



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF SURGEONS

*Inspiring Quality:  
Highest Standards, Better Outcomes*

## MINUTES

**International Governors & Chapter Officers Meeting – REGION 14  
Saturday, October 26, 2019  
5:00 - 6:30 pm  
Hilton San Francisco Union Square, Golden Gate 4, Lobby Level**

### 1. Welcome, Agenda Review and Introductions

- Dr. Alberto Ferreres, Region 14 Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and reviewed agenda topics
- Went around the room for personal introductions of attendees

#### Attendees:

Roberto Anaya-Prado, Governor, Nor-Occidental Chapter  
Pedro Barberan, President, Ecuador Chapter  
Jose Luis de Souza Varela, President, Brazil Chapter  
Ricardo Espinoza, President, Chile Chapter  
Alberto Ferreres, Governor, Argentina  
Savino Gasparini, Governor, Brazil Chapter  
Juan Hepp, Governor, Chile Chapter  
Jaime Herrera, Governor, Peru Chapter  
Roberto Taruselli, Governor, Uruguay Chapter  
Helio Vieira, Jr., Treasurer, Brazil Chapter

### 2. Approval of Minutes – October 20, 2018 Clinical Congress Meeting

- Dr. Ferreres asked for questions, comments, and/or revisions to the minutes from the Region 14 Meeting at the 2018 Clinical Congress in Boston
- No comments given; Minutes were approved by unanimous approval of attendees

### 3. Group Discussion Topics

- Payment issues and/or obstacles in respective countries
  - Argentina – The main issue is the exchange rate between our country and the United States
  - The exchange rate is a similar issue for most countries in Latin America
  - Many Latin American countries are “on fire” in terms of their economies – Chile, Venezuela, Ecuador, Brazil, Uruguay, Bolivia, to name a few
  - Brazil – In recovery, but still concerns with the exchange rate
  
- Opportunities for fellowships and/or observerships in other countries
  - Colombia Chapter, in conjunction with the Colombia Surgical Society, is a success story for their initiative in sending large number of residents to Clinical Congress
  - Argentina – Two applications for surgeon fellowships are usually offered
  - Brazil – Brazilian College of Surgeons accepts new fellows each year
  - Further information on opportunities for fellowships and/or observerships from countries in Region 14 should be shared with other chapters
  
- International credentialing: Board certification requirements in respective countries
  - Certification process varies from country-to-country
  - Some countries do not have proof of malpractice
  - Chapter leaders like that they are now involved in the process through Fellowship applicant interviews
  - Country-specific forms were distributed to each chapter in attendance to confirm the credentialing and board certification information ACS has on file
  - Forms will be emailed to those chapter not in attendance

### 4. Chapter Updates

- Chapters not in attendance: Bolivia, Colombia, Jamaica, Mexico-Federal District, Northeast Mexico, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela
- Ecuador
  - Conduct medical education courses every 15 days at the Omni Hospital, in union with the UESS College; Sponsorships help cover expenses
  - 5 ATLS courses were held this year in Quito, with others conducted in Guayaquil
  - ACS Fellowship applicant interviews were successful
  - 7 Initiates this year
  - Communication was sent to members of the chapter who owe ACS dues to encourage them to continue with their membership
- Brazil
  - Session specifically for ACS members was held at the Brazilian College of Surgeons Annual Congress
  - Successfully presented the General Surgery Review Course for the first time

- 28 Initiates for Fellowship were interviewed
- Chile
  - Chapter is in good financial status
  - Chartered since 1952, chapter has strong structure and governance
  - 3-day Congress held in June had over 800 attendees
  - Offering Stop the Bleed courses
  - Conducted General Surgery Review Course in Spanish for third time
  - ATLS very strong in our country; CoT Country Chair is part of Chapter Board and relationship between Chapter and CoT is strong
  - Active with social media
  - 5 Initiates this year
- Uruguay
  - We are a small country
  - 2 Initiates this year
  - Invited Paraguay Fellows to recent events
  - Region 14 Meeting will be held December 2-5 in Punta del Este in conjunction with FELAC event
- Peru
  - 500+ attendees at annual congress
  - Dr. Maier attended and presented this year
  - Conducted 3 ATLS courses
  - Plan to offer Stop the Bleed and TEAM courses
  - Goal is to attract more medical students and residents to the Chapter
  - 6 Initiates this year
- Nor-Occidental
  - All three Mexican chapters are very active academic chapters
  - Several ATLS courses conducted
  - Hosted clinical conventions with Cleveland Clinic and Mayo Clinic
  - Medical students around the country are encouraged to attend events
  - 8 Initiates within Nor-Occidental Chapter
- Argentina
  - Chapter awarded Dr. Pon Fund
  - Received status as an independent organization in Argentina, which is a very important step in managing the chapter
  - Multi-day National Surgical Meeting held in Buenos Aires in October
  - 10 Initiates this year
- Paraguay
  - Governor will be appointed during Clinical Congress
  - Group of Fellows working on forming a chapter

Dr. Patricia Turner, Director, Member Services Division, stopped in to say hello to the leaders in the region and to thank them for all they do for ACS.

**5. Discussion: Region 14 Goals/Priorities for 2019/2020**

- New Region 14 Chair will be needed for next year
- All agreed it should be someone with experience as a Governor
- Getting the Red Book translated in Spanish and Portuguese would be helpful for chapters in the region
- Brazil Chapter thanked Dr. Esteban Foianini, outgoing Governor for Bolivia, for all his contributions to the region
- No Region 14 Meeting planned in 2020

**6. Adjourn**

- Dr. Ferreres thanked everyone for their contributions during his time as Region Chair
- Called the meeting to close

Minutes prepared by: Brian Frankel