Prepare yourself for the Bogota Pan-American Congress - AUGUST 2015

Colombia is a special country in Latin America also known as República de Colombia, located in the northeast of South America. Bogotá is the capital and the country’s total population is 48.32 million (2013), having Spanish as its official language.

This destination can surprise visitors with the contrast of Caribbean beaches and historical past represented by numerous buildings and monuments. In Cartagena, a popular tourist destination, you can have both attractions in the same city. Hidden between walls, Cartagena, as one the colonial past of the region which earned it the title of World Heritage Site, brings together aromas and flavors that appeal to everyone and a coastline of colors. San Andrés, an island at 720 km off the Colombian coast, features beautiful white sand beaches.

Bogotá has the most important airport in the country with direct flights to and from various important international destinations. Visiting the Gold and Botero Museum is just fantastic and must be part of your agenda. The convention center, Corferias International Business and Exhibition Center, is the most complete in Bogotá. Very modern and strategically located, Corferias is the venue where the most impressive scientific program of the XXXI Pan American Congress is going to be held.

We expect around 3000 Ophthalmologists and more than 700 speakers from all around the world. This important event will take place on August 5 to 8 and 26 Affiliated National and 16 Subspecialty societies will be represented there. Among the many events that will take place there, I would like to point out The Summit of the Americas Meeting on Tuesday, August 4th from 9 am to 5 pm, were the Presidents of all National Societies will discuss their projects.

Social activities are also a promise of very good entertainment:
- Tuesday, August 4th, we will feature the Presidents Reception at the National Museum of Fine Arts;
- Wednesday, August 5th, will bring the Congress Opening Ceremony;
- Friday, August 7th, we will have a ticketed dinner at Andrés Carne de Rés, a Pan-American Foundation Fund Raising event in order to implement educational activities.

The mission of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology - the prevention of blindness through lifelong education and cultural exchange among ophthalmologists in the Western Hemisphere - will be easily achieved with the success of this event. We count on your participation!

Ana Luisa Hofling-Lima
President of the Pan-American Association of Ophthalmology 2013-2015