Dear Colleagues,

First of all, we would like to wish you a very happy New Year, with much success for your activities and actions. We take this opportunity to give you some news about IAGG’s involvement:

**Membership**

IAGG is growing with a total membership of 44,000 professionals in the five regions of the world. Our Organization launched the bases for a new region in the Middle East and will stimulate more African countries to participate after the success of the 1st Africa Region Congress at Cape Town, South Africa. To date countries like Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, San Marino, Senegal have submitted membership application.

**Next World Congress**

Programmed in Seoul on 23-27 June 2013, the 20th World Congress is full of promises. To date, the Organizing Committee has received proposals for 1,005 oral communications, 1,001 posters, 8 round tables, 6 workshops. A total of 1,100 symposia abstracts have been submitted plus 140 for presidential symposia. In addition, the Korean Government and Samsung Life Insurance Company have accepted to bring their full support to this event, that will surely become a major milestone for a flourishing Asian region.

**Future World Congresses**

IAGG’s 21st World Congress will be hosted by the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) in San Francisco, USA in 2017. Dr. John W. (Jack) Rowe will be President of the Congress and will become the future President Elect of IAGG. He is Professor at the Department of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health, New York, USA. Furthermore, a Call for bid for the IAGG’s 2021 World Congress was launched in 2012 and candidates will be presented to IAGG Council in June 2013 for final selection.

**Education**

Master Course on Aging in Asia provides intensive training for young geriatricians with research potentials in the fields of ageing and geriatric medicine. After Hong Kong & Taipei, Taiwan, another two will be organized in 2013: in Beijing, China and Kyoto, Japan. Intensive Course on Aging is intended for students, professionals, researchers and all other actors in age related issues. The third edition is programmed in 2014 in Barcelona, Spain.

Other participations included a Geriatric Care Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, a symposium on "Frailty and Sarcopenia" in Doha, Qatar, a symposium on "Frailty and New Technologies" in Eindhoven, Netherlands.
Research
IAGG/WHO/SFGG workshops n°3 on "Frailty" took place on January 20, 2012 in Athens, Greece and n°4 on "Human Rights" on October 17, 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa.

IAGG's Global Aging Research Network (GARN) membership is developing at a constant rate. To date, 508 centers have been selected to become members of the Network: 273 come from Europe, 113 from Asia/Oceania, 77 from North America, 28 from South America, 9 from Africa and 8 from the Middle East. Its website http://www.garn-network.org was launched in April 2012.

IAGG's Global Social Initiative on Aging (GSIA) has developed a world membership database, programmed an intensive course on families and ageing, established contacts with scholars from Africa, Europe, Asia/Oceania, South and North America, published 21 articles in specialized journals, presented 28 oral communications in 2011 & 2012.

IAGG also participated in the International Academy on Nutrition and Aging (IANA2012) in Albuquerque, USA, in the International Conference on Sarcopenia Research (ICSR2012) in Orlando, USA, in the 8th World Congress of Gerontechnology (ISG2012) in Eindhoven, Netherlands.

In addition, support was awarded to the African Research on Ageing Network (AFRAN) project on a database of literature on Ageing in Africa and to the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA) for their annual Rosalie Wolf Award that raises awareness and promotes prevention of elder abuse.

United Nations
Through its actions IAGG and other NGO partners of the Global Alliance, promotes the need for a UN Convention on the rights of older people. This involvement includes active participation at a Symposium at the REIACTIS congress in January 2012 in Dijon, France, the 50th session of UN's Commission for Social Development in February 2012 and 3rd session of the UN's Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing in August 2012, both held at UN headquarters in New York, the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC)'s 3rd Regional Inter-governmental Conference on Ageing in May 2012 in San José, Costa Rica, the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)'s Ministerial Conference on Ageing in September 2012 in Vienna, Austria, and the IAGG/WHO/SFGG workshop n°4 on "Human Rights" in October 2012 in Cape Town, South Africa.

The next Executive Committee will take place in Seoul on January 24, 2013 and on their behalf, we would like to extend our many thanks for the excellent cooperation we have enjoyed over the past year and we look forward to working together with you again in 2013. Please go to IAGG website http://www.iagg.info for more information about all these events.

Sincerely yours,

B VELLAS
IAGG President