Report of the site inspection of Buenos Aires for the 22nd IFOS Congress 2021

**Site Inspection Committee:**
Chong Sun Kim
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with spouses

Oct 31 - Nov 2, 2016

**Introduction**

The Federation of Argentinian ORL HNS Societies (F.A.S.O.) has officially applied for the Buenos Aires candidacy for the 22nd IFOS Congress 2021. The bid book contains all necessary documents to fulfil formal requirements for application acceptance.

During the Site inspection we have met Dr. Carlos Bocci (designated president of the Congress, Professor of Faculty of Medical Sciences of Buenos Aires University), Dr. Hector Ruis (designated vice-president, Secretary Press & Publications of the Pan American Association of ENT), Dr. Eduardo Busto, designated Scientific Committee President, Deputy Head of ENT service at Hospital Italiano of Buenos Aires, General Secretary: Dr. Leopoldo Cordero, Head of ENT at Cesar Milstein Hospital of the City of Buenos Aires, Joint General Secretary: Dr. Hugo Rodríguez Chief of Endoscopy at Juan Garraham National Hospital of Pediatrics. Proposed date for the IFOS Congress 2021 is Sunday 20th to Wednesday, June 24, 2021. This period of the year in Buenos Aires is autumn. Weather in this year period is very pleasant with temperature around 15°. Buenos Aires is the capital and the largest city of Argentina with 7.000.000 inhabitants. Inside the bid book there are letters of support from the NATIONAL MINISTRY OF TOURISM
NATIONAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES
ARGENTINE MEDICAL CONFEDERATION
M EDICINE SCHOOL OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES
ARGENTINE ASSOCIATION OF HEAD & NECK SURGERY
BOARD OF TOURISM OF THE CITY OF BUENOS AIRES
BUENOS AIRES CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

The site inspection visit took place during the period Oct. 31 - Nov. 2, 2016. The site visit was very well prepared with the focus on all aspects of the site visit manual. The previous IFOS congress in Argentina was organised in Buenos Aires in 1977, in the territory of Latin America in 2009 in Sao Paolo.
The Argentinian Federation of ENT Societies -F.A.S.O.-

The Argentinian Federation of ENT Societies -F.A.S.O.- is a Federal entity that gathers the Societies of the specialty all over the country. F.A.S.O. was founded in June 25th, 1947. It is a non-profit organization that aims the development of ENT in each and every aspect. There are active members of the following ENT societies of the Argentine Republic:

- Asociación de O.R.L. de la Ciudad de Bs. As.
- Club Otorrinolaringológico
- Asociación Bonaerense de O.R.L
- Sociedad de O.R.L. del Litoral
- Sociedad de O.R.L. de Córdoba
- Sociedad de O.R.L. de Mendoza
- Sociedad de O.R.L. de Salta
- Sociedad de O.R.L. de Corrientes
- Sociedad de O.R.L. de Tucumán
- Asociación Entrerriana de O.R.L.
- Sociedad de O.R.L. de Jujuy
- Sociedad de O.R.L. de San Juan
- Asociación Patagónica de O.R.L.
- Sociedad Argentina de ORL
- Asociación de ORL de Misiones.

Following are the subspeciality organizations: Association of the Facial Plasty surgery, Association of ORL and pediatric phonoaudiology, Argentinian Society of Voice, Laser Society, Smell and taste Society, Sleep Disorder Medicine, Phonoaudiologic Society.

There are approximately 3,000 otolaryngologists working in Argentina. More than 2200 are associated with different otorhinolaryngological societies. If Argentina is elected for the 2021 IFOS Congress they want to focus on professional training, continual medical education, young ENT colleagues, clinical guidelines of diagnosis and treatment, variable needs in the ENT care in different continents, innovation and development in diagnosis and treatment.

**Proposed presidium for the IFOS Congress 2021**

**President for the Congress: Dr. Carlos Boccio**
Professor of Faculty of Medical Sciences of Buenos Aires University

**Vice-president: Dr. Héctor Ruiz**
Secretary Press & Publications of the Pan American Association of ENT

**Scientific Committee President: Dr. Eduardo Busto**
Deputy Head of ENT service at Hospital Italiano of Buenos Aires

**General Secretary: Dr. Leopoldo Cordero**

Head of ENT at Cesar Milstein Hospital of the City of Buenos Aires.

**Joint General Secretary: Dr. Hugo Rodríguez**

Chief of Endoscopy at Juan Garrahan National Hospital of Pediatrics

**Support of the meeting**

The support for the IFOS Congress is demonstrated by the personal letters in the bid book from the National Ministry of Tourism, National Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education of the city of Buenos Aires, Argentine Medical Confederation, Medicine School of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentine Association of Head & Neck Surgery, Board of tourism of the City of Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires Convention & Visitors Bureau.

**PCO**

MCI Company was founded in 1986 and it specializes in organization of medical events. They are used to deliver medical and health-related information to medical professionals and the public. They have 60 offices all over the world, very close relation to media to realize promotion of the congress. They were fully involved in preparation of the bid-book, site visit inspection they cooperate with the F.A.S.O. in realising the bidding procedure for the IFOS Congress 2021. MCI Buenos Aires organised many international events, among them World Congress on Cardiology in 2008 for 17,000 participants, World Congress on Psychiatry in 2011 for 13,500 participants, International Congress on Pain in 2014 for 5,000 participants.

**Convention**

The Site inspection Committee has seen 3 convention areas in Buenos Aires: New Convention Center that will be completed at the end of this year. This Convention center is more suitable for exhibitions and trade. It has huge space for plenary and exhibition but not enough smaller conference rooms to run parallel sessions. The Convention Center in the Hilton Hotel is on the edge to accommodate expected number of participants for the IFOS World Congress. The most suitable Convention Center is in the Sheraton Hotel Buenos Aires. The meetings rooms are very flexible. The biggest room can accommodate 1245 participants. Altogether there are 18 parallel rooms. This congress center organised the Cardiologic event for 8,000 participants and many other events, approximately 30 a year. The most suitable combination is to run the Congress in the Sheraton Convention Center and the opening ceremony in the auditorium of the new Convention Center.
Hotels
Sheraton Buenos Aires – recommended Convention center - has around 1000 rooms available in a very acceptable rate for 170 USD per night without breakfast. Buenos Aires offers visitors excellent hotel accommodation with more than 50,000 rooms divided into 3, 4 and 5 stars hotels, a quantity which will be steadily increased year to year. And throughout the country, travellers can choose from top-class hotels to the homely simplicity of rustic mountain shelters.

Safety
Argentina and Buenos Aires are very safe. Unlike Sao Paolo you can walk freely in the streets of Buenos Aires without significant danger. Only few areas are not recommended to walk in the night. This information comes from our personal experience as well as from local citizens. The tradition of Argentina culture, education and respect are the reasons for friendly and respective behaviour. Majority of Argentinian citizens have Spanish or Italian origin, foreigner always feels warm hospitality and willingness to make his stay safe. The national language is Spanish but you can communicate in English in all hotels, major restaurants, tourist attraction etc.

Travelling
Entry to Argentina is very easy, many countries are eligible for visa exemptions for short-term stay. The PCO will be helpful to all participants form the countries Argentina is requiring visa to enter the country. The Buenos Aires International Airport “Ezeiza,” is the main international airport of Argentina, and is frequently an entry point to the country, then offering connecting flights to various regions. There are 31 international airline companies connecting Buenos Aires with the rest of the world servicing around 600 flights per week. Taxi fare is very reasonable even for longer distances at the level of Uber prices in Europe.

Social program
Opening ceremony, Faculty Dinner, Gala Dinner are planned for the social events during the world congress. There are several possibilities for Buenos Aires tours or local trips to Recoleta & Palermo (3 hours), San Telmo (3 hours), Art in Buenos Aires (3 hours) San Antonio de Areco (8 hours), Tigre, Delta & San Isidro (7 hours). Variety of post congress tours to Iguazu falls, Salta & Jujuy, Mendoza and Patagonia will be available.
Promotion
PCO MCI is very experienced company to realize promotion of the Congress. They have direct link to public media, press, TV, Radio. The promotion to attract attendees from all over the world will be prepared in case Buenos Aires will be chosen for the IFOS Congress 2021

Conclusion:
According to the resolution of the IFOS Executive Committee meeting in Paris, Oct 7, 2016 the Site inspection committee has declared Buenos Aires as the candidate city for the IFOS Congress 2021.

Buenos Aires, Nov 2, 2016

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