Medical Students Worldwide

fighting for human rights & peace

quality of life & public health

student advocacy

welcome to our world

providing knowledge & skills

human relations & reproductive health

Annual Report 2003-2004

International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations
The International Federation of Medical Students' Associations is an independent, non-political federation of 95 national associations of medical students. It was founded in 1951 as a result of the post-war wave of friendship spirit among international students. The IFMSA affiliated to the United Nations system and has since 1969 been recognised by the World Health Organization as the official international forum for international medical students.
IFMSA Mission Statement

“Our mission is to offer future physicians a comprehensive introduction to global health issues. Through our programming and opportunities, we develop culturally sensitive students of medicine, intent on influencing the transnational inequalities that shape the health of our planet.”

From the Editor

there is no drug...

Gabriel García Márquez writes in the “Love in the Time of Cholera”: “There is no drug which can cure what cannot be cured by bliss…” The IFMSA, a member of the global citizens’ society, looks at how medical students and future doctors can make the world a better place. It consists of medics who believe that their scientific knowledge and skills can contribute to the improvement of human life. Medical students worldwide do not have the political and financial power to remodel health systems, to change the orientation of pharmaceutical companies or to eradicate the diseases, scourging human communities. Nevertheless, the world is changing all the time and it will change whether we want it to or not. Thus it is worth adding our voice and our efforts to make the right changes happen. Since 1951 the IFMSA has been trying to meet local health needs. The purpose of hundreds of initiatives, which have been organised by medics worldwide, illustrates clearly the efforts to improve human quality of life. We are not able to produce drugs. We struggle to contribute to human bliss…The report that follows is a brief summary of the huge volume of work that the federation and its national member organizations have undertaken over the past year.

Panagiotis Alexopoulos (Greece), Director
IFMSA Support Division of Publications
publications@ifmsa.org
Welcome to our World!

The academic year 2003-04 has seen the IFMSA grow in strength around the world. Our expertise remains in providing a global network linking active medical students and international health bodies. This year, steps have also been taken towards a more stable organisation, in terms of resources and planning.

A Truly Global Network
The IFMSA was for many years an essentially Eurocentric organisation. Happily, this is no longer the case and, we are proud to have members in more than 90 countries on five continents.

This year has seen significant progress in all regions. A hugely successful Asian Regional Meeting in Malaysia was testament to the growing strength of this region. IFMSA- Africa is currently working hard to realise its first Regional Meeting in December 2004, a project that has drawn the attention of Dr. Ebrahim Samba, the Regional Director for Africa of the World Health Organisation. We also celebrated the largest-ever representation of countries of the Americas at the IFMSA March Meeting in Venezuela. We have continued to strengthen the process of regionalisation in the IFMSA, empowering the Regional Coordinators and providing them with more resources for their important work supporting active medical students everywhere.

Evaluating future physicians, aware of international health challenges
Our mission is to educate and train our members to meet the current and future challenges of health on our planet. This year, we have instigated a theme for our General Assemblies, to ensure a high-quality educational experience for all participants. The first such theme, ‘Violence and Health’ runs through prestigious speakers, workshops and a week-long multi-media exhibition and is integrated into the work of the committees.

Building Capacity
To build leadership capacity in our member organisations, we have initiated a bi-annual Presidents’ Workshop, with up to 50 member organisation leaders participating. Three days of high-level training and sharing their experiences equips them with the skills and knowledge that they need to help their member organisations grow stronger and more effective. As they graduate, many of these highly motivated young people are sure to take other leadership roles in healthcare.

Profile
IFMSA’s profile has been raised by forging a partnership with the StudentBMJ, a unique and popular journal for medical students with a large web presence. A monthly editorial updates readers about IFMSA. Members’ demands for more marketing tools were met with the production of eye-catching posters, leaflets and t-shirts. A large print run of the Annual Report, as well as the publishing of the two new editions of the Medical Student International Magazine which are focused on the thorny issues of violence and anti tobacco were also useful to increase our profile.

The Future of Health Care
The year was an exciting one for cooperation between health care students, as plans were laid for the first international symposium for pharmacy, medical and nursing students, to be held in Malta in 2005. Known as WorldMaps, the event will explore the challenge of inter-disciplinary work in the future of healthcare. We are proud that our students are motivated to overcome traditional barriers between professions and tackle this crucial issue.

Recognition and Representation
The IFMSA continues to have close links with the major players in global health. A streamlined system of Liaison Officers has made it easier to coordinate relationships with our partners. Collaboration with the World Health Organisation has been particularly good this year, in fields including Violence and Injury Prevention, Ageing and Health and Stop TB. As the voice of medical students, we have seen a number of successes. The IFMSA was represented by Alia Shkiri on a youth committee advising the Director of the UNFPA. In Europe, our Regional Coordinator, Elina Papadopoulou, was elected to the European Union Affairs Commission of the European Youth Forum, ensuring that the IFMSA is closely involved in the policy of this important youth body over the next three years. The World Medical Association’s continuing support, both material and moral, is invaluable.

Resources
A number of initiatives sought to increase financial resources for IFMSA at all levels. The new International Opportunities Team identifies and profiles suitable sources and makes them accessible to all through a grants database. A Sponsorship Team worked on raising money for IFMSA from corporate sponsors, with some considerable success and a lot of useful lessons learned. Network
national-level fundraisers have allowed them to share their knowledge and experience. For the first time, two Executive Board members (President and Secretary General) were based all year at the IFMSA General Secretariat, just outside Geneva.

**Setting the agenda**
A democratic organisation like ours should have its agenda set by its members. In addition, medium-term goals and objectives are likely to increase the organisations’ effectiveness when the leadership is changing every year. For the first time this year, around 300 participants of the General Assembly were surveyed in an attempt to gather input for a direction-setting paper for next year’s team. This paper was accepted by the General Assembly in Ohrid, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. We hope that this process, with improvement over time, will allow members to more directly guide the direction of IFMSA over the years. Until now, their influence has been exercised indirectly, through the election of the Executive Board and Officials.

**A Global Community with a Vision for Global Health**
On all levels, our work is voluntary and often involves significant personal and financial sacrifices. The IFMSA Officials 2003-2004, coming from 25 different countries, have shown once again what young people can achieve through passion, commitment and a vision of a healthier future for all people across the globe!

**Financial Report**
2002-2003

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**Assets**
All Figures are in EURO

- Cash and Cash Equivalents: 172,787,85
- Grands Receivable: 54,348,75
- Prepaid Expense: 0,00
- Total Assets: 227,136,60

**Liabilities**
All Figures are in EURO

- Accounts Payable: 61,974,13
- Accrued Liabilities: 44,814,91
- Deferred Liabilities: 68,936,18
- Total Liabilities: 176,725,22

**Net Assets (Fund Balance)**: 50,411,38

**Revenues**
All Figures are in EURO

- Government Grants: 7,500,00
- Membership Fees: 56,692,90
- Sales of Marketing Products: 731,09
- Financial Income (Interest & Fees): 3,596,64
- Other Income: 347,96
- Total Income: 68,868,59

**Expenses**
All Figures are in EURO

- Exchange Programmes: 7,366,93
- Health Programmes: 3,103,16
- Education & Society Programmes: 5,789,90
- Training Program: 786,26
- Management & General: 37,207,59
- Total Expenses: 54,253,84

**Increase in Net Assets**: 14,614,75
EXECUTIVE BOARD
President - Emily Spry, United Kingdom
Secretary General - Guillermo Martinez Bustamante, Mexico
Vice President for Internal Affairs - Rosa Isabel Escamilla Bran, Guatemala
Vice President for External Affairs - Konstantinos Stellos, Greece
Treasurer - Fransisco Oviedo Gomez, Costa Rica

STANDING COMMITTEES
Director, Standing Committee On Medical Education (SCOME) - Hans Jacob Westbye, Norway
Director, Standing Committee On Professional Exchange (SCOPE) - Stephanie Boettcher, Germany
Director, Standing Committee On Public Health (SCOPH) - Victoria Lee, Canada
Director, Standing Committee On Reproductive Health & AIDS (SCORA) - Adi Ovadia, Israel
Director, Standing Committee On Research Exchange (SCORE) - Fatma Odaymat, Lebanon

SUPPORT DIVISIONS
Director, New Technologies Support Division - Benedict Vella Briffa, MMSA, Malta
Director, Projects Support Division - Mania Misirli, HelMSIC, Greece (Resigned from office in July 2004)
Directors, Training Support Division - Hai Hua Chuang, Taiwan
Allan Buus Jensen, Denmark
Directors, Division of Publications - Panagiotis (Panos) Alexopoulos, Greece
Masha Sukunda, Slovenia

LIAISON OFFICERS
Liaison Officer, World Health Organization - Mladen Milovanovic, Sweden
Liaison Officer, World Medical Association - Emily Spry, United Kingdom
Liaison Officer, United Nations Educational, Social, and Cultural Organization - Andreas Rudkjøbing, Denmark
Liaison Officer, Medical Education Issues - Oezgur Onur, Germany
Liaison Officer, Public Health Issues - Colin Brown, United Kingdom
Liaison Officer, Refugees and Peace Issues - Raj Panjabi, USA
Liaison Officer, Sexual and Reproductive Health Issues, including AIDS - Alia Skhiri, Tunisia
Liaison Officer, Student Organisations - Albert Manasyan, Armenia

REGIONAL COORDINATORS
Regional Coordinator of Africa - Joseph Ayew Afriye
Regional Coordinator of the Americas - Rodrigo Tenze Epperson
Regional Coordinator of Asia and Oceania - Utchariya (DeeDee) Anantamongkol
Regional Coordinator of Eastern Mediterranean - Zied Mhrisi, Tunisia
Regional Coordinator of Europe and Central Asia - Stella Leda (Elina) Papadopoulou, Greece

INITIATIVE COORDINATORS
Coordinator, Implementation of Interaction Method Initiative - Ben Geisler, Germany
Gesthimani (Gefsi) Mintziori, Greece

SUPERVISING COUNCIL
Yu-Chen (Tony) Tsai, Taiwan
Felix Lorang, Germany
Youri Yordanov, France
Nikola Borojevic, Croatia
Marta Ocampo Fontangordo, Spain

Members of the IFMSA international team and members of the Hellenic Medical Students’ International Committee at the reception of the IFMSA international team at the first officials’ meeting of the academic year 2003-2004 (Thessaloniki, Greece, October 2004).
Training has been one of the biggest areas of work in the IFMSA. 16 new student trainers from all over the world, several experienced current and ex-officers of the organization, together with the two Training Directors took the Training Support Division to new heights during the academic 2003-04.

During the year, the Training Support Division worked on establishing a professional training team for the IFMSA, on making training a well established and recognized idea within all IFMSA member organizations. The division also provided training, not only to medical students who attended international meetings, but also to medical students who were actively involved in regional, national, and local activities.

Trying to reach the above mentioned goals, we managed to move forward. Firstly, launched in September 2003, the Training Forum aims to provide a platform for all IFMSA trainers to exchange their ideas, skills, and experience to run high-quality training sessions. Different topics are released monthly and their discussion summaries are sent to relevant mailing servers.

Short sentences on the key ideas within certain topics such as teambuilding, strategic planning, financial management, and project cycles, called Training Tips, have been sent to the general mailing server of the IFMSA every two weeks.

Based on the successful experiences from his period at office, Tim Rittman (United Kingdom), the former Training Director of the IFMSA organized the Training New Trainers Workshop in August 2004. 16 participants not only developed their skills of leadership and administration, but also acquired the necessary knowledge in order to serve their national organizations or the IFMSA as trainers.

Last but not least the Training Support Division served the IFMSA members by providing Training Programs during the March and August Meetings 2004. All sessions were categorized into level 1, 2, or 3. Therefore, all the delegates chose to attend the sessions which best met their needs, in order to broaden their horizons and exceed their capacities!

Allan Buus Jensen (Denmark), Director
Hai-Hua Chuang (Taiwan), Director
IFMSA Training Support Division
training@ifmsa.org

2003-04 has been a great year for the IFMSA Alumni Division, and we have a lot to celebrate. Our mission is to use the talents and resources of IFMSA alumni and friends to support IFMSA and enrich the lives of alumni worldwide.

We worked together with the IFMSA New Technologies Support Division in 2003-04 to create a new attractive website for our alumni. Judging by feedback and traffic statistics, alumni are finding it worth their while to visit the site and increasing numbers are taking the time to do so. Besides our website, alumni mailing lists are important tools for communication within the alumni community. All IFMSA alumni are welcome to join the IFMSA Alumni mailing list at ifmsa-alumni@yahooogroups.com. Numerous IFMSA Alumni are registered in the alumni database, available to former IFMSA members online. This database is an important tool for IFMSA to keep track of its Alumni and to keep in contact with its friends worldwide. In 2003-04 the number of registered alumni in the database has grown by 62% compared to last year.

The IFMSA Alumni Relations Support Division organizes alumni gatherings around the world and fundraising receptions. During 2003-04 an “Alumni Reunion” took place in Chicago, USA. The first IFMSA Alumni Reception took place during the General Assembly Meeting in Ohrid, FYROM in August 2004.

Continuity is one of IFMSA biggest challenges. To address these challenges, this year we established the IFMSA Council of Advisors as one mechanism for addressing these challenges - and as a means for involving IFMSA Alumni in the work of IFMSA at the international level.

All in all, we believe that the IFMSA Alumni Relations Support Division moved forward during the academic year 2003-04.

Jana Myndiukova (Slovakia), Director
IFMSA Alumni Relations Support Division
alumni@ifmsa.org

Alumni reception, Ohrid, FYROM, 2004
Introduction
The mission of the Standing Committee on Medical Education (SCOME) is to create an international forum where students involved in medical education issues can exchange ideas and experiences. Training in various topics is also given to keep the members up-to-date with advances in medical education. In 2004 the SCOME arranged two international workshops on the development of the Bologna process and two international training workshops.

The Bologna process and the implications for medical education have been central during this year. Working together with the European Medical Students Association, the SCOME has arranged two workshops on the subject. As a result, a policy statement reflecting European medical students’ opinions has been produced.

An international team was created to achieve one of the goals for the academic year 2003-2004: to include and recruit more people to work on an international level. New methods were tested, like the article review group. This group writes summaries of articles that are relevant for medical education and sends these to the rest of the SCOME.

The SCOME has continued to work closely with the World Federation of Medical Education (WFME) and the Association for Medical Education in Europe (AMEE) this year through the Liaison Officer Oezgu Orun. In September 2004 the SCOME contributed to a pre-conference workshop for students at AMEE's annual meeting.

All in all, the academic year 2003-04 was a step forward for international medical education issues!

Hans Jacob Westbye (Norway), Director, IFMSA Standing Committee on Medical Education scomed@ifmsa.org

Projects & Activities
ASPIIS
The Awareness Strategies for Pollution from Industries (ASPIIS—Ancient Greek world for “shield”) started as a European Project and has resulted in a cluster of projects (ASPIIS I and ASPIIS II) with the aim of informing and raising awareness of decision makers about environmental issues (civil servants, engineers, medics, lawyers and journalists).

With the participation of medical students from different countries in all stages of the project, ASPIIS has aimed not only to inform young health professionals about current health-related environmental issues, but also to promote seminars and round table discussions about the future implications of human activity on health, and to motivate medics towards the prevention of environmental induced disease.

In the academic year 2003-04 a new elective course was launched at the University of Athens, Greece. Its title is “Environmental Effects from the pollution based in pathology”. During the course participants worked on specific topics within environmental health. ASPIIS’s greatest event was the seminar that took place on Kos Island, Greece (3rd-6th May 2004). The title of the seminar was ‘Mobility and health’. For further information contact the coordinators: aspis@ath.forthnet.gr

“In Bologna who?”
The Bologna process is moving to harmonise higher education across Europe, thus increasing student mobility for Europeans and non-Europeans. However, hardly anyone has the effect that the reforms could have on medical education. In February 2004 medical students from all over Europe met in Ljubljana, Slovenia to hear the situation and consider the issues. They came away well-informed and with some pretty strong opinions. For further details contact: scomed@ifmsa.org

Health Exchange Project
The Health Exchange Project is run by the German Medical Students’ Association (GeMSA), Germany. The project is an attempt to bring students from India and Germany together to work in cooperation with a non-governmental organization from the area to explore ways of integrating traditional and allopathic practices, to gain knowledge of development projects and improving health care systems.

The coordinators propose to deliver appropriate health care in exchange for indigenous knowledge of traditional healing techniques. Data on indigenous health care techniques will be collected, and they hope finally to establish an institute for traditional healing in Uttaranchal. Target areas will be remote villages presently not accessed by allopathic medicine or governmental “health camps”. They plan to work from the beginning with two mobile units moving in a fortnightly rotation from village to village. In addition to the medical staff consisting of two physicians, a traditional specialist and health workers, there will be at least one anthropologist (student) participating and interviewing the people after they receive of medical treatment. The State Government already operates “Health Camps”, which are limited in scope and stick to the main roads.

The aim of the coordinators is to reach more remote villages. For further information contact the coordinators: Doreen.Montag@campus.lmu.de

Influence of Studies on Students’ Health
Influence of Studies on Students’ Health is a transnational project run by the IFMSA - Croatia, Croatia, which takes place in Croatia, Egypt, Estonia, Germany, France, Serbia and Montenegro, in the Republic of Srpska and in Romania. The project aims to establish the level of correlation between countries, types of education and forms of studies in relation to stress related diseases. The project is based on a 25- question survey. The results are statistically analysed and compared to other countries involved. They can be used to help change medical curricula and improve education, introduce the need for stress management at medical faculties as well as encourage the pro-active approach of medical students on student issues. The results suggest high levels of stress, and therefore Stress and Time management courses for interested students will be organised. For further information visit: www.cromsic.hr/eng/glavna.htm

International Standards on Medical Education
The International Standards on Medical Education is a transnational project organized by the Turkish Medical Students’ International Committee (TurkMSIC), Turkey and by the Egyptian Medical Students’ Association (EMSA), Egypt. The central goal of the project is to achieve changes in medical education. The initiatives may come from students or administrative bodies. The aim of this project is to promote amongst both parties to make the necessary changes for implementing of international standards. It has been promoted in Turkish medical schools, in Egyptian universities, as well as in the international meetings of the IFMSA, so that international medical students are motivated to get involved and disseminate the report of the World Federation for Medical Education, highlighting the necessity of making medical students familiar with internationalization and international standards in medical education. For further information email: nergizdagoglu@hotmail.com,
also potential leaders in their communities and countries. For further information visit: www.trd.gemsia.info

International Standards on Medical Education

The International Standards on Medical Education is a transnational project organized by the Turkish Medical Students’ International Committee (TurkMSIC), Turkey and by the Egyptian Medical Students’ Association (EMSA), Egypt. The central goal of the project is to achieve changes in medical education to meet international standards. The initiatives may come from students or administrative bodies. It has been promoted in Turkish medical schools, in Egyptian universities, as well as in the international meetings of the IFMSA, so that international medical students are motivated to get involved and disseminate the report of the World Federation for Medical Education, highlighting the necessity of making medical students familiar with internationalization and international standards in medical education. For further information contact the coordinators: rbarn@xnet.ro

Margaret

This transnational project is coordinated by the Hellenic Medical Students’ Committee (HeLMMSIC), Greece. The goals of the project are to make medics understand general public health matters, to serve local and scientific communities, as well as to help participants to acquire nursing and clinical skills. It consists of six peripheral initiatives:

Training in communications skills: A professional psychologist coordinates the weekly sessions attended by all the participants of the project. Topics being discussed are patient-doctor communication, cooperation with uncooperative patients, etc.

Health education intervention in secondary schools: this involves briefing of the medical students who, later, will be asked to transmit whatever they have learnt to the young pupils of high schools. When the students’ training comes to an end, the next step is visiting high schools where the students debate with small groups of pupils of the same sex. This allows the conversation to be more discrete and the pupils more open. What is more, the high school pupils fill in questionnaires so as to determine the level of their knowledge before and after their conversation with the students.

Nurse aid: the students have to attend two educational meetings, in order to meet the nurses and learn some basic techniques. After these meetings, the medics are divided into small groups of two or three to go to the hospitals: the organizing committee creates a weekly schedule for the visits to the hospitals. The students work as aids of previously trained and informed nurses.

Medicine in the Community: After attending an introductory seminar, the participants of this peripheral activity, divided into small groups of two, visited the primary health care centre at least 4 times, including one night shift.

Research in social medicine: the participants were trained in research techniques during training meetings that were organized every 3 weeks. The training topics of these meetings were: ‘transformation of questions from clinical practice to research hypothesis’, ‘writing fundraising proposals for research projects’, etc. By the end of February, the students were able to design their own research questionnaires. The involved medics participated in research projects and/or created new ones on their own, under the supervision of the scientific co-ordinator of the peripheral activity. For more information email: petcoul@med.auth.gr

Curriculum Database

The Curriculum Database is run by the IFMSA-Romania, Romania and aims to offer an opportunity to medical students to find information about the ways of studying and teaching medicine in other faculties and countries. There is an increasing need for information on different medical universities on a worldwide scale without the difficulties of using multiple servers in different countries. Another benefit of this project is that the information being provided includes both an official and students’ point of view. The coordinators of this transnational project understand that amongst students, there is a need for knowledge in the field of medical curricula. The Curriculum Database website is one of the tools that help not only student representatives to find out details about different and more developed medical education systems, but also all medical students that intend to take part in a student exchange program. For further information visit: http://curriculumdatabase.osmcluj.ro

Implementation of ‘Interaction Method’

Implementation of ‘Interaction Method’ is an IFMSA initiative, i.e. a central project of the Federation. It is coordinated by an IFMSA official. To the implementation of the project contribute not only IFMSA members, but also externals. The main goal of the project is to strengthen the IFMSA and make it more productive by applying Interaction Methodology of chairing and facilitating meetings.

Over the past years the IFMSA has been implementing more training to build capacity within the organization and improve meetings and outcomes. Interaction Associates, the developers of the methodology, are eager to support and give the IFMSA the opportunity to become more effective by systematizing application of ‘Interaction Method of Chairing and Facilitating Meeting’. That shall be achieved by training individuals in the IFMSA in their biannual meetings, by training all Executive Board members and officials at the beginning of their mandate, enabling them to immediately apply and adapt their newly learnt skills in their leadership role.

The training has not only results on the international level by building new capacities, but individuals return to their home countries taking back new abilities to strengthen their project-based work, both locally and nationally. The participants trained are not only medical students, but
Mobility Programmes

Professional Exchanges
The professional exchange program is the largest exchange program across the globe, which is run and administered completely by students for students. In the academic year 2003-04 the unique opportunity to experience a different clinical and cultural background for one or two months was offered to around 6000 medical students. Together with the social program provided by over 600 local exchange officers in 71 member countries, our exchange program truly works towards the IFMSA's mission to develop culturally sensitive and global health educated future physicians.

Our biggest success this year was our collaboration with the Student British Medical Journal. Together, we created an online reporting system to collect exchange experience reports for interested students. This offers the IFMSA a great chance to market and advertise its mobility programs.

Next to the bureaucratic administrative work, the exchange officers took charge of improving our committee and took on extra tasks in a working group. The SCOPE webpage was updated and new marketing materials were created. The online e-exchange system was further improved and finally, all steps of the exchange can now be carried out via the internet.

IFMSA clinical exchanges are already recognized as part of medical education by about 50% of medical faculties worldwide. We have actively worked on improving our academic quality in order to convince even more universities of the usefulness of our program. Next to the academic teaching, our exchanges are not just a travel opportunity but a start to global health education. This year, Chile successfully started the exchange program with 20 contracts and next year, we expect Bolivia, Malaysia, Sierra Leone, Gabon, Cote d'Ivoire and the Maldives to join. To help newcomers and new exchange officers, we worked on our godfathering program and reactivated the exchange officer - training pool with one place in Sweden in summer 2004.

All in all, 5965 exchange contracts were signed by 71 active SCOPE members. Although more and more countries in other regions are getting involved in the exchange program, the majority of exchanges are still carried out by the 37 European members (76% of exchanges), followed by America with 13 members and 12% of the contracts, Eastern Mediterranean 6 members and 6%, Asia Oceania 8 members and 4% and Africa 5 members and 2% of the exchanges.

This year, at least one national training meeting was organized in almost every active member organisation and three international training meetings were held in France, Lebanon and The Netherlands to train and motivate locally working students for the work of IFMSA.

Stephanie Boettcher (Germany), Director IFMSA Standing Committee on Professional Exchange scoped@ifmsa.org

Research Exchanges
Rather than clinical rotations, a research exchange is an opportunity to travel to a foreign institution and carry out a basic science or clinical research project. The Standing Committee in Research Exchange (SCORE) provides medical students with a unique opportunity to deepen their specific knowledge in the field of medical research and broaden their professional and human horizons. SCORE mobility programs contribute to international co-operation and understanding among the medical faculties, research institutes and last but not least the students and health care professionals.

In the SCORE there are 49 National Member Organizations working actively in 46 different countries. The multivariable research opportunities, as well as the large number of the institutes across the globe that offer them, support the success of the programs. Accessibility and variable duration prove how student friendly research exchanges are, since research programs of variable duration are available to pre-clinical, pre-medical/biomedical students and clinical medical students. During the year 2003-2004 510 research exchanges took place all around the globe. There have also been many efforts to improve the quality of our exchanges and expand our programs.

Members of the SCOPE, August Meeting 2004, Ohrid, FYROM

The IFMSA aims to contribute effectively and efficiently to health system development, health improvement and health equity. Thus the SCORE has gone further in its activities and has joined the efforts of strengthening the informational, scientific and ethical foundations of health research systems. The ultimate benefit of research lies not only in the generation of new knowledge but in the translation of knowledge into technologies, interventions and strategies effectively and appropriately delivered to all. Health research has an important role in promoting equity in health among the world’s peoples and the SCORE tends to emphasize this greatly in its work. The SCORE organized its first workshop in Venezuela during the MM 2004 entitled “Research and Ethics”. This has led to the birth of the Research Ethics Manual. We distribute this manual to the hundreds of universities cooperating with the SCORE and to all our exchange students. The SCORE is hoping next to tackle the issue of health research policies.

This is a new beginning for SCORE. Nevertheless we believe that we are ready to go further in our fight for global health and equity. SCORE the world!

Fatma Odaymat (Lebanon), Director IFMSA Standing Committee on Research Exchange scored@ifmsa.org
Bienvenidos a la Isla Margarita!
The 53rd March General Assembly of the IFMSA took place during the first week of March on the tropical Venezuelan island of Margarita situated in the Atlantic Ocean, about 40km off the mainland. The Venezuelan medical student association (SoGVEM, Venezuela, Venezuela), hosted around 400 medical students from all over the world, who represented more than 90 national member organizations of the IFMSA. Part of the program was dedicated to tropical medicine, with the intention of broadening the horizons of future doctors in the field of international health. Professor John Williams of the World Medical Association held workshops on medical and research ethics in an international context.

In addition, contracts were signed for thousands of IFMSA clinical and research exchanges and the program of the meeting was filled with working committee time, training sessions and plenary sessions. Moreover, the participants had the opportunity to explore the breath-taking diversity of cultures represented, with each world region providing one evening’s entertainment. The president of the organizing committee, Mr. Jorge Prieto said ‘The meeting was a productive one. According to several comments received, participants enjoyed themselves very much, besides all the hard work that took place’. The meeting proved that the IFMSA has made significant progress in Latin America and the Caribbean. For more information contact: jorgepriet01@icnet.com.ve

Welcome to Ohrid!
A huge amount of work went into organizing the pre-General Assembly (pre- GA) workshops, but the relative calm of these few days erupted into a frenzy of activity on August 3rd 2004 as 700 medical students from over 80 countries arrived in Peshtani village on the lake of Ohrid, in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. This was the culmination of months of hard work by the Macedonian Medicals Students’ Association (MMSA, Macedonia), which continued to be evident throughout the conference. The atmosphere on this first day was buzzing with the sense of expectation and anticipation and these feelings were given vent to at the opening ceremony. The setting of the ancient amphitheatre added to the sense of gravity. Dr James Appleyard spoke, emphasizing the importance of ‘brotherhood and sisterhood’ in medicine; a family that the IFMSA succeeds in nurturing.

The theme of this General Assembly was violence as a global public health issue. Violence has important health consequences and there were opportunities throughout the week to be educated and consider how medics can act to challenge this issue, which is manifest in so many different ways. The performance of ‘Flowers aren't enough’ by Naomi Ackerman was a personal insight into problems of domestic violence. The violence and health exhibition running throughout the conference addressed issues on gender and sexuality, war, slavery and religion.

Training is a vital part of IFMSA's education for its members. Workshops were held on diverse subjects ranging from group dynamics and intercultural learning to maximizing human potential. Standing committees gave people a chance to focus on specific interests and working groups allowed the formulation of specific action plans. Plenary sessions were an ever important part of IFMSA democracy.

One external speaker said that he was amazed at the enthusiasm of students during the opening ceremony. The enthusiasm amongst delegates to work hard from the beginning to the end of the August meeting was hugely impressive and made the meeting really productive! For more information contact Dr. Dragan Gjorgjevski: president@mmsa.org.mk

Celebrations...
Students in the former Yugoslavia celebrated the 50th anniversary of their organisation in autumn 2003. More than 130 students went to Becici in Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro, from all parts of the former Yugoslavia: FYROM, Croatia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina (Rep.of Srpska) and Serbia and Montenegro.

One of the organisers, Mr. Petar Maras (president of the IFMSA- Serbia and Montenegro), said ‘[We] once again show that medical students from this part of the world do not care about diversities of any kind.’

In an unexpected reunion, two doctors who had been great friends when they worked for the IFMSA in the early 1970s met again for the first time in 30 years. Past officials said that they were delighted to find that the spirit of international solidarity between medical students remained so strong.

IFMSA Asia- Oceania Regional Meeting 2004
The IFMSA Asia-Oceania Regional Meeting 2004 took place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at the end of March 2004. Nearly 200 participants from China (Hong Kong), Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, The Maldives, Pakistan, The Philippines, Taiwan and Thailand enjoyed country presentations, skills training workshops, theme-based standing committee sessions and a day on Adolescent Health, with speakers and workshops. The social program was first class and all participants were impressed by the warm welcome of their Malaysian hosts.

Consolidating our efforts...
From 6th -8th February 2004 a meeting of African medical student leaders took place hosted by students from Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria, Nigeria. The theme of the meeting was ‘Consolidating our efforts for a better African Medical Student Movement’. Participants considered the major challenges that African medical student organisations face in their work to represent, educate and empower their peers. Issues addressed included fundraising, training, communication and coordination. The meeting produced resolutions and important plans to strengthen medical student cooperation within the African region. IFMSA Regional Coordinator for Africa, Joseph Ayew Afriene described ‘the hope this meeting brings to the medical student in Africa’. Plans are now underway for a congress to bring together medical student representatives of all African countries in December 2004. For further information contact: rcafrica@ifmsa.org.
**The Year in Review**

In the academic year 2003-04, the Standing Committee on Refugees and Peace (SCORP) arranged an extensive number of projects. Most notably, the Disasters and Emergencies Project, which is designed to develop a module for medical students to respond to natural disasters, was accepted as a transnational project. Additionally, the Asian Collaborative Training on Infectious diseases, Outbreaks, and Natural disasters (ACTION) was established. The ACTION workshop is scheduled for 2005 and involves collaboration between multiple Standing Committees (SCs) and NGOs. This past year also saw a renewed focus on collaboration between the different SCs. In particular, SCORP worked closely with SCOPH on topics such as infectious diseases and mental health issues in refugee populations. Further collaboration with SCOPH is planned in the future.

In addition, SCORP continued its work to spread and strengthen interest in refugee and peace issues in the Americas. Specifically, five new SCORP groups were established in the Americas including Brazil and Guatemala. Reviving interest in SCORP activities in this region is paramount towards improving healthcare to displaced populations.

SCORP also adopted the topics of human rights and violence prevention as the themes for the year. Small working groups were created to educate and empower medical students on these issues through workshops and lectures. The SCORP project database was also developed to provide the first electronic collection of SCORP related projects. Overall, it has been a privilege for us to work for SCORP and help contribute towards this successful endeavor and we hope to see continued improvement on SCORP’s accomplishments.

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**Projects & Activities**

**Lebanon Refugee Project**

The central scope of the Lebanon Refugee Project, which is organized by the Lebanese Medical Students’ International Committee (LeMSIC), Lebanon, and by the IFMSA-Switzerland, is to give foreigners the opportunity to experience both clinical and social work with refugees in a camp in Lebanon. International volunteers participated in the project between July 1st - August 31st 2003. For more details visit: http://lebrefugeeproject.tripod.com

**Peace Test**

The Peace Test is an endorsed project run by the IFMSA -USA, USA. A Peace Test website has been developed and is in use to assess the concept of moral disengagement as it is related to war. Consultants from Georgia, Nigeria, Zambia, Uganda, Russia, India, Mexico, Kazakhstan, Armenia, Belarus, Azerbaijan and Finland were recruited to select, in the first part, suitable schools in which to survey young people. The purpose of the project is to develop support structures across different countries and to have medical students engaged in peace test data collection. Continuous surveying of high school students is being carried out in the USA. Surveys have also been carried out in five cities in Finland. The survey results will then be used in the respective countries to generate debates and educate the public about the relationship between moral disengagement and the support for violence. For further information visit: www.peacetest.org

**Einstein Youth Violence Project**

The Einstein Peace and Violence project (EYVP) is organized by the IFMSA -USA, USA. Implementing EYVP raises awareness about youth violence and motivates medics to take action against youth violence. The coordinators encourage long-term commitment to EYVP, thus creating a sustained community-based program. They have spread information about EYVP to interested Local Medical Organisations both nationally and internationally. A summary of the program and an outline of the curriculum was received well by the members of the SCORP at the 2003 March Meeting and was taken back to their respective countries. On a national level, the coordinators have continued to work with the existing EYVP programs, helping to support them with ideas and possible sponsors for resources. Also, one of the biggest achievements of EYVP thus far is that one of the programs has now been integrated into the actual school day of the elementary school. In addition, they are also working with local organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club. The Boys and Girls Club is a national organization with community centers that provides after school activities for children in underserved and less privileged areas. The goal is to try and integrate EYVP into part of the curriculum of the Boys and Girls Club.

**IMSF Peace**

The IMSF is an endorsed project run by the IFMSA -Romania, Romania. The necessity of exchanging opinions and ideas between medical students is obvious. Since it started, the IMSF project has been an original method for medical students from all over the world to express their passions and interests. In this way they are able to make a difference to those in need: HIV+ children (IMSF 2002)/violence victims (IMSF-Peace 2003). The Project’s main aim is to raise the knowledge level of certain target-groups by 30% about human rights, about the violence problems/peace problems that exist on a national and international level, and about the organisations active in defending human rights.

The second meeting of the IMSF took place between 20th and 30th July 2003 with the intention of organizing a student led campaign against violence and promoting peace and human rights on a national level. The campaign was composed of a congress, a hobbies festival and a peace pilgrimage, all on the theme of peace. The second IMSF meeting has proved that the project is time-reliable and efficient in fulfilling its objectives which are to organise campaigns with a large impact on a national and international level. These are campaigns dedicated to the promotion of concepts that make the basis of any modern and civilised society. The IMSF 2002 contributed to the recognition of the social status of the Romanian HIV+ children and IMSF-Peace 2003 promoted the concept of peace and respect of human rights. For more information contact the coordinators: imsfh_2003@yahoo.com

**Free Medical Camp**

On May 9th 2004, the IFMSA-Pakistan, Pakistan local committee in Peshawar organized a free medical camp in a village near to the city of Kohat, Pakistan. The target of the project was the patients and villagers who did not have access to health care system. The camp was a huge success and very well published in the national media of Pakistan. The Governor of the province gave a grant of one lac rupees (about 2000 USD) for medicines and other equipments in addition to what had been fundraised by the students themselves.

![Image of children in a medical camp](http://lebrefugeeproject.tripod.com)
International Training on Refugee Health- Reaching out to a Humanity Unseen, Peshwar Pakistan

The International Training on Refugee Health for Medical Students was organized jointly by the IFMSA -Pakistan, Pakistan, the International Medical Cooperation Committee, Denmark, the Finnish Medical Students’ International Committee (FIMRIC), Finland, the IFMSA -Sweden, Sweden and the IFMSA -USA, USA. It was hosted by the IFMSA -Pakistan in the city of Peshwar. The main goal of the project was to educate future physicians in order that they can work to alleviate pain in refugee populations both in Pakistan and elsewhere. The project aimed to motivate medical students to get involved in non-governmental organizations and in other organization working in the field of refugee health.

Eighty medical students from more than 10 countries participated in a week-long training which included theories of conflict resolution and the role of the media in refugee health issues. Participants also visited one of the oldest refugee camps in Pakistan, near the Afghan border. Tarig Ilaawid Alam, IFMSA Liaison Officer to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and local coordinator of the project said: ‘This training would not have been possible without them (UNHCR).’ More importantly, this shows that partnerships like this also play a crucial role in building the capacity of relatively new organisations like IFMSA-Pakistan.’

The project was funded by the Finnish Foreign Ministry, the Swedish International Development Agency- SIDA Youth Fund and by the IPPNW -Sweden. Moreover students from Denmark, the USA and other countries around the world have fundraised and developed the program manual. For further information contact the organizing committee: lunhcr@ifmsa.org

The Re-Life Project

Today, ten years after the Balkan wars started, Balkan medics are witnessing a generation of children who have been raised, some even born, in refugee camps, in a ghettoized, lonely and left-from-the-whole-world atmosphere. Drug and alcohol abuse are very common both in the young and elderly population. People often indulge in violence as they live in confined spaces, with no privacy, which all result in abusive behavior towards children. The impact on psychological health of the children is obvious - children and adolescents have no possibility to spend their free time adequately, or to learn socially accepted models of behaviour in such surroundings. The question of their physical health care has also been raised. The project Psychosocial and Health Empowerment of the Refuge Children in Collective Settlements, or in other words the Re-Life project incorporates both of these aspects. The medical students exchange program, managed by the IFMSA, offers foreign medical opportunities to improve their knowledge in refugee and medical issues. Being an endorsed project, it is a joint project of the local Committee of Novi Sad of the IFMSA -Serbia and Montenegro, Physicians for Peace (IPPNW affiliate Serbia) and Center for Psychosocial Support SRCE. It started in September 2001, and involves 30 students of medicine and dentistry and several young doctors. Members of SRCE who are professional psychiatrists, psychologists and pediatricians provide supervision and training. The idea comes from a very successful project Friendship Clubs, carried out also by the IFMSA -Serbia and Montenegro, the first project of this kind organized by medics in Serbia and Montenegro.

The goals of the project are to monitor and evaluate health conditions of children and adolescents, to provide psychosocial support - to help the refugee children to overcome the trauma they suffered and to help their integration in the local community, through the series of lectures, talks and activities, and to improve health and mental hygiene in the settlement through education. For more details contact: gavras@nspoint.net

Health and Human Rights of Refugees, Minorities and Immigrants in Europe

A study session entitled, ‘Health and Human Rights of Refugees, Immigrants and Minorities in Europe’ was organized by the IFMSA in support of the Directorate of Youth and Sport (DYS) of the Council of Europe. This unique event brought together thirty-five medics from twenty-five European countries at the European Youth Centre, Budapest, Hungary between 8-14 December 2003. Members of the preparatory team of the study were Mr. Georgios Dafoulas (Greece), Mr. Mladen Mladenovic (Sweden), Mr. Jan Kovacs (Czech Republic) and Mr. Konstantinos Stellos (Greece). Mrs. Erzsebet Kovacs and Mr. Rui Gomes from the European Youth Centre, Budapest supported the study session as educational advisors.

The main aim of the study session was to raise awareness among young people and to provide young leaders, project coordinators and future health professionals with the necessary knowledge in the field of health and human rights of refugees, immigrants and minorities in Europe. Moreover the participants were introduced to the consequences of conflicts and violence upon refugees and minorities and were properly trained in order to be able to initiate projects and volunteer action.

The main issues discussed were: The standards of living and health care of refugees, immigrants in Europe; the legal basis for special protection of refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers, accompanied minors and internally displaced persons; the fight against discrimination; the human rights of refugees and immigrants in law and in practice; the human rights co-curricular education with special focus on second generation rights.

Each day’s program focused on different topics. These were: human rights of refugees and health related challenges they face in Europe, human rights education and intercultural learning, a day in the life of a refugee (field trip to Bicske Refugee Reception Center), skills development (project management and fundraising), individual plans of action, follow-up and evaluation.

The abstract entitled ‘Health and Human Rights of Refugees in Europe’ that reported the study session’s conclusions was accepted as poster presentation for the 2004 Global Health Council Conference which took place in Washington DC, 1-4 June, 2004. For further details contact: studysession@ifmsa.org

Disasters and Emergencies medical students’ network

Disasters and Emergencies medical students’ network is a transnational project coordinated by the IFMSA-Chile (Chile) and the IFMSA-USA (USA). The network has been created to contribute to the tasks of preparation, planning, response, rehabilitation, reconstruction and mitigation of disasters and emergencies on local, national and international levels. The project coordinators have struggled to develop permanent relationships with Chile’s national emergency office director. The disasters’ and emergencies’ medical students’ network handbook, which is a practical handbook explaining the basics about disasters, disaster management, prevention, relief and rehabilitation, was printed this year.

The IFMSA Emergencies and Disasters network supported medics in the troubled West African state of Cote d’Ivoire. Military conflicts there left many students displaced from their homes, with others killed or missing. Loss of books, equipment and personal belongings threatened their ambition to finish medical training. As in-kind donations were logistically hard to manage, the network of the project swung into action, spreading the word and preparing a flash presentation in English, Spanish and French and other campaign materials to stimulate fundraising events in medical schools in many countries. For further information contact the coordinators: ifmsa-disasters@yahoogroups.com
Introduction
The academic year 2003-04 began with anticipation and excitement for the members of the Standing Committee on Public Health (SCOPH) as we hurdled around in Egmond aan Zee to re-vitalize our vision: improving public health globally for a healthier tomorrow.

The SCOPH family is expanding everyday requiring a closer coordination and organization. We began our regionalization process this year with some visible success. Africa is currently working on a focus project on malaria, America is planning a regional collaborative project with PAHO on vaccinations, Asian SCOPHians held a workshop for better communication, Eastern Mediterranean students worked on expansion of SCOPH activities in the region, and the European region focused on non-communicable diseases.

SCOPH is notorious for our projects; the Alternative Medicine Awareness Project in Japan, the Bone Marrow Donation Campaign in the UK, the Recycling Initiative in Chile, and the Tuberculosis Workshop in Egypt - just to name a few. This year, SCOPHians came together to celebrate the(remove) World Heart Day, World Health Day, World Anti-Tuberculosis Day, World No Tobacco Day and many more with creativity and concerted effort. To celebrate these endeavors/endeavours, we have created a topic-based pamphlet as well as a country profile booklet.

From experience, SCOPHians have learnt/learnt that meaningful partnerships within IFMSA and beyond are essential for successful projects. Some highlights this year include, international and inter-committee work on tuberculosis, a SCOPH-SCORP collaborative workshop in Venezuela (MM2004) and the development of new external relationships with international organizations and institutions with an active participation in the field of public health.

Last but not least, we were also able to boost our image by creating a new face for our website, www.ammin.uniss.it/~medici

Projects & Activities

Calcutta Village Project
The Calcutta Village Project is organized by the Italian Medical Students’ Association (SISIR, Italy). The aim of the project is to promote and improve the living conditions of the villagers of the rural areas south of Calcutta and in the meantime to provide western people with knowledge about developing countries.

The Calcutta Village Project works to fundraise and to spread knowledge about the IIMC (Institute for Indian Mother and Child), an Indian non-governmental organization. The project consists of different branches: the first to start was the medical program, which nowadays has one indoor clinic with twenty beds and four outdoor clinics in the surrounding countryside. The medical part mainly provides primary health care (vaccination, prevention, medical education) but it also has a nutritional program, a health education and a women’s awareness program. In the academic year 2003-04, after a hygiene course held by medics, Dr L.Grico the first senior physician who participated in the project, offered a one month course on primary health care for local nurses and health workers. The second branch is the educational program, with 1200 children going to school. The programme is sponsored by Western families. Sixteen new schools were built where no infrastructure was available. The third sector is the micro-credit program, involving about 2000 women. It consists of giving small loans to women without guarantees who start an activity and give back the money in 1-year with the interest (10% annual rate).

The role of volunteers is variable in Calcutta. They work as paramedic staff (giving injections, taking blood pressure, making dressings, etc) but, most of all, they can see how a cooperation and development project really works: they can go and see whichever areas of the project they want. They can help in the educational program, give lessons to the nurses and prepare food for the nutrition-al program. For further information contact the coordinators: calcuttap@ifmsa.org

Rwanda Village Concept Project
The Rwanda Village Concept Project is coordinated by the German Medical Students’ Association (GeMSA), Germany. The goal of the project is to improve the living standards of the Rwandan community and to give the students the possibility of gaining practical experience in developmental projects and working together as a group.

The coordinators of the project learnt from the experiences of comparable preceding student projects. Since the Ghana Pilot Project (1988-1992), a second project in Ghana, another in Sudan and one in Zimbabwe have been successfully completed. The Rwanda Village Concept Project started in May 2002.

The Rwanda Village Concept project is a purely student-run project, always under the control of an independent professional supervisor. The project goal is, for the medics, to actively develop primary health care and preventative medicine in developing countries, as well as to gain experiences about teambuilding. At the forefront are the Malaria prevention program, the construction of latrines, the improvement of nutrition and the income generating activities.

Within a rotation, students from all over the world are involved in the project village and work together with the villagers, the local students and the supervisors, towards the realisation of the project goals. Every time, four students from each sector take part in one rotation. Because the rotations overlap by two months, there are always eight students present in the commune at the same time. This guarantees the continuity of the work and will make the lead-in for foreign students easier. For further details email: info@rwanda-vcp.org

Innovative Approaches in Promoting Adolescent Health and Development
This transnational initiative is the first official collaboration between the IFMSA and the Eastern Mediterranean regional office of the World Health Organization (WHO EMRO). The project aims to facilitate young people’s access to information on youth lifestyle matters as part of a strategic response to adolescent health needs in the Eastern Mediterranean Region. The project activities were conducted in Egypt, Lebanon and Kuwait. A recent review of the need for health intervention in the Region recognized tobacco and other substance use as an area of high priority and called for action. In Hurghada, Egypt (July 13th-15th 2004) the Workshop on Promoting Adolescent Health in the Eastern Mediterranean region was held as a joint IFMSA/WHO EMRO event. The participants were equipped with the appropriate knowledge, allowing them to demonstrate leadership in the improvement of adolescent health. The outcomes of this workshop included the formulation of a joint statement on adolescent health which was adopted by the IFMSA General Assembly, in August 2004. A detailed 5 year interventional strategy was also developed. Moreover, through the workshop, the collaboration between the IFMSA and the WHO was developed. For further details contact: hamoda@hsc.edu.kw

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Quality of Life & Public Health
Teddy Bear Hospital Project
The Teddy Bear Hospital project is coordinated both by the German Medical Students' Association (GeMMSA), Germany, and by the Slovenian Medical Students' International Committee (SloMISC), Slovenia. It takes place in many countries around the world (Malaysia, Australia, Brazil, Japan, Taiwan, Holland, Portugal, Sweden, Poland, etc.). The “Teddy Bear Hospital” (TBH) is a Public Health project for 3-6 year old children. The aim is to take away children's fear of physicians and hospitals. TBH tries to familiarize children in a friendly and pleasant atmosphere with the situation of a hospital or paediatrician’s office. In this case the children are the parents of their teddy bear or doll. As Mum and Dad they are responsible for their sick little friends. Now the children are the adults who have to take care of their little friends, teddy bear patients. Trained medical students act as teddy doctors and do the examinations and treatments.

A decorated, colourful tent is set up as a hospital on a big square in the city centre. Usually in one two-day session, the Teddy Bear-Hospital will see about 400 children with their toys. Before their visit to the TBH the nanny or nurse discusses with the children about ‘being ill’, physicians and hospitals. The children are advised to think about diseases for their dolls which will be treated later in the TBH. First the children explain the history of the present illness of their teddy bear to a teddy doctor. Together they make an anamnesis and after this the teddy doctor does a ‘physical examination’. After this the patient gets a medical treatment. Finally the teddy doctor writes a prescription and the child can get some ‘medicine’ sweets in the ‘TBH-Pharmacy’. Besides they have also the opportunity to explore an ambulance car. For further information visit: www.dsms.net/teddybear.

brochures and posters were designed for marketing purposes.

Conferences and workshops held during the year included the ‘TB and Medical schools conference’ held in Ohrid, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (July 31st - August 2nd). The main topic of the conference was the planning of an IFMSA Long Term Strategy for TB Intervention. This was attended by medical students, the participants, as well as experts and speakers from the WHO Balkans sub regional office and the Stop TB partnership. Another workshop on TB was held parallel to the 13th Annual Aim Shams Conference, in Cairo, Egypt in February 2004.

The Second Annual International Students’ ‘Doctors’ Competition on TB, organized in cooperation with the IUATLD featured student contributions from all over the world. Through collaboration between the IFMSA, the Eastern Mediterranean office of the World Health Organization (WHO EMRO) and the International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, a survey was conducted to evaluate the knowledge of medical students about Tuberculosis in more than 25 medical schools in Egypt, Lebanon, Kuwait, Finland, Indonesia, Latvia, Poland, the UK, Nepal, Croatia, and Pakistan.

To evaluate the efficacy of the TB syllabus content, a checklist, including all topics that should be addressed in Medical curricula, was developed by WHO EMRO and distributed to medical schools.

The IFMSA was represented not only in the Stop TB Forum, in New Delhi, India (March 2004) by Mr. Collin Brown and Mr. Mohit Singla, but also in the WHO 9th National TB Program Directors’ Meeting of the Eastern Mediterranean Region in Lahore, Pakistan (April 2004) by Mr. Hesham Hamoda and Mr. Amr Bakr. For further details contact the coordinators: stotpib@ifmsa.org

Orphanage Initiative
The Orphanage Initiative in Romania is an international endorsed project coordinated by the IFMSA -Romania, Romania & by the IFMSA -Norway, Norway. The project has been running since 1996. The co-ordinators aim that children will benefit from the interaction with the students, but also that the staff will be motivated to do an even better job.

In 2004, 40 medics participated in the two rotations that took place in July and August. The rotations were arranged in four cities: Iasi, Cluj, Timisoara and Bucharest. The students played with the children, took them out on field trips, performed puppet shows and so on. For further details visit: www.mmsa.org.pl/projects/oiit/

Raising Public Awareness on Organ Donation and Donor Card Topic Project
The Raising Public Awareness on Organ Donation and Donor Card Topic Project is run by the IFMSA-Croatia, Croatia. The mission of this endorsed project is to make people aware of organ and tissue donation, donor cards, helping people after they die, using their body to help others, donation of blood and bone marrow. The coordinators of the project organise lectures, recruit new student volunteers to work on the project, contact more primary care doctors to have Donor cards in their office and organise places for donor cards in hospitals. More and more medical students are getting involved and people are not afraid to talk about this topic any more. For further details visit: www.mbsb.mefsi.hr/cromsfc

International Students Network on Ageing and Health
The International Students Network on Ageing and Health is coordinated by the IFMSA-Romania, Romania. It was created to serve as an umbrella for all IFMSA activities in the field of Ageing and to promote all projects and events, at local and international level. The project is based mainly on an updated webpage (www.ishab.cjb.net) and on a mailing list. In the academic year 2003-04 the relationship with the International Association of Gerontology (IAG) strengthened. Following the Student Seminar organised during the IAG Regional Meeting 2003 in Africa in Cape Town, South Africa, three other similar events took place in Spain, Chile and Japan. Furthermore efforts took place in the field of selecting the necessary data for the Teaching Geriatrics in Medical Education II study, constituting a field of cooperation between the World Health Organization and the IFMSA. A three week Geriatrics clerkship was organized in Bucharest, August 25th - September 10th, 2003, in collaboration with the “Ana Aslan” Institute of Geriatrics & Gerontology. Twenty medics participated and received a useful training in Geriatrics. For further information contact: manuelamoraru@yahoo.com

Marking World Diabetes Day
In 2004, for the first time, the Malta Medical Students’ Association (MMSA), Malta organised a day of activities (concerts, street theatre etc) at Baystreet to celebrate World Diabetes Day. Malta has one of the highest percentages of people suffering from the disease in the world. In fact 10 per cent of the Maltese population suffer from diabetes and there are probably another 10 per cent who suffer from the disease but are not actually diagnosed as diabetics, the association said. Throughout the activity there were fund-raising events and donation boxes so that proceeds went to the purchase of equipment for diagnosing diabetes and free blood glucose monitoring provided by the Malta Diabetes Association.

There were also a number of stalls and stands selling books about the disease and giving out information to the public. For further details visit: www.mmsa.org.mt

Members of the SCOPE in Ohrid, FYROM, August 2004

IFMSA anti- Tb Activities
IFMSA is a member of the global Stop TB partnership. The IFMSA Anti TB Campaign was officially initiated during the August Meeting 2003. The database on anti-TB activities is periodically updated.

Several activities took place worldwide on World anti Tuberculosis Day 2004. Our local committees organised events that varied, according to the region and the local community, from peer education projects in Ethiopia and "DOTS Mobile Units" in Spain to Drama Shows in Nepal. Promotion leaflets, IFMSA Annual Report 2003-04  www.ifmsa.org 13
Human Relations & Reproductive Health

The Year in Review
The students taking part in the work of the Standing Committee on Reproductive Health including AIDS (SCORA) had a very fruitful year. We started the year by deciding to focus on two levels of work. The first level was to educate ourselves with training and to create tools that will allow us to strengthen our abilities. We achieved our target by choosing a yearly theme, which was sexual violence. A session on the subject took place during the March Meeting of the IFMSA. Other sessions held at the same meeting were on topics, including HIV and human rights, methods of teaching on Sexual transmitted diseases and methods for peer education on the issue of gay, lesbians, bi- sexuals and transgenders. During the year, we have created a guide for new national officers for SCORA, to help them with common problems. Moreover, we updated our database of projects from around the world, in order to give new ideas and to use others’ experiences in solving local problems. Furthermore international SCORA exchanges were expanded in Poland, Romania and Sweden. Offering the opportunity of sharing experiences, training, and learning about global reproductive health, local, national and international SCORA activities, SCORA exchanges have assisted our members to gain experiences, so that they effectively convey effectively our messages to the local communities!

Our second level of work was promoting healthier sexual and reproductive relations and behaviors in our communities. We continued to use peer education as a method of prevention of sexually transmitted diseases among young people. We continued campaigning for the use of condoms, and raising awareness in the field of safe sex. As part of our global AIDS prevention efforts hundreds of IFMSA members took part in the world AIDS campaign activities held in many countries around the world.

I hope that we succeeded in motivating international medics to work towards healthier future communities!

Adi Ovadia (Israel), Director, IFMSA Standing Committee on Reproductive Health including AIDS scorad@ifmsa.org

Projects & Activities

IgGB12 Project
The IgGB12 Project is coordinated by the IFMSA -Spain, Spain. ‘Khayelihle’ is a Community Care Centre, falling under the umbrella of ‘God’s Golden Acre’ and has formed partnerships with Friends of the Children, The Hillcrest Aids Centre, CINDI and Valley Trust. It is also affiliated to the South African National NGO Coalition (SANGOCO). It was started in 1995 in response to the urgent need of the children who are infected and affected by the HIV virus. The project has two main objectives. The first is to provide a home both for special needs children who have no relatives willing or able to care for them and for children in difficult social situations. The second is to contribute to the capacity of the child headed household in impoverished rural areas to cope, by training the older siblings in life-skills including basic home care, horticulture, sewing, building skills etc. Khayelihle’ can be a temporary place of safety for the youngest siblings. The participants leave the older siblings in their homes and support them until they are self sufficient and able to cope. They support them with food and clothing on a monthly basis. Moreover project coordinators intend to provide adequate medical and terminal care to those children who need 24 hour medical care. Since May 2002, ten volunteers from Germany, Poland, Spain and Sweden have attended the project. For further information contact the coordinators: iggb12@yahoo.com

Motivated by these concerns, the IFMSA, in collaboration with the United Nations’ Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations’ Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) are taking HIV/AIDS and Human Rights issues to the youth all over the world. It is hoped that this will help to combat the spread of the disease, as well as to raise awareness against socio-cultural stigma towards people living with HIV/AIDS and protect them from associated human rights violations. To this end, UNESCO, in close consultation with young people from various youth organisations, in particular with students from the IFMSA and the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF), have developed a kit called ‘HIV/AIDS and Human Rights: Young People in Action’. The kit was developed to aid youth organisations involved in HIV/AIDS prevention, promotion and advocacy campaigns. It is based on the international guidelines on Human Rights and HIV/AIDS and is intended to serve as a tool in the development and initiation of appropriate youth activities. At the moment, the kit is available in the following languages: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Portuguese and Arabic.

At the beginning of 2002, two interdisciplinary regional training workshops on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights in the Asian and African Region were organised. The Asian regional training on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights was held in Bandung, Indonesia (21-27 January 2002) and the African regional training on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights in Cape Town, South Africa (9-15 February 2002).

In 2003 three workshops took place: The Middle East regional training in Beirut, Lebanon (May 2003), the French speaking African countries in Yaounde, Cameroon (18-22 August 2003) and the Balkan region workshop in BiZovac, Croatia (14-22 November 2003). Finally, the Latin America training workshop will take place in October 2004. For more details email: lunesco@ifmsa.org

IFMSA/UNESCO Regional Training

In 2003 three workshops took place:
The IFMSA/UNESCO regional training on HIV/AIDS and human rights is run by the IFMSA Executive Board. The central aim of the project is to act against discrimination and stigma associated with HIV/AIDS affecting young people, by organizing interdisciplinary regional training workshops.

The HIV/AIDS epidemic is one of the greatest challenges facing today’s society, both in terms of curbing its spread, and of learning to live with HIV/AIDS in our communities. The impact of HIV/AIDS on the youth population in particular is now reaching alarming proportions: The time has come for the youth to rise up and take their place at the centre of HIV action. It is imperative for youth to become actively involved, not only in curbing the spread of the disease but also in playing a role in protecting the rights of people living with HIV or AIDS.

UNESCO/IFMSA micro-funds for micro-projects on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights

At the end of the ‘Youth and HIV/AIDS: preventive education’ day of the Youth Forum entitled “UNESCO & Youth: a reciprocal commitment” organized prior the 32nd UNESCO general conference, the IFMSA in cooperation with the United Nations’ Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) ran a two hour session and announced officially the launching of the UNESCO/IFMSA micro-funds for micro-projects on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights. The aim of developing such a fund has been to have a sustainable platform to fund micro-projects worldwide. The IFMSA has already received proposals for the micro-projects fund.

HIV/AIDS, discrimination, stigmatisation

A two-day workshop and a round table discussion under the title ‘HIV/AIDS, discrimination, stigmatisation’ was organized in Zagreb, Croatia, in April 2004 by the School of Public Health ‘Andrija Stampar’, the American International Health Alliance (AIHA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). It included professionals and ‘authoritative’ people in public life and experts in their field of work. Representatives from non-governmental organizations (NGOs), journalists and doctors in prevention and therapy programs attended the workshop. The necessity of eliminating discrimination and better coordination between Governmental organizations and NGOs were emphasized as ways to reduce the human cost of the epidemic.

SCORA Members attended the International AIDS Conference 2004

Members of the committee on reproductive health and AIDS from the Centre for Indonesian Medical Students Activities - Ikatan Senat Mahasiswa - Ikatan Dokteran Indare attended the International AIDS Conference 2004, which was held in Bangkok on 11-16th July 2004. SCORA delegates presented their poster entitled ‘HIV/AIDS in Medical Curricula’. The participants found the project interesting and constructive for the future of medical education and they called for SCORA members around the world to continue their efforts.

Godfrey’s Children

The Godfrey’s Children is an international endorsed project run by the Tanzanian Medical Students’ Association (TaMSA), Tanzania in cooperation with the ‘Africa Bridge’. The aim of the project is to help children infected and affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Education Fund created by Godfrey’s Children has the purpose of assisting children orphaned by AIDS who would have no other means to attain primary education. The Fund is used to pay for school fees for the year, purchase schoolbooks, school bags, stationary, shoes, and other necessities to attend school. Special attention is paid to the children who receive this financial assistance. For more details contact the coordinators: nm_70@hotmail.com

International Condom Exhibition

The International Condom Exhibition is an endorsed project run by the Taiwan Medical Students’ Association (MSA), Taiwan. In May and July 2003 the 3rd International Condom Exhibition and Workshop took place. The workshop provided the opportunity for participants to acquire knowledge on AIDS so they can communicate effectively the messages of the anti-AIDS campaign of the MSA. For more information contact: wuchinglan@yahoo.com.tw

Kenya Village Project

The Kenya Village Project is coordinated by the IFMSA-USA, USA. In 2002, a group of medical students from the United States set up a temporary health clinic in the public library of a rural village in Western Kenya. The team managed to start medical records for 487 people and distributed 24,000 vitamins. In August 2003, the Bill Selke Memorial Clinic, a five-examination room clinic in the village of Kabula, Kenya, was finally opened and began treating patients. Since October 2003 HIV testing with Pre/Post test counseling at the clinic has begun. Paperwork was submitted to the Kenyan Ministry of Health in November of 2003 to petition to be able to offer retro-viral treatment for HIV+ individuals. The clinic consists of five examination rooms, a nurses’ station, an office, a front desk, a medical records office, a waiting room and two storage rooms. Until funds are secured for the planned expansion, one of the exam rooms will be used for an HIV Pre/Post Test Counseling Office, and another exam room will be used for the laboratory. The pharmacy will operate from one of the storage rooms.

Between May of 2002 and April of 2003, there were 26 participants in the Kenya VCP. Three Swiss and one Canadian medical student from IFMSA were in Kenya during the summer of 2003 to help get the clinic open. During November of 2003, a 4th year medical student from the US was in Kenya for two weeks to work at the clinic.

Besides the health clinic, other aspects of community development work were also addressed through the following programs: AIDS Education, Micro-enterprise for Women, Preschool, a Public Library and a Teacher’s Program. For more information visit: www.volunteerkenya.org

Ghana Health & Education Initiative

The Ghana Health & Education Initiative is coordinated by the IFMSA-USA, USA. Its central aim is to contribute to the eradication of diseases and traditional behaviours that scourage family structure, as well as the reproductive and public health of local residents in Humijibe a village located in the forests of the Western Region of Ghana. Most of the 3,000 people in Humijibe are cocoa farmers. With 43% of the population under the age of 14, the education and health facilities have become a priority for improvement in the village.

In the academic years 2002-04 six medics from the USA worked voluntarily in Ghana and the network of supporters in the USA was developed. Three of the four interns completed a year of service in Ghana in July 2004. The community centre was constructed in 2004 and opened at the end of May 2004. All of the health and education programs of the initiative are run from the centre. For further details visit: www.ifmsa-usa.org/ghana

Peer education in Serbia and Montenegro

During July and August 2003 the SCORA team of the IFMSA- Serbia and Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro) organised three training sessions for peer educators of high school pupils from the Westen part of Serbia and Montenegro. These were people who had been already involved in projects connected to different topics concerning health issues. The first training session was held between July 25th-30th 2003 in a town called Ivanijica. The organisers of the initiative spent the five days with 16 students who became peer-educators. The Youth Centre in Ivanijica was their base and the place for young people to learn and spend some quality time together.

Moreover two training sessions with the same goals were held in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro in August 2004 for two groups of students from two different towns. The sessions lasted for ten days, covered almost all the topics within reproductive health and were presented through different peer education techniques. The participants visited places in Belgrade where young people needed help or advice on matters regarding reproductive health and HIV/AIDS. All the young people were very enthusiastic and hard-working. They have already started to use their knowledge-they run workshops in their own towns for primary and high school pupils. For further information contact: suscum@yubc.net

World AIDS Day 2003, Spain
Official relationships of the IFMSA with the other organizations are based on health, education, science, social and humanitarian affairs. There are a number of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations which are IFMSA partners in fruitful and enthusiastic collaboration.

**UN**
The IFMSA has Special Consultative Status with the United Nations through the Economic and Social Council.

**WHO**
IFMSA has been in official relations with the World Health Organisation since 1969. Joint work this year was concentrated in the fields of Violence and Injury Prevention and Ageing and Health. The IFMSA worked with the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region on Adolescent Health.

**UNESCO**
The IFMSA is a non-governmental organization keeping operational relations with the United Nations’ Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Joint work focuses on HIV/AIDS and Human Rights and capacity building in the IFMSA.

**UNAIDS**
The IFMSA has an official relationship with the United Nations’ Programme on HIV/AIDS.

**UNFPA**
The IFMSA has an official relationship with the United Nations’ Population Fund.

**UNHCR**
The IFMSA is in operational relations with the United Nation’s Refugee Agency.

**UNICEF**
The IFMSA has an official relationship with the United Nations’ Children’s Fund.

**WMA**
The IFMSA is the student body of the World Medical Association.

**WFME**
The IFMSA is represented on the Executive Council of the World Federation for Medical Education.

**GHC**
The IFMSA is a member of the Global Health Council.

**EYF**
The IFMSA is a candidate member of the European Youth Forum.

**Stop TB**
The IFMSA is an active member of the Stop TB Global Partnership.

**AMEE**
The IFMSA represents students to the Association for Medical Education in Europe.

**IAG**
The IFMSA is an official partner of the International Association of Gerontology.

**IPPNW**
The IFMSA has long worked closely with the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

**FCA**
The IFMSA is a member of the Framework Convention Alliance on Tobacco Control.

**TUFH**
The IFMSA is a member of the Network Towards Unity for Health.

**EMSA**
The IFMSA is an international partner of the European Medical Students’ Association.

**AMSA**
The IFMSA is an international partner of the Asian Medical Students’ Association (AMSA).

**IPSF**

**EPSA**

**IADS**

**EDSA**
The IFMSA recently published an issue of ‘Medical Student International’, focused on Anti-Tobacco Strategies with the International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation, with the European Pharmaceutical Students’ Association, with the International Association of Dentistry Students and with the European Dentistry Students’ Association.

The IFMSA is cooperating with EMSA, EPSA and IPSF to organise the first international pharmacy and medical student congress in November 2005.

**IFISO**
As an active member of the Informal Forum of International Student Organisations, the IFMSA works with many other student organisations.

**StudentBMJ**
The IFMSA has built a close partnership with the international medical students’ journal.
The IFMSA Newsletter, nowadays called e-VAGUS, is the official bi-monthly news bulletin that the IFMSA produces to keep its own members updated. The e-VAGUS is e-mailed to all the National Member Organisations, who distribute it to their local committees (thus reaching 900,000 medics worldwide). Past issues are downloadable from www.ifmsa.org/publications.

The Medical Student International is the thematic magazine of the IFMSA. The MSI is the broadest means of expression for all IFMSA activists and medical students in the world in general. It serves to highlight specific issues of special interest to the student members of the IFMSA. Past issues can be downloaded from www.ifmsa.org/publications.
A message to the IFMSA...

“As medical students committed to sharing your knowledge and skills internationally, you are a powerful source of hope for the future... I commend your determination to use your medical training to benefit all members of society...”

Kofi Annan
Secretary General of the United Nations

The International Federation of Medical Students’ Associations

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