

## Pelviperrineology in Latin America

We thank the editors for this invitation to provide a short snapshot of Pelviperrineology in Latin America. It can be described in one word, *vital*. Certainly there are large numbers of patients, potentially 620, million! Certainly there is a major lack of financial and logistic resources, insufficient doctors in some of the countries, even vital medicines in some. Far from acting as a hindrance, these conditions have inspired the Latin American doctors to become widely open to technology which can assist their patients. Nowhere is the saying "*Necessity is the mother of invention*" more applicable than in Latin America. Many of the new minimally invasive vaginal procedures have been invented or modified to suit these conditions. Dedicated university units act as a focus to teach new effective methods all over Latin America. Teaching is by small to medium meetings held regularly in many different countries, too numerous to list here. The Internet has been widely and intelligently applied. The "Global Pelvic Network" using "Whats app" is but one example. Large numbers of questions are asked covering all parts of Pelviperrineology, by Urologists, Gynecologists, Coloproctologists and others *on a daily basis*. Amazingly, these discussions initiated for Latin American surgeons, are now being joined by experts from North America, Europe, Oceania, Asia, many of international stature. This learning/teaching innovation is unique. It was inspired and initiated by the University of Campinas, a true leader in pelvic floor innovation world-wide.

The yearly meetings of ALAPP, the Latin American Pelvic Floor Society are of a very high standard and are widely attended. The 2017 meeting featured a large number of highly instructive practical workshops, cutting edge lectures on chronic pelvic pain, gender assignment, Integral Theory, delivered by local and international experts, all of whom paid their own way to the conference. This is a deliberate policy of ALAPP, brought in to avoid the bias which commercially endorsed lectures often bring. Some 75 abstracts were presented and a selection of these were published in Pelviperrineology Journal.

We cordially invite all readers of Pelviperrineology to the upcoming ALAPP meeting in Mexico City 28<sup>th</sup> February to 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.

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The banner features a green and orange color scheme. On the left, it lists three congresses: '3° Congreso Internacional de la Asociación Latinoamericana de Piso Pélvico', '29° Congreso de la Sociedad Mexicana de Urología Ginecológica (SMUG)', and 'Congreso Regional del Colegio Mexicano de Especialistas en Coloproctología'. The center contains the ALAPP logo, a stylized orange and green circle, and the text 'EN PISO PÉLVICO LA RESPUESTA ES ALAPP CIUDAD DE MÉXICO • 2018'. On the right, there is a silhouette of a person's head and neck with a hand pointing to a glowing spot, and the text 'Ciudad de México Capital del Piso Pélvico 2018'. The bottom section is a solid orange bar with white text: '3° Congreso Internacional ALAPP', '29° Congreso de la SMUG', 'Congreso Regional del Colegio Mexicano de Especialistas en Coloproctología', and 'México, 28 de Febrero al 3 de Marzo de 2018'.