



First Quarter 2008

IOA TODAY

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
BRINGING YOU OSTOMY RELATED INFORMATION FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Africa

Association Latino Americana de Ostomizados
(South American Ostomy Association)

Asian Ostomy Association

European Ostomy Association

North and Central America
and Caribbean Ostomy Association

South Pacific Ostomy Association

IOA TODAY
A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
BRINGING YOU OSTOMY RELATED INFORMATION FROM AROUND THE WORLD

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

[Stuart Schaefer](#)

Here it is thirty 31 days into 2008 and the start of the 8th year of the IOA TODAY Newsletter. With this issue we have decided to reduce the number of pages down too around eight along with a new look. Many had emailed us and stated they enjoyed the newsletter but felt it was too long. We will now try to bring you more regional reports and information about Ostomates from around the world.

Now with that said we are concerned that many are not even opening the email that gives information on where the newsletter may be found. We have nearly 1600 registered on the mailing list, yet less than 25% even open the email up. There is much time and effort that goes into preparing this newsletter and we do hope you enjoy reading it as much as we do preparing it. Your comments and questions and are always welcome. You may email those to ioatoday@ostomyinternational.org.

Have you ever wondered about the ***history of IOA?*** Well here is some great news. Thanks to the work of Past President Di Bracken and Ann Favreau IOA Secretary they have updated the history to the current time. You may view the history via:
<http://www.ostomyinternational.org/Publications/IOAHistory2007.pdf>. Please note this history is in PDF.

Now speaking of the IOA history you are now able to view a number of Ostomy related topics via the publication section of the IOA Website:

<http://www.ostomyinternational.org/publication.html>.

Located on the publications page you will find links to the Australian Ostomy Magazine, the Canada Ostomy Magazine, FOW Newsletter for both the US and Canada along with many more publications.

If you have not yet viewed the new IOA Blog <http://www.cblog.ostomyinternational.org/> you should take the time to take a look. There you will find regional information from each the regions along with other up to date material.

SOUTH AMERICAN REGION - ALADO

[Teresa Antiquera](#), President

- ALADO via TERESA ANTEQUERA and MARIELA DE ROMERO did contact with countries of our region like PERU, CHILE, ECUADOR and Venezuela and we will hope soon to have all these countries active again with ALADO and IOA. This is one of targets of the new Directory of ALADO to have all countries active and doing activities again

- We started a new Association in COCHABAMBA, Teresa Antequera traveled the last month with VICTOR

VILLARROEL to know the people and teaching about ABO, ALADO and IOA. We sent a couple of box with material of donation and copy of our handbook.

- We have material (brochure) to show to the people of our city and country about our ASSOCIATION. This brochure is very good to people who come in to our office.

- Our Association has an interview in a NEWSPAPER of our City and we have had the opportunity to show and tell them the activities of the congress in Puerto RICO, ALADO and ABO.

- We are preparing a congress next September in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

- We are preparing to celebrate next October 07 "World Ostomy Day 2008".

That's all at the moment, thanks you very much.

We send all our best wishes

ASIAN REGION – AOA

[Dato John Cardosa](#), President

Dear Fellow Ostomates,

Nothing of significance has been happening in Asia since the Puerto Rico Congress last August.

However, the Japan Ostomy Association has been busy planning for the 6th AOA Conference which is scheduled to be held in Tokyo in November 2008. Two Planning Meetings have already been held last year, with the AOA President, John Cardosa in attendance. The third and last Planning Meeting will be held on 6th February to finalise the Conference Programme. which will then be advertised on the IOA

website: www.ostomyinternational.org.

The Meeting venue will be the Olympic Memorial Youth Centre in Shinjuku, Tokyo, which is centrally located, and which offers very cheap but comfortable single room accommodation with breakfast, at a cost of about USD40 per night, Bed and Breakfast, at the present exchange rate.

Arrangements can be made at a slightly higher cost for those who wish to have double rooms at a nearby hotel.

The JOA Planning Committee is planning to play host to at least 200 ostomates from Japan, and another 100 to 150 from Asia, Australia and New Zealand, and

elsewhere in the world. The AOA will also hold its Triennial House of Delegates' Meeting in conjunction with the 6AOA Conference, I hope as many ostomates as possible will take this opportunity to come to Japan for this Conference and at the same time to visit this beautiful country at a very reasonable cost. I can promise you that the Japanese will be wonderful hosts to us visitors

5ASSR: The 5th Congress of the Asian Society for Stoma Rehabilitation (ASSR) Will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in conjunction with the 6th Malaysian Colorectal Conference, on 7th and 8th March 2008. Two representatives from the Japan Ostomy Association, five representatives from the Stoma Care Society of Malaysia, and the AOA President, have been invited to attend without having to pay the registration fee. JOA will be sending two of their directors, Ms Noriko Takahashi and Prof. Michiaki Takaishi. The Stoma Care Society of Malaysia will send five representatives. John Cardosa will also attend the meeting. This is a great opportunity for us ostomates to meet up with colorectal surgeons and ET Nurses from all over Asia.

One of the main invited speakers is Professor Kamal Deen, a colorectal surgeon from Sri Lanka, who was one of Prof Carlo Pezcoller's guests at the Training Course for doctors which he held in 2002 in Modena, Italy. I am looking forward to meeting Prof Kemal once again, and bringing myself up to date on what is happening in Sri Lanka with the Sri Lanka Ostomy and Pouch Association (SLOPA).

I would like to take this opportunity to invite short reports from Asian Member Associations, on what is happening in your respective countries. Please send your reports to reach me by the end of May at the very latest if you wish me to include them in the next issue of IOA TODAY.

I am also looking for English-speaking young ostomates between the ages of 20 and 40 to write to me to tell me about yourselves, My email address is: cardosajd@gmail.com

My best wishes go to you all. To those of you who celebrate Chinese New Year in two weeks' time, I wish you "Kung Hee Fatt Chai". May God bless you all.

EUROPEAN REGION – EOA

Arne Holte, President

I wish you all very good and prosperous new year. The sun has turned, and even if it is still January, there is a touch of spring in the air – even up here in Norway. In the north of my country the sun will come back in some days, and it will again be daylight for some hours. It is probably not easy to understand for those of you living in more southern parts of Europe. Maybe even more difficult to understand, is the fact that in the summertime, the sun is shining for 24 hours a day (well, I must admit that we have a lot of bad weather in Norway - so just to say that the sun is shining during the night may be a little bit accurate). And to readers on the southern hemisphere, please excuse me for talking on brighter days in the end of January.

In 2008 the 12. EOA Congress in Brno in the Czech Republic will be the # one event for EOA. The congress takes place from 11. till 14. of September this year. Ostomates from all over Europe will then come together to what I have called the best EOA congress ever. Hopefully am I right – and the congress will be even better if also YOU come!

Just these days I am talking to the congress sponsors. We need a great deal of sponsorship as EOA is a rather poor organization. If we get the sponsorship we hope for, we will be able to invite and sponsor ostomates from countries with small resources. At the congress you will be able to meet companies having exhibits showing new products, nurses from WCET, doctors and ostomy friends from all over Europe. You will hear a variety of lectures from nurses, doctors and companies. We also intend to invite nurses from countries where there are no organizations for ostomates. Doing this is really a win-win situation as this gives the companies coming to Brno with exhibits the occasion to meet people from new areas = new markets, and we, EOA, the possibility to start new organizations.

Is there any other news for ostomates and friends in Europe in addition to the Brno Congress? Sure there is, we have got a website, www.ostomyeurope.org. We are really proud of the website where you will find information on what's going on in the EOA associations. Kes Klare from The Netherlands is the webmaster (thanks Kes!) and he (and I) urges now every EOA association to send us short information about just their association. Visit the website and see what kind of information some associations have already given. It is not much, but very useful not only for ostomates, but for anyone seeking information on ostomy in Europe.

I know also that there are a whole lot of activities in the 42 associations in Europe. Some will probably be more active than others. I will hopefully not offend anyone when I tell you that I get reports about great activities even in difficult areas like Palestine and Lebanon. Even if there are already 42 associations within EOA, there are many countries that do not have an organization for ostomates. One vital goal will be to get Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Macedonia, Greece and more to join the family!

NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN OSTOMY ASSOCIATION - NCACOA

[Doug Graham](#), President

I hope this report finds you in good health and spirits. I say report because I intend to provide more of a report on our Regional activities than a review of current items of interest. As we move forward and improve on contact and communications between the countries in our Region more information will be contained in these reports.

Doing Something

I have been exercising a bit of catch-up on two fronts these past few months. One is reviewing the history and standards of NCACOA and the other is applying the same techniques to learn the IOA history and standards. I thank Past-President Marilyn Mau for all the information and advice she has provided me with. I will more than likely ask other Past-Presidents for information and advice as we move forward. I also thank Ann Favreau, IOA Secretary for her help.

So, what have I been doing other than sorting, reading and filing documents?

- I moved our bank account from Chicago to Ottawa and placed it in an interest bearing and without service charge account.
- Developed a draft three year strategic plan
- With the Executive Council developed operational plans.
- Scheduled a meeting with Jorge Vargas Morales to plan our regional meeting for 2009.
- Confirmed an alliance with Friends of Ostomates Worldwide Canada and the United States of America
- Sent an Ostomy Canada magazine to the associations in our region that I have been able to contact.

Challenges

I believe that the regions of IOA are the mainstay of our Global Family. Strong united regions sharing their experiences with one another are what make IOA an attractive and effective organization to be associated with. We, in NCACOA, have a very diverse assortment of countries. Some countries are wealthy with good healthcare systems and some are not so well off. Communications is difficult not only because of different languages spoken but because of the communication tools available.

Opportunities

I have the pleasure that my wife is the President of Friends of Ostomates Worldwide Canada (FOW-C) and I have met with the Board of Friends of Ostomates Worldwide USA (FOW-USA). Both of these associations collect surplus Ostomy supplies and send them to needy Ostomates throughout the world. We have agreed to work together to identify areas within our Region that need help and to provide names of contact people to each other. These contacts may provide us with an opportunity to reestablish associations in countries where they have ceased to function and therefore improve our communications

Future

In future IOA-Today editions I will continue to inform you of our progress

I request that you contact me at adg.uoac@sympatico.ca to let me know the status of Ostomates in your country. With a little effort we can unite our Region, improve communications and help each other.

Doug Graham [President](#), George Salamy, Vice-President, Jorge Vargas Morales. Executive Member, Linda Aukett, Past President

SOUTH PACIFIC REGION - SPOA

Peter McQueen, President

We in the sunny south pacific are once again enjoying a marvellous summer and with it the joys of many outdoor activities that do not include shovelling snow. After just enjoying the festive season we are back into harness trying to supply support to ostomates in our region. As most would be aware there are only two countries in our region (Australia & New Zealand) affiliated with IOA. But they provide much support to less fortunate Ostomates in other countries in our part of the world.

Appliances are being provided to the fledgling Indonesian Ostomy Association and shipments have also been sent to both Fiji and Tonga the need to assist Ostomates in these countries continues to be a priority for both Australia and New Zealand whilst exploring what can be done to aid others in our region such as Papua New Guinea.

Locally both countries have had their annual conferences with New Zealand having theirs hosted by the Taranaki Society in September where John O'Neill was farewelled after many years as the National Treasurer and former President. The Archie Vinitsky award recognition from IOA of Johns outstanding service was celebrated. The National President of 6 years Frances Butler stepped down and was succeeded by Barry Maughan.

The Australian conference was held in Queensland on the Gold Coast with the Governor Generals representative opening the conference. Many topics were discussed, not least was Australia's continued role in IOA, the outcome was that Australia will continue to remain a full member of IOA and support their endeavours in providing aid support to Ostomates wherever they may be.

To Ostomates in the northern climes keep warm while we keep out of the sun.



20/40 FOCUS UPDATE

Sarah Maill, [20/40 Focus Chair](#)

Greetings from a wet and windy North-East of England.

Sitting here writing this article I can't believe it has been nearly six months since the 4th 20/40 Focus. On a personal level a lot has happened in that time, as I have started a new teaching job and have got engaged.

I have also been working closely with my 20/40 Focus sub-committee to carry 20/40 Focus forward. Our first aim was to give 20/40 Focus a stronger sense of identity and I am pleased to launch the above logo, which Janet Paquet designed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Janet for her time and effort in designing the logo.

Over the next few months, we are hoping to update the 20/40 Focus website and launch the 20/40 Focus blog on the IOA website. Both of these will help us to establish a worldwide network of "young" motivated contacts, which is one of our four main objectives.

We will continue to update you on 20/40 Focus initiatives through IOA Today and the IOA website. If you would like to get involved with 20/40 Focus please either contact myself or your regional representative through the IOA website.

THE AUSTRALIA FUND

By Mrs. Robin Gill, Administration Coordinator

The Australia Fund was originally named the International Benefit Fund and was established in 2002. The late Mr. Heinz Wolff, then President of the International Ostomy Association (IOA), attended the Annual Conference of the Australia Council of Stoma Associations (ACSA) that year. He suggested to delegates that as Australia enjoyed such an excellent Stoma Appliance Scheme, a fund could be initiated to help underprivileged ostomates in less fortunate countries. There was a high level of support for the suggestion amongst member associations and it was agreed that the fund should be established and all ostomates throughout Australia would be invited to

contribute. At the same time most associations agreed to make an annual contribution. The original donations from members and the ongoing contributions from ACSA Member Associations have provided sufficient amounts to enable the Fund to undertake a program of providing assistance mainly in the Asia/Pacific Region.

The fund's objectives are to provide direct help and support for ostomates in underdeveloped countries and any other countries where economic circumstances result in ostomates being unable to access a basic level of appliances and support services. The fund expressly limits its assistance to the direct supply of appliances and the fostering of the actual delivery of enterostomal therapy services.

The Australia Fund has a Management Committee of four people. Two of these people are from Australia and hold positions on the Australian Council of Stoma Associations. The Chairperson of the Australia Fund is Mr. Gerald Barry, ACSA President. Mr. Peter Lopez, ACSA Treasurer, acts as the Treasurer of the Fund. The remaining two members of the Management Committee represent IOA. They are Ms Dielwen Bracken and Mr. Gene Zapf both from Canada.

The Relief Co-coordinator is Mr. Bruce Harvey, from the Colostomy Association of South Australia. Bruce volunteered for the position of National Relief Co-coordinator and was appointed in 2005. Mrs. Robin Gill from the Western Australian Ostomy Association was appointed in 2007 as Administration Coordinator to manage requests for assistance and to help other countries and overseas ostomy associations with their applications.

Requests for funding by "The Australia Fund" are evaluated by the Management Committee in accordance with Fund Guidelines. The Administration Coordinator works with the proposer of the application to ensure that the Committee has all the necessary information to consider the application. The Guidelines for funding are as follows-

1. Use of the funds must be consistent with the objective of the Fund which is to assist ostomates in difficult circumstances anywhere in the world and particularly in developing countries and former eastern bloc countries.
2. Where it is an organization which is being assisted, it must be properly

constituted and, if appropriate, be affiliated with the relevant controlling body.

3. If an individual is being assisted it must be demonstrated that some general benefit to ostomates will result. (eg. training for a stomal nurse.) Details of the project should be provided setting out the proposed use of funds and the benefit to ostomates.
4. The Committee will evaluate the proposal on the following basis:
 - a) The intended use of the funds and the viability of the proposal;
 - b) The benefits to ostomates in difficult circumstances;
 - c) Whether those benefits are commensurate with the costs involved;
 - d) The ability of the organization/individual in terms to be able to provide the stated outcomes;

Other factors considered are whether there is any other funding and the arrangements being made to make sure the benefits provided are fully passed on to the ostomates.

The first project undertaken by the fund was in October 2002 when assistance was provided to one of six Australian Stomal Therapy Nurses who conducted a training program in stoma and wound care for nurses in The Philippines. This training was conducted as an adjunct to a conference of the World Council of Enterostomal Therapists (WCET) and 80 Filipino nurses attended the training sessions.

Funds to support the presence of Australian stomal therapists to act as trainers for the programme were requested on behalf of the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses. Although it was not seen as appropriate that the Australia Fund should fund attendance to the conference proper, considerable potential improvements in the management and treatment of ostomates in the region were seen as a probable outcome of the training programme. Accordingly, it was considered that the project fell within the guidelines of management of the Australia Fund and \$1,180 was allocated from the fund to assist in supporting the attendance of one stomal therapist nurse. A similar amount was also provided from IOA funds. A total of seven Australian nurses attended the conference.

A request for supplies to be sent to Indonesia was started by Julie McCaughan, an Australian Stomal Therapy nurse working in Indonesia. Julie is Director of Clinical Improvements, Siloam Health Care Group, PT Siloam Gleneagles Hospitals. At a meeting of The Stoma Product Assessment Panel in September 2005, the panel agreed in principal to her request, and in early January 2006 the ball started rolling. Mr. Bruce Harvey sent an application for funding for this project to the Committee in January 2006. This application was granted. Two parcels were sent from the Colostomy Association of South Australia and the Northern Territory Association was next to follow with a shipment in February 2006.

During the following eighteen months to 30th June 2007 the Australia Fund, in conjunction with Australian Ostomy Associations, provided appliances to ostomates in Indonesia and Fiji. The approximate total value of the supplies forwarded was AUD \$50,000. The Indonesian Cancer Association has taken responsibility for the distribution of appliances there and a quarterly report is provided on parcels received and how they are subsequently distributed. In Indonesia supplies to patients are greatly restricted by Australian standards. For example they may get only four base plates and four drainable bags per month. In 2008 it is hoped that the supply of relief appliances will be extended to other regions of Indonesia.

The funding for shipping relief appliances to Indonesia is ongoing and as such still requires hands on management by the National Relief Co-coordinator and the person or persons responsible for the distribution and reporting in Indonesia.

Some relief appliances have also been sent to Fiji and requests are being considered for sending relief supplies to the Philippines and East Timor.

The relief supplies must be able to be of use to the intended recipient and the Relief Co-coordinator is usually supplied with a wish list of the most needed appliances. The availability of the relief supplies come from several sources. Some are from deceased members or they may come from members who have had a reversal. Appliances sent overseas are carefully selected to ensure they are suitable for use by the ostomates there.

The Australia Fund also provided part scholarships to help train E.T. nurses, one from Argentina and one from

Indonesia. The value of this assistance totaled AUD \$3,250.

The supply of appliances and funding for the training of nurses (usually help with travel and accommodation expenses) has had excellent support from the Executive of ACSA and the relevant associations. As the reader can imagine, the collecting, co-coordinating, packing and shipping of relief supplies is no easy task.

Looking forward to 2008 and beyond, the Australia Fund aims to extend help to those countries which qualify for assistance, and to fulfill the Fund's objectives.

Note – Inquiries for assistance from the Australia Fund may be forwarded to

Mrs. Robin Gill – e-mail robingill@bigpond.com

With a copy to – Australia Fund Treasurer - acsatreas@quik.net.au

Germany / Deutsche ILCO Successful production of the DVD “Colorectal Cancer: Diagnosis – Therapy – After Care” Reported by Maria Hass

In spring 2007 Deutsche ILCO presented its DVD “Colorectal Cancer: Diagnosis – Therapy – After Care / Information and Orientation for Patients”. The first reflections on this topic started in autumn 2005. Since the beginning of 2006 the concept had been worked out together with a professional enterprise. This DVD informs in about 25 minutes about the whole care chain: from early detection to operation and different treatments to after care. Of course also the work of Deutsche ILCO – the German association for ostomates and people with colorectal cancer – is well represented on this DVD. You can see a statement of the president of Deutsche ILCO as well as the work at an information stand and the visiting service in a hospital.

1000 DVD's have been produced. The development and the production costs (about 33.000 EURO) had been covered by a cooperation of different health insurances. Therefore it is possible to hand out the DVD for free – except a small amount for the shipment. All chapter leaders and other voluntary cooperators of Deutsche ILCO had been offered the DVD first and a lot of them used or uses them during their chapter meetings or at information stands. Also nearly 50 rehabilitation clinics use this DVD for the information and education of the patients during their stay. More than 200 hospitals

decided to publish it on the patient channels in the hospital-TV. Every day new asks are received in the national office.

With the DVD and the actions around its publication Deutsche ILCO now participates in a nationwide communication competition advertised by the German Cancer Association and the "Stiftung Lebensblicke" (an organisation for the early detection of colorectal cancer). We will see whether our participation will be successful or not.



representative of FOW USA at the Congress and together we had the opportunity to visit and address each regional meeting. FOW USA has a much larger supply ready to ship and through the contacts she made at the conference they helped several countries with shipments.

During that same month I attended the United Ostomy Association Conference in Calgary. FOWC had its Annual General Meeting which was attended poorly due to scheduling of many other sessions at the same time. FOWC presented the Allan Porter Award to a very supporting Winnipeg Ostomy Chapter. We are still looking for a person who could help translating small notes/letters from Russian to English and from English to Russian.

IOA PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AWARD

A ceremony was held in São Paulo on October 29, 2007, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 AM at Hotel Business in honor of Dr Souza and his IOA Professional Service Award. Fifty (50) participants were present including government authorities, municipal authorities, laboratory representatives, presidents of associations, ETs. and medical professionals.



1. FOWC continues to be very busy helping people all over the world. Since August we send support to single ostomates in: Granada, Nicaragua; Peshawar Pakistan; L'Algerie, Algeria; Reghaïam, West Alger; Azrou, Morocco and not to forget the babies at the Hope Foster Home in China. We also sent a small parcel to the Palestine Ostomy Association. Just recently we received a request from Ethiopia via the past president of IOA. When we requested the size of the stoma, the reply came back, "medium." We have already sent a parcel and we will see where it leads us.

We met and supported new ostomates: Mina L. in Mdig, Morocco, Miguelito, a 6 year old boy from Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; Dolly M. in Caroni, Trinidad W.I.; Maria C. from Kalookan, Philippines and Enrique A. from Managua, Nicaragua. Enrique hopes to be only a temporary ostomate. He was robbed at his home and was shot on the left side of his abdomen. This damaged his bladder and small intestine and as part of a 7 hour operation received a stoma.

All are very thankful and happy to receive these much needed supplies.

One large skit of supplies went to Cuba and two skits to India. Another skit to the Philippines ran into problems. The vessel had encountered heavy weather on route and as a result a number of containers have been toppled, damaged as well as lost overboard. We have not received any confirmation that the container with our skit was affected. The vessel has been re-routed to Pusan, Korea before going on to the final destination, Manila.



FOWC CANADA

Submitted by:
Astrid Graham
[President](#),
Friends of
Ostomates
Worldwide
Canada



I attended the IOA Congress in Puerto Rico in August 2007, met old friends and made many new ones. The IOA Congresses are very interesting and many countries are represented and that gives me the opportunity to talk to many Country representatives. I also met Ruth, the

Our Editor, Bette Yetman created a great fall 2007 newsletter. Anybody who would like a copy, please email us at info@fowcanada.org. We continue to receive very good feed-back with each new edition.

We received 'thank you' notes, emails, phone calls and pictures. Thanks to our supporters we can continue with our mission of sending help and rehabilitation everywhere.

MOSCOW REGIONAL PUBLIC ORGANIZATION OF STOMA PATIENTS

Vyacheslav Sukhanov, Ph. D. President of "ASTOM"
Chairman of the Coordination Council of the Russian Regional Ostomy Patients' Public Organizations

2007 Annual Report

The Moscow Regional Public Organization of Ostomy Patients "ASTOM" in cooperation with the Ministry of Healthcare and Social Development of Russia, the Federal Fund of Social Insurance, the State Scientific Center of Coloproctology, the Institute of Urology, producers of ostomy care products – Coloplast A/S (Denmark), ConvaTec (Great Britain), Palma (Russia) worked out and published recommendations on rehabilitation and supply of invalids with ostomy care products.

On the request of the Federal Fund of Social Insurance in order to determine demand for ostomy care products ASTOM collected data on the number of ostomy patients in Russia.

ASTOM participated in the development of tender requirements for the 2008 national tender on ostomy care products.

At the 12th IOA Congress in Puerto Rico in August 2007 the Coordination Council of the Russian Regional Ostomy Patients' Public Organizations became a member of the IOA. Now Russia is fully represented in the International Organization.

Analytical materials and proposals on improvement and development of the mechanism of supply of Russian ostomates with ostomy care products prepared by ASTOM envisage the following:

- Growth of the number of ostomates in Russia;
- Annual demand in ostomy care products;
- Calculation of the annual cost of ostomy care products;
- Analysis of current problems with the supply of ostomy care products;

- Standards of supply of ostomy care products.

ASTOM continued cooperation with the Ministry of Healthcare working out standards of supply of ostomy care and rehabilitation of ostomy patients.

ASTOM considered complaints of 76 ostomy patients from different Russian regions and helped them to solve their problems.

In September-October 2007 special monitoring to determine the number of ostomates using 1- and 2-piece colostomy bags was made in all Russian regions. Results of the monitoring showed that a considerable number of Russian ostomates are permanent users of colostomy bags. Thus 1- and 2-piece colostomy bags were included into the 2008 national tenders on ostomy care products.

ASTOM is an active member of the Advisory Committee of the Federal Fund of Social Insurance. It made a number of proposals to improve the existing system of supply of ostomy care products:

- 1) To provide ostomy care products to all ostomates irrespective of the invalidity status including patients with temporary ostomies and infants younger than 1 year. (According to the Russian law only invalids with stoma are provided with free ostomy care products.)
- 2) In order to satisfy individual needs of ostomates a wide assortment of products of at least three producers should be supplied.
- 3) Ostomy care specialists should determine quantity and assortment of ostomy care products supplied to the invalid to satisfy his individual needs.

ASTOM succeeded in negotiating with the Ministry of Healthcare and Customs Committee VAT and customs duties exemption for ostomy care products imported to Russia for ostomy invalids.

ASTOM carried out scientific activities in the sphere of social rehabilitation of ostomy patients. The following scientific books were published:

- Suhanov V.G., Ph.D., "Social rehabilitation of ostomy patients";
- Suhanov V.G., Ph.D., Lukjanova I.E., M.D., "Rehabilitation of patients with restricted vital functions"