

**Short report on Collegium Ramazzini activities in Asia  
November - December 2007**

***Breve resoconto delle attività del Collegium Ramazzini in Asia  
novembre - dicembre 2007***

Led by President Landrigan and Secretary General Soffritti, the Collegium Ramazzini held a satellite meeting in Bangkok, Thailand on November 30<sup>th</sup> - December 1<sup>st</sup> 2007, following the Sixth Princess Chulaborn International Science Congress. This smaller meeting was held at the

Chulaborn Research Institute. In addition to the Princess, the main organizer was the Collegium Fellow, Dr Mathuras Ruchirawat.

Among the Fellows presenting and/or chairing sessions were Doctors Philip Landrigan, Morando Soffritti, William Suk, Jenny Pronczuk, Zhao-lin



Participants at the Collegium Ramazzini Satellite Workshop “Occupational and Environmental Health in the Asia/Pacific Region”, Bangkok, Thailand, 30th November-1st December 2007, attended by almost 200 people from 20 different countries, many of whom were Fellows of the Collegium Ramazzini

Xia, Joseph Graziano, William Au, Melissa McDiarmid, Arthur Frank, Barry Castleman, Tushar Kant Joshi, Myron Mehlman, Anna Tompa and Mathuras Ruchirawat. A wide variety of topics were covered including children's environmental health, air pollution, pesticides and food additives, women's health, asbestos, and benzene.

In addition to this satellite meeting in Bangkok, additional activities took place in Asia soon thereafter. After their attendance in Bangkok, Fellows T.K. Joshi, Barry Castleman and Arthur Frank continued on to India for additional activities. Doctors Joshi and Frank visited with Collegium Ramazzini Fellow Dr Usha K. Misra in Lucknow and spoke on occupational health issues with the faculty and house officers in the neurology programme at the Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medicine (SGPGI). Dr Misra hosted the visit which also included clinical interactions. Doctors Joshi and Frank also visited the Integral University in Lucknow and spoke there on Collegium Ramazzini topics and consulted on future joint activities.

After Lucknow, Doctors Joshi, Castleman and Frank were the guests of the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant (RINL - Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited) at Vishakhapatnam, in the southern Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, and attended and lectured at the joint labour-management safety meeting of the Indian steel industry. Topics covered included nanotechnology, asbestos, sources of information and hearing loss.

Returning to Delhi, these three were joined by Collegium Ramazzini Fellow Dr Carol Rice, and all

spoke at the "Workshop on Building a Sustainable, Productive and Healthy Work Place with Occupational Health" organized by the Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health of the Maulana Azad Medical College. The Collegium Ramazzini was listed as an associate of this activity. This workshop was held as part of the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Maulana Azad. Arthur Frank also was asked to speak at the Department of Medicine Continuing Medical Education programme held at the same time.

Dr Joshi is planning for 2009 a Collegium Ramazzini-sponsored meeting in India to further the development of occupational medicine knowledge in this country where few physicians have such information. His programme at Maulana Azad is the only academic programme in occupational medicine at the over 250 medical schools in India. With excellent support by his Dean, Dr A.K. Agarwal, a noted ENT surgeon with interest in noise-induced hearing loss, T.K. Joshi is trying to expand his centre's activities, including establishing a dedicated clinic facility to examine injured workers.

Taken together, it is clear that the Collegium Ramazzini is well represented in India and that interactions from Fellows from around the world add to the luster of the programme in this fast developing country.

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