

Welcome!

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the “IX International Meeting on Paracoccidioidomycosis”.

This Encounter, already traditional in the investigation area in Paracoccidioidomycosis, will propitiate the conviviality among specialists of the area, who will have the opportunity to report the latest progresses attained in their investigation lines. It will also provide the opportunity for interactions with international researchers who work in correlate pathologies, resulting in interactions that will provide new progresses and approaches for the study of the disease. The Encounter also foresees the participation of expressive number of postgraduates (MSc and PhD) and young researchers (Pos-Docs) who may leave the Encounter quite enriched for the development of their investigation projects and with their careers in science solidified.

Most of the program was based on suggestions sent by the Scientific and Organizing Committees and includes a broad range of topics relevant to the general theme “Paracoccidioidomycosis”. The Encounter contemplates several areas of investigation in mycosis: Human Immunology, Experimental Models; Immunological Diagnosis; Molecular and Microbiological Diagnosis, Clinical Treatment; Therapeutics, Vaccines, Cellular Biology of Fungi, Molecular Biology of Fungi, Ecology, Epidemiology and Other Endemic Mycoses. This multidisciplinary aspect is quite relevant for a more global and integrated understanding of the pathology, as well as for the development of new therapeutic and prophylactic measures.

At this meeting we wish to honor the name of **Professor Marcello F. Franco** who organized the first International Meetings on PCM and had the vision to congregate researchers from distinct areas to discuss Paracoccidioidomycosis in its multiples aspects. His enthusiastic behavior and constant incentive in parallel with his fundamental scientific contribution were fundamental to congregate “Paracoccidioidomycologists” and to promote relevant advances in this research area.

The organizing committee wishes to thank the Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP) and the Fundação Faculdade de Medicina in the name of Prof. Flávio Fava de Moraes for the financial support to produce this issue. We are also grateful to the Editorial Board of the Revista da Sociedade de Medicina Tropical, in the name of Prof. Thales de Brito, for editing this “Proceedings”.

We wish to thank the invited speakers for coming and all participants for helping with the success of this meeting. Finally, we express our gratitude to all funding agencies and companies for their financial support that have made this meeting possible.

We wish all participants a fruitful and enjoyable meeting.

Vera Lucia Garcia Calich
President
October, 2005

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Depto. de Imunologia, ICB-USP

Honor President

Marcello F. Franco,
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Paracoccidioidomycosis Picture:

Flavio de Queiroz Telles, MD, PhD

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