Latin American Program of Semen Analysis Standardization (PLEAS)

Academic report

The XXI Meeting of the Association of Latin American Researchers on Human Reproduction (ALIRH) was conducted in Sao Paulo-Brazil between April 22 and April 24, 2009. During this meeting, took place a special Symposium entitled “Latin American Program of Semen Analysis Standardization”, dedicated to the presentation of the Programme. Speakers from PLEAS presented lectures about relevant topics on the diagnosis of male fertility. The International Society of Andrology (ISA) partially supported five of the speakers.

The topics for lectures and dissertations were i) The creation of the Latin-American Program for the Standardization of the Seminal Analysis, by Luis Sarabia (Chile); ii) Prevalence and different exposure levels to agropesticides in banana field workers and its association with azoosperm and oligozoosperm in Eastern Nicaragua during 2003-2004, by Edgar Peña (Nicaragua), iii) Vitrification of human spermatozoa: a comparison of -196 ºC and at -80 ºC storing, by Mabel Schulz (Chile), iv) Personnel training and quality control in the fertility laboratory, by Carla Gonzales (Perú) and v) The organization of training courses for the basic semen analysis in unifying criteria and getting comparable results: European experience in standardization, by María Jose Munuce (Argentina).

PLEAS also presented a symposium entitled “Latin American Program of Semen Analysis Standardization” during the XXI ALIRH Meeting. In this scientific reunion, members of ALIRH and PLEAS agreed that PLEAS should embark on an extensive project in collaboration with all Latin American countries to ensure that every laboratory in the continent would conduct their semen analyses (seminography) using the standardized procedures presented in the fifth edition of the World Health Organization (WHO) Laboratory Manual for the Examination of Human Semen and Sperm-Cervical Mucus Interaction, thereby assuring quality and comparability among all countries in Latin America.
During this meeting, we planned to organize the first consensus workshop with specialists from various Latin American regions to discuss the new recommendations and then disseminate the best-practice diagnostic techniques described in the 2009 WHO manual on semen analysis. We planned to establish a multicenter team of specialists in charge of monitoring, supervising, and assisting all laboratories that request support from PLEAS. The needed support might consist of remote or in-person assistance such as training laboratory personnel for laboratory accreditation, according to the needs of each case.

We also met with Dr. Enrique Ezcurra, on behalf of the WHO, and postulated Chile for conducting the first workshop and being the country to receive the experts in this field on March 11th to 13th, 2010 (the official WHO approval was released by the Americas Regional Advisory Panel in Puebla, Mexico, on August 31- September 4, 2009).
Meeting of the Association of Latin American Researchers on Human Reproduction (ALIRH) in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

On behalf of PLEAS and our 5 collaborators who received the economical support of ISA for their assistance to the previously mentioned meeting, I would like to express my sincere gratefulness.

Prof. Luis Sarabia Villar
President of PLEAS – Faculty Member, University of Chile
Latin American Program of Semen Analysis Standardization (LAPSAS)

Av. Independencia 1027, casilla 70079 correo 7
Santiago-CHILE –
Fono: 56-2 - 9786905 – Fax: 56-2 - 7373158
lsarabia@med.uchile.cl