

Toledo Medical Prestige Increased

Recognition Won At Caracas Meeting

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Toledo scored two pluses and a minus in prestige within the world medical community this month at a 21-nation medical congress in Caracas, Venezuela.

The first plus: Teaching systems in anatomy being instituted at the new Medical College of Ohio and methods to be used here in evaluating students were adopted as recommended standards to be used by all developing medical schools in the Western Hemisphere.

The second was the election of Dr. Liberato J. A. DiDio, chairman of the anatomy department at the medical college, as president of the Pan American Association of Anatomy for a three-year term. The PAAA is made up of practicing physicians and dentists, physical anthropologists, veterinarians, anatomists, and educators in that field from virtually every medical school in every Western Hemisphere nation except Cuba and Uruguay.

The prestige loss came when Toledo lost out to New Orleans as the site for the association's Third Pan American Congress of Anatomy in 1972.

Policy Followed

In keeping with policy set at the organization's first congress in Mexico City, Dr. DeDio's election as president meant the next session would be held in the United States — where he lives. It is expected to be the largest ever held by the organization, the world's largest anatomical society, simply because it will be held in the United States.

Dr. DiDio proposed that the congress be held here. Most Latin American delegates were intrigued by the name Toledo — probably because they associated it with Toledo, Spain. The Latin Americans comprised a majority at this month's session in Caracas and were ready to vote to hold the 1972 meeting here.

But, according to Dr. DiDio, there was no way to overcome the city's lack of a convention center, an international airport to provide direct flights and custom's processing for the foreign visitors, and centralized hotel and meeting rooms for the 1,800 persons expected to attend.

Some of the Central American delegates then proposed that the convention be held in a city in the southern part of the United States, noting that flights to such cities would be about \$100 less than to Toledo. In this way, they reasoned, the medical schools and hospitals would have more funds available to send more representatives.

New Orleans Chosen

New Orleans delegates volunteered to host the convention. The city has a convention center, a new large downtown hotel capable of handling the expected crowd and an international airport.

The vote to go to New Orleans in 1972 was unanimous.

Having lost his first battle as president of the association, Dr. DiDio still has other plans for Toledo. He already is planning two or three international symposiums for the city during his three-year term.

These symposiums, to discuss specific phases of anatomical progress would bring between

50 and 100 of the hemisphere's top experts in the subject being discussed to Toledo.

Symposiums he is planning include modern trends in medical education, neurobiology, biology of reproduction and genetics, and lymphoid tissues.

Roles For TU, BGSU

He said he will ask the medical college to sponsor the symposiums and he noted that the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University also might play major roles.

Looking ahead, Dr. DiDio said that next year when the World Congress of Anatomy meets in Leningrad, he will attempt to obtain either the 1975 or 1980 sessions for Toledo.

To its advantage, he said, will be the fact that Toledo will have its own relatively new medical school, and is located in the center of five major medical education centers — Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Ann Arbor, and Detroit.

Prestige of the new Toledo school took a giant step during the congress when the teaching systems and student evaluation methods being instituted in Dr. DeDio's department were adopted as the standards for all developing medical schools in the hemisphere.

Paper Delivered

Dr. DiDio, a native of Brazil and one of the founders of the Pan American association three years ago, delivered a paper on those topics on behalf of the American Association of Anatomists.

He based the paper on the methods being instituted in his department. His recommendations were adopted unanimously as recommended standards for

developing anatomy departments.

Dr. DiDio said the teaching method being instituted here that drew the most comment was the "computerized exam."

He gave such an examination to doctors at the Caracas congress, the first time any had taken or seen one.

Aid To Teachers

The use of computers in giving examinations helps the teacher learn not only which students pass or fail, he said, but also helps him learn which questions need to be eliminated. If all of the students get a certain question wrong, for example, Dr. DeDio said, the computer easily points this out.

It may tell the teacher that the question is faulty or perhaps that he had failed to convey a necessary bit of information to the students during his lecture.

A drawback to such examinations is that they are expensive and require the use of a computer center, but he said plans to use them in his class as often as he is able to obtain the college's computers. He did note that some medical tests cannot be computerized.