



BUENOS AIRES 2-6 NOVEMBER 2018 WELCOME ADDRESS

On behalf of the Scientific Committee and the Local Organizing Committee, it is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the 25th WPATH Scientific Symposium in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We are excited and honoured to host our WPATH Symposium for the first time in Latin America, and hope to establish longstanding strong relationships with professionals working in transgender healthcare as well as the trans community.

Only last year the WPATH Board of Directors gathered in Sao Paulo, Brazil to show support and provide resources for the set up of a professional association for transgender health. We hope that other countries in Latin America will follow this initiative, which will not only strengthen the visibility of trans people, but also highlight the need for appropriate clinical services to be made available and concomitant financial resources to be allocated by respective governments for the benefit of trans people and their families of choice.

This year's Symposium is entitled "***Achieving Excellence in Transgender Healthcare Across the Lifespan: From Evidence to Clinical Practice***". This symposium is dedicated to training professionals in the field, and to the dissemination of scientific research and clinical practice. It offers a forum to present recently published and new data, and WPATH especially wishes to motivate young researchers to participate. The conference is also a place to network and set up new collaborations, particularly within Latin America. There are a number of world renowned key note speakers, including Tamara Adrian and Sam Winter; and there are State-of-the-art reviews in key areas, such as mental health, endocrinology, surgery and law. The WPATH Lifetime achievement awards for scientific achievement and service to WPATH will be a plenary event indicating its importance, and highlighted with an introduction of the recipient followed by a lecture of each recipient.

Furthermore, we are very proud to host a wide variation of oral presentations, more than two hundred poster presentations and many multidisciplinary mini-symposia. We think this is a clear sign of a global and growing interest in the field of transgender health (in its broadest sense).

Visitors to Buenos Aires will immediately fall in love with this beautiful city, which is often referred to as the Paris of South America. Buenos Aires has always enjoyed close links with Europe. Waves of Italian immigrants populated the port city in the 19th and 20th centuries and much of its resplendent architecture echoes trends from the other side of the Atlantic. There are numerous reasons to visit one of the most exciting and beautiful cities in Latin America, which include tango, its restaurants, Evita, its belle époque architecture, football, and many many other things. Argentina produces some of the superb world-famous wines.

Argentina as a country is vast and varied with terrain encompassing Andes mountains, glacial lakes and Pampas grassland, the traditional grazing ground of its famed beef cattle. If you have some additional time to discover the country consider visiting Iguazu national Park, famous for its rainforest, wildlife and the Iguazu waterfalls; or Bariloche known for its Swiss alpine-style architecture (and skiing) and its chocolate; or Ushuaia located on the Tierra del Fuego archipelago, the southernmost tip of Latin America, nicknamed the “End of the World.”; or Salta, known for its Spanish colonial architecture and Andean heritage; or Mendoza, the heart of Argentina’s wine country, famed for Malbecs and other red wines. Whatever you chose, you will have an amazing time and undoubtedly will want to return to Argentina!

We look forward to welcoming you to Buenos Aires and hope you will experience a wonderful and interesting symposium.

Regards,

Walter Pierre Bouman, MD, PhD – Co-Chair

Jon Arcelus, MD, PhD- Co-Chair

Gail Knudson, MD, FRCPC – Co-Chair

Javier Belinky, MD - Chair of Local Organizing Committee