the Peruvian people came together to work towards the same goal. The slogan of the campaign says:

“You make the road... by PLANTING”. This is why APEMH has made the commitment to support this campaign so that we can harvest in the future for the sake of our Peruvian childhood.

**Jessica Valeria Tang Herrera**

## Filler

### Money Talks: Profits Before Patient Safety

([www.moneytalksthemovie.com](http://www.moneytalksthemovie.com)), was created to give a concise yet comprehensive overview, and features the commentary of investigative journalists and medical professionals including Dr. John Abramson, author of *Overdo\$ed America* and Prescription Access Litigation Project Director, Alex Sugerman-Brozan. Other notable interviewees include Dr. Bob Goodman of Columbia University, founder of the ‘No Free Lunch’ program, and Dr. Jerome Hoffman of UCLA Medical School. View an 8-minute clip of the documentary in the website.

Another independent feature film on the same topic was produced by the same company. Based on writer/director Kathleen Slattery-Moschkau’s decade working as a pharmaceutical sales rep, *Side Effects* is equal parts coming-of-age story, romantic comedy and insider’s exposé of the sales tactics employed by drug companies. Go to [www.sideeffectsthemovie.com](http://www.sideeffectsthemovie.com) to see a trailer and read reviews.

## 5X5: Interview with Kristina Sjøberg Øgaard IFMSA President 2002-2003

**e-VAGUS:** Why did you join IFMSA?

**Kristina:** I joined IFMSA because of the international and idealistic profile of the organisation.

**e-VAGUS:** What were your three biggest achievements?

**Kristina:** 1) As the IFMSA President, I made a conscious decision to spend most of my time with the NMOs - attending numerous local, regional and national meetings throughout the year. At the time, this was needed in IFMSA to bring the Team of Officials closer to the NMOs. By the end of the year, I had counted more than 200 travelling days. This was very different from the way previous Presidents had managed their time. However, due to a great team effort from all the Officials, I think we managed to reach out to the NMOs and make them feel that we supported them, and appreciated their input and criticisms.

2) When I started as the IFMSA President, the Training Director told me he was tired with feeling marginalised within the IFMSA system. During my term, I was conscious about prioritising the Training support division by arguing in favour of allocating more time to Training during GAs and by focusing more on Training as a cornerstone when presenting IFMSA as an organisation. This could, of course, not have been done without the excellent Training Director himself, Timothy Rittman, and the other Officials! Together, I think we managed to start to give Training the attention it deserves in IFMSA.

3) During my term, I developed a new template way of presenting IFMSA. Instead of focusing equally on the six standing committees, their abbreviations and their missions, I radically changed the presentation to give a more holistic and project-oriented version of IFMSA. I don't know if it still exists - it has probably been outdated by now!

**e-VAGUS:** What is your best memory of your IFMSA time?

**Kristina:** To me, the GAs will always be the highlight. I think the best days are the last days, when the fruits of the work put in during the meeting starts to show. It's incredibly motivating! A great memory is also the good relationship that has developed between the Israeli and the Palestinian NMO during the last years.

**e-VAGUS:** What did you do after leaving IFMSA and how did IFMSA influence your life as professionals?

**Kristina:** After my year as President of IFMSA I quit medical studies and started a Bachelor of Science degree in International Business in Denmark. I have just finished my Bachelor, and am now going off to England to study a Master of Arts in Organisation Studies. It was IFMSA that made me realise that I care more about organisational and administrative work than about medical studies. It was also IFMSA that convinced me that I wanted to pursue an international career. Therefore, you could say that IFMSA really changed my life! I have also experienced that both schools and employers view my time in IFMSA as a valuable asset when assessing me.

**e-VAGUS:** How do you expect IFMSA to be at age of 100?

**Kristina:** Wonderful!

**5X5 series is prepared by Ahmed Magdy (Egypt) and Lisa Russe (Austria)**