

# LatinCLEN holds VI Regional Meeting Update from CEU, University of Cauca, Colombia

After the historical INCLEN Global Meeting XVII in Thailand, LatinCLEN held its VI Regional Meeting last November 5-8, 2000. This was hosted by the Temuco CERT "CIGES" in Villarica, Región IX, Chile with the support of the following: INCLEN, Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO), the Health Minister of Chile, The Council on Health Research for Development (COHRED) and the Sociedad Médica Cautín. There were over 60 participants, consisting of LatinCLEN members as well as representatives from the government of Chile, PAHO, COHRED and funding agencies. The meeting program covered a broad range, with several workshops and free paper presentations.

Dr. Patricia Clark from Mexico, current LatinCLEN president, will be finishing her term as president in March 2001. Dr. Sergio Muñoz from Temuco, Chile will be the next president, and will assume responsibility until 2003. An executive committee was nominated to work with Dr. Muñoz during this period. The members are: Dr. Juan Manuel Lozano as vice-president, Dr. Evelina Chapman from Argentina, Dr. Eddy Rios from Bolivia, and Dr. Antonio Da Cunha from Brazil.

The CLEN has been very active in creating a scientific organizational structure that would facilitate networking across the region. During the regional meeting a full governing body was thus nominated to look after the legal, administrative and organizational aspects of the regional network.

A LatinCLEN workplan is already in place and implementation started in November 1999. The Executive Committee is currently drafting the document that will guide LatinCLEN on administrative and academic issues, as well as the legal aspects of the CLEN organization in the different countries. Preparations for the web page and communication system are ongoing as the CEU in Temuco takes over.

In the field of research, there are two interest groups working on regional and international collaborative initiatives. Pediatricians have formed one group and Dr. Antonio da Cunha presented the research projects of this group at the Global Meeting XVII. The other recently formed group is composed of gynecologists and health professionals interested in women health issues headed by Dr. Carlos Vallejos.

LatinCLEN has also joined COHRED's initiative to determine essential needs in health in Latin-American countries, review research achievements in the region and health programs and teaching by LatinCLEN during the last decade in the region.

We wish every CLEN the best for 2001.

*Patricia Clark*  
*LatinCLEN President*