



# IOA TODAY

BRINGING YOU OSTOMY NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



## **PRESIDENT**

Dr. Harikesh Buch  
Email: [IOA.President](mailto:IOA.President)

## **VICE PRESIDENT**

Barry Maughan  
Email: [IOA.Vice.President](mailto:IOA.Vice.President)

## **TREASURER**

Gene Zapf  
Email: [Treasurer](mailto:Treasurer)

## **PAST PRESIDENT**

Dielwen "Di" Bracken  
Email: [Past.President](mailto:Past.President)

## **REGIONAL PRESIDENTS**

### **PRESIDENT**

**[ALADO-SOUTH AMERICA](#)**  
Teresa Antequera  
Email: [ALADO.President](mailto:ALADO.President)

### **PRESIDENT**

**[ASIAN OSTOMY ASSOCIATION](#)**

Prof. Michiaki Takaishi

### **PRESIDENT**

**[EUROPEAN OSTOMY ASSOCIATION](#)**

Arne Holte  
Email: [European](mailto:European)

### **PRESIDENT**

**[NORTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN OSTOMY ASSOCIATION](#)**

Doug Graham

### **PRESIDENT**

**[SOUTH PACIFIC OSTOMY ASSOCIATION](#)**

Peter McQueen  
Email: [South.Pacific](mailto:South.Pacific)

### **20/40 CHAIRPERSON**

Janet Paquet  
Email: [20/40.Chair.Person](mailto:20/40.Chair.Person)

### **SECRETARY**

Ann Favreau  
Venice, FL USA  
Email: [Secretary](mailto:Secretary)

### **WEBMASTER/INTERNET CONSULTANT**

**[IOA TODAY EDITOR](#)**  
Stuart J. Schaefer  
Email: [Webmaster](mailto:Webmaster)

## **From The Desk Of The Editor** **Stuart Schaefer, Editor**

Where has 2009 gone? Here it is with the year half over. This is already the 3rd issue of IOA TODAY for this year.

Ok for all of you readers of this newsletter I along with Di Bracken, Past IOA President, Doug Graham, NCACOA President and Janet Paquet, 20/40 Focus Chair will all be in attendance at the UOAA Conference August 5-9 in New Orleans. Make sure you look us up and say hello.

Di will be holding a secession, The Future of the International Ostomy Association (IOA) Saturday 8:30 am. That will be a good opportunity to hear what is going on with the International Ostomy Association.

Now of course there will be many great sessions during this conference that you should find very interesting. To view a list of all sessions visit:

[http://www.uoaa.org/files/events/program\\_summary\\_042709.pdf](http://www.uoaa.org/files/events/program_summary_042709.pdf)

If you are not able to attend make sure you visit the IOA Blog:

<http://www.cblog.ostomyinternational.org/>  
Myself, Di and Janet will be posting daily reports live from the conference. Also I hope to be posting daily photos of the event.

Now speaking of the IOA Blog if you have not read Di's current travel adventures.

<http://www.cblog.ostomyinternational.org/index.php?/categories/9-Past-President-Dis-Blog>

Don't forget World Ostomy Day coming up October 3, 2009 (October 17th in the US). Take time to view Peter McQueen's report found on page 2 of this newsletter. Also remember to view the IOA Website: <http://www.ostomyinternational.org> for more information.

## **From the Desk of the President** **Harikesh Buch**

Dear friends,

Greetings from Mumai. It is raining like cats & dogs with very high velocity winds here for last few days. I had problems with internet because of this.

Let me update with you with IOA current activities.



Harish with the ECET President.

I had very successful participation in European council of ET'S ( ECET ) congress as an IOA president in O'Porto, Portugal in June 2009. I think, this is the first time an IOA president was invited to speak & participate in ECET meeting. Mr Arne Holte also was invited & he also participated as EOA president.

I was invited to speak on two main subjects.

**"Stoma Care Resources" & " End Of Life - Social & Spiritual response".**

I gave my experience in Stoma Care Resources in countries of Asia & South America. The importance of trained doctors & nurses as stoma care resources & how the lack of this will result in difficulties for full rehabilitation of ostomates. I gave them examples how this has affected some countries of Asia & South America.

" End Of Life " - I had to read & do research a lot for this talk. I gave the Indian perspective of dealing with Terminal illness & how our spiritual back ground helps us to over come this. What we feel about life after death was also covered.

It was well received & a person from Holland has requested me to write my presentation as an article to be published in their publication.

Mr Arne Holte gave his perspectives on the same topics based on his experience in Norway & Europe.

I also had presentations on **"Sexuality & Ostomates" & "Unresolved Problems of Ostomates in Developing Countries of Asia & South America "**

I had meetings with Mrs Elizabeth English, WCET president & Mrs Carman, Chairman Education committee of WCET in Porto. Both have agreed to help us in training more nurses in Stoma care in countries where it is required & support us in our projects.

I had chance to meet with top executives of all the manufacturers of Ostomy care products in Porto. All of them are willing to help us improve QOL of ostomates in needy countries.

I met with Mrs Jytte Glimm, Sr Admin. Manager, Access to Health Care ( AtH ) from Denmark. AtH is a NGO set up by Coloplast Inc , Denmark during their Golden Jubilee celebrations 3 years ago to help ostomates in needy countries of the world. We had applied to AtH for project funding for China. I have received confirmation from AtH about financial support for China Project where we intend to train them in ISCAP as well as in Visitors training & help them to form Ostomates groups in various cities of China. Project will start within few months in China & will last for 2 years.

I have also applied for training of more nurses in stoma care in India. AtH had indicated last year about their readiness in considering project funding in China , India & Mexico for this year.

There after I went to USA to be with my brother's family in New Jersey. It was a private trip.

But with prior arrangements made by Dianne Owen ( Sr. Manager Customer & Professional Relations, Hollister ), Di Bracken ( IPP ) & I went to Hollister's HQ in Chicago to meet the Senior Executives of Hollister from Ostomy Care & Support, Research & Development as well as with Sales & Marketing divisions. We were pleased that Mr Al Maslov ( previous Sr.Global Sales Marketing Manager, Hollister & very dear friend of many IOA EC members) was invited. He picked us up at the hotel and took us to breakfast. I visited for the first time. It has really excellent facilities surrounded by lush green gardens & landscapes. The hospitality from Hollister was excellent.

We had detailed presentations from Hollister as an ostomy care manufacturer about their vision & principles, about the " Secure Start " programme to help new ostomates to become independent during the initial months of ostomy surgery ( This service is provided free of Charge by Hollister ) & how

they are willing to help us to improve QOL of ostomates in needy countries. They also told us their future plans in Asia. We told them about our visions of IOA, our future projects & the new task force to look in to future of IOA. We also told them about what we achieved in South America after we did part of ISCAP training & Introduce them to Visitors training along with what currently they have achieved in terms of nurses training in Spanish speaking countries of South America. The Meeting ended with tour of Research & Development facilities of Hollister.

Di, went back to Canada & I returned to my brothers home in NJ.

Next day , with kind help & initiatives from Ken Aukett ( Past President IOA& founder member & President of UOAA), while I was in Portugal ,both of us met Convatec Sr. Executives including Mr Nino Pionati, president Ostomy care & Intercontinental - Convatec & three others from Sales & Marketing & from finance department in Skillman, NJ,USA

Again it was a very successful meeting with them. I explained to them our vision & projects for future & what we have done so far in Asia & South America. We explained about Twinning programme. I told them what we have achieved in Asia & In Spanish speaking countries of south America after our visit their to train them in ISCAP & Visitors Training. I thanked them for their quick & generous funding last year. I have clarified about their funding for this year which they told me that they will give it to IOA after overcoming a few administrative hurdles.

But now onward for every project of IOA, we will have to apply for funding through their website to their separate trust just like AtH of Coloplast. They told us how they will help us in improving QOL of ostomates in needy countries. Their hospitality to Ken & I was excellent. Ken had kindly given me a lift to & from home to Convatec HQ in NJ.

After this IOA Today, on 3rd October 2009 , all of us will be celebrating World Ostomy Day ( WOD ) in our respective countries. I am sure all of you must have worked hard to arrange this celebrations in your respective Ostomy Organisations. On behalf of entire IOA EC members & myself , I wish you very successful events for WOD this year. Do not forget to write up, take Videos / Pictures & submit your report to IOA EC for the Coloplast WOD competition Merit award & Hollister's Photographic competition. For the details of application for these, please check our IOA website.

Best wishes to all of you & with kind regards.

Harikesh.



## **World Ostomy Day**

I am pleased to announce that arrangements for celebrating WOD2009 are well underway in many countries throughout the world. The day is being recognized throughout the World on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October but the UOAA (United Ostomy Association of America) are celebrating WOD2009 on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October.

Whilst it would be better if all countries celebrated it on the same day, if that is not possible it is important that World Ostomy Day is celebrated which ever date is selected, it is an excellent opportunity to get our message out to the general community on the needs and aspirations of Ostomates wherever they may be.

Some of the activities programmed to take place are:

**Brazil** National Art Contest for Ostomates, and Ostomy awareness seminars.

**Argentina** Reunions organized, conference and social activities planned.

**Bolivia** Public awareness and education activities planned.

**Colombia** **Conferences** on Healthy Living and Cancer prevention public awareness campaign.

**Chile** Educational clinics, public awareness campaign through local media.

**Paraguay** Public awareness campaigns through media outlets.

**Singapore** Outdoor activities, interaction with the general public to foster better understanding and to promote awareness.

**Mexico** The State Governor of Colima has proclaimed the day honouring all Ostomates, a full program has been arranged highlighting all aspects of Ostomy care.

**New Zealand** Promotional posters, National Radio programs and legal stamps commemorating the day.

**Canada** Many and varied activities are planned including a WOD Day Walk in the Park, entertainment has been arranged and many local dignitaries will be invited.

**Australia** All local Associations are conducting public awareness activities, with many being involved in information seminars.

As can be seen these are just a glimpse of what is going on around the world and even now **It is Not Too Late to Join In.**

If your Association has not begun to organize your WOD activities it is not too late there is still 10 weeks or so till October 3, **it is not too late to join in. It is not too late to show Ostomates "Reaching Out" and being involved in all areas of community activities"**

### **Coloplast Merit award**

There is a lot of information on the website and I ask you to look here for that [www.ostomyinternational.org](http://www.ostomyinternational.org) there are two major prizes of \$US2500 and \$US1000 for the 3 areas and an encouragement award of \$US500. You can fill in your entry form after WOD. The entries will not close before December. Please look at the "What your entry may look like" help guide. No matter how small your effort may be **please consider entering** as the Criteria for Judging takes into account those matters. Coloplast have generously supported WOD with US \$12000. For this award.

### **Hollister Photo Competition**

Hollister are conducting their photo competition once again and after judging, the results will be notified to the winners shortly thereafter.

The Winning photos will be sent to all member Associations so you can use them for WOD in any way you wish. A CD will be posted to you (mailed) and we are indebted for Hollister's help and support.

### **Convatec Poster Competition**

I am pleased to announce that Convatec are conducting a poster competition for WOD 2009, final details are not available at this time but will be posted on the IOA website as soon as possible, so keep your eyes open.

**World Ostomy Day** is the premier date in the World Ostomy Calendar, it is a day we can all focus on informing the general community of who we are and what we represent, to let them know that having our plumbing altered is the only difference between them and us.

Good luck with your planning, do not be inhibited in what you may dream up, above all celebrate the day.

Peter McQueen

**SOUTH AMERICAN REGION – ALADO****Teresa Antequera, President.**

All counties in the region are preparing for World Ostomy Day.

AADO in Buenos Aires is making plans to promote World Ostomy Day through individual telephone calls and the internet. Their early preparations are producing good results. DR. PAUL FARINA, is the new CHIEF OF HOSPITAL for Coloproctology at the Pirovano Hospital. They are working to create a new group in Aregentina in the province of Mendoza. AADO reports that World Ostomy Day celebrations will be held in Mar del Plaza. In AADO we have new directories: President : Mercedes Nieto, Vice president Carmen Alonso, Secretary Norberto Casas, and Treasurer Carmen Morte

ACDO-Mariella de Romero from Colombia, the coordinator for World Ostomy Day, has delivered the report for ALADO to Barry Maughan.

ABO of Bolivia sent by bus NURSE ADELA INCA, to the training school that has been established in Cordoba, Argentina. She received her FIRST-LEVEL TRAINING in Stoma Care. She is now back at home in Santa Cruz where she is working in our association with optimum results.

Corporation ostomates Coraos Region V Chili



Activities undertaken by the corporation ostomates Coraos Region V Chili. We perform an activity in the month of May in order to pay a part of our input (colostomy bags) Attend meetings with authorities of the region and thus exposing our needs and seek cooperation for events "World Ostomy Day"

July 14.15 &16, MARIELA ROMERO, DE ACERO, VICE PRESIDENT OF ALADO represented the ALADO Region at the Coloproctology meeting that was organized in Ecuador. Mariela spoke on the work of ALADO in South America

12.13 and 14 SEPTEMBER there will be colorectal and stoma care meeting in Paraguay. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REGION TERESA ANTIGUERA, DR. HUGO HEREDIA, AND E.T. LIC. ELSA BEATRIZ from Cordoba, Argentina will participate in the event. It is hoped to establish an association in Paraguay.

**ASIAN REGION – IOA****Michiaki Takaishi, President.**

1. AOA Reopens its Newsletter on the Web  
AOA used to publish printed Newsletter but it stopped for last several years.  
Coordination Committee has decided to restart it on the AOA website in August this year. Ronaldo, a CC member, is the editor and I expect many friends will visit our URL; <http://ostomyasian.org/>
2. JOA-MOA Twinning Programme develops  
JOA friendship tour group visited Mongolia from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2009, and agreed with Mongolian Ostomy Association to further develop joint project. The group was consisted of 13 Japanese ostomates, their two spouses, Prof. Shindo and Ms. Fukai, a leading ET/WOC nurse. They were warmly welcomed by the MOA Executive members, President Mr. Tsogt, Vice-President Dr. Enkhamgalan, and by many Mongolian ostomates. Prof. Shindo and Ms. Fukai gave lectures on medical and care issues to Mongolian nurses and doctors, and I talked about the important role of patients group to achieve better QOL.



This is farewell dinner hosted by MOA President Dr. Tsogt, sitting in the centre, with JOA Vice President Mr. Sasaoka, Prof. Shindo, AOA President Prof. Takaishi, MOA executives and JOA tour group.

Leaders of both association visited the office of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and asked their financial support for training of Mongolian nurses, a joint venture under the JOA-MOA Twinning Programme with professional help by medical experts of both countries. They visited the Ministry of Health of Mongolia as well and met the Director of Department of Medical Care Policy Implementation and Coordination. He understood necessity of nurse training and agreed to support our project.

## EUROPEAN REGION – EOA

### Arne Holte, President

Hello fellow ostomates!

What is really going on in the European Ostomy Association, EOA? It seems that things are just as normal as usual. Most of our 42 member organizations work hard for ostomates in their countries. In some countries we do have trouble getting good contacts. One example will be Belarus where both Daiga Skagale from Latvia and the immediate past president of IOA, Vladimir Kleinwächter from The Czech Republic, have done several attempts to get in contact with the person listed as president without any luck so far. Also Algeria gives us some trouble getting no contact. So – if any of you who are reading this have any contact with ostomates in those two countries please let us know. We sure do not want to lose any “family members”.

We also work hard to get Turkey and Greece into the family, and hopefully this will be a fact in some time. Member of the Coordination Committee in EOA, Giuseppe de Salvo, has after some trouble established a new contact in Greece, and Maydad Gissin from Israel works with Turkey. I myself was so lucky to meet nurse Ayise from Turkey when I attended the ECET congress in Portugal in June. She gave me first-hand information on the situation in her country giving me hopes of having a Turkish member of EOA in some months.

The ECET (European Council of Enterostomal Therapists) congress in Porto, Portugal, was a great experience meeting nurses from all over Europe. Most of them were new to me, but among the 1200 were old friends from Russia and other countries. I also met the IOA president Harikesh Buch.

I was very honoured to be invited to give two lectures. The first one was “**Governmental Supports - European ostomates Rights, Duties and Benefits**”. The other one was to have been on “**Voluntary work at the end of life**”. However I do not know about any ostomy organization that works with patients at the end of life, so I changed the subject to “**Visiting service**” which I know very well after more than 30 years of such service in my home country.

I also met a lot of representatives from companies producing ostomy appliances and all kinds of stuff we ostomates may use. Some of them were old friends – some new. Great ! I was invited by the organizer headed by president Maria Joana Tavares who took very good care of me. Good care of me took also Dr. Joao Amandia and Ligias Dias from the Liga de Ostomizados de Portugal. They sure did their best to make me feel good in Porto – and I really did ! Amongst a lot of excellent meals they took me to their premises in Porto and told me about their care for ostomates – which goes further than I am used to from Norway, but undoubtedly a first class care !

We are approaching WOD – World Ostomy Day – where ostomates all over the world will be Reaching Out - which is the slogan for that great day, October 3. I know that there are planned a whole lot of activities all over Europe. Some will have great gatherings/meetings/congresses – other will have smaller local arrangements. My hope is that they all will be Reaching Out ! Coloplast will give EOA 1000 WOD badges, and all EOA associations have been invited to say yes or no to get badges. Hopefully most of our member organizations will report that they want to have some badges.

Monday just after WOD I will be at home in Kristiansand, Norway, where many distributors of Ostomy appliances are invited to have exhibits at a hotel in the city. In addition we will lecture about the Norwegian organization for ostomates, NORILCO, bag changing, daily life with an ostomy and much more. Of course food and drink will be served.

## NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA and CARIBBEAN OSTOMY REGION – NCACOA

### Doug Graham, President



I send greetings from Ottawa, best wishes and thanks for taking the time to read our reports. Looking back over the history of NCACOA and the Associations that have come and gone I am continually impressed that a handful of well meaning volunteers has accomplished so much. But like all organizations there are high and low points. The important constant factor is that someone has always step forward and accepted the responsibility to coordinate our Associations in the goal that all countries will provide a decent selection of ostomy products that will give the highest quality of life to all Ostomates. Fine products at fair prices and easily accessed is essential to a productive high quality of life. An agenda that includes these rights is the agenda that has and will provide our Association with a goal that will attract others to join us and accept the responsibility to coordinate our Associations to help those in need.

You many read in the United Ostomy Association of America (UOAA) report that they will be celebrate their second conference this August in New Orleans. I am very pleased to report that I will be in attendance and have been asked to bring greetings and to provide a presentation. Also, the members of our Executive Council will be there and we will meet to review the strategic plan and the progress to date with the intent of focusing on our future directions.

We continue to contact Ostomates and medical professionals in countries in Central America and the Caribbean Island Nations. We hope that local champions

will be attracted to our Association and that the quality life for many will be improved.

### Countries Reports

I have received reports from Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the United States of America.

**Mexico, The Asociacion De Ostomizados De Colima**  
**President: Ofelia Delgado Puente, Jorge Vargas Morales**



It is my pleasure to give a brief report of some of the association of ostomates Colima, Mexico activities. The basic task of our association is information and education to patients and members of their families. We continue to visit hospitals and talk

to patients before and after their operations. Using our personal experience we try to arouse optimism, faith and the will to return to normal life.

Another aim of our association is to establish branches throughout the Mexican Republic. We use private cars from our membership or friends. We visited ostomy people with problems of mobility, wheelchair and bed written in small towns and communities. People are often reserved in small towns, frightened or full of shame. It happens that patients do not want to tell their family and friends of their stoma. The supplies from foreign manufactures are available but are very expensive and only the wealthy can afford them. Supplies from local manufactures are readily available at a low cost; however they are completely unsatisfactory as they last only a few hours and are not odor proof. For this reason we have the obligation to thank to FOW Canada specially Mrs. Astrid Graham, President and Treasurer FOWC for donating various ostomy/medical products. All those appliances have been distributed among ostomates who were not able to afford to buy those products. We want to express to all readers the excellent and valorous timework of FOW Canada and the Colima Ostomy Association is very grateful for the support received. We greatly appreciate all your help.

### Groups

According to the age the members of the association are divided into the following groups: Up to 16 years old 0.4 %, 17 to 50 years old 41 %, more than 51 years old 55%.

According to the type of stoma, our patients are divided into these groups; Ileostomy 0.3 %, Colostomy 92% and Urostomy 0.5 %. In order to continue giving the best attention, we are attending people by ages, because in the small ostomy house it is too difficult to attend all at the same time (136 ostomy people and families).

### Process

The first day of each month we attend ostomates age 0-17 years old. On the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the month we attend people from 18-40 years old. On the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the month we attend 41 to 60 years old. On the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month we attend people 60 years and older. On the 20<sup>th</sup> day of the month we only meet with wives. On the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month we meet with husbands of people with ostomy. On the 30<sup>th</sup> day we visit ostomy people with mobility problems in the rural areas outside of Colima City.

### Recent Activities

The NCACOA conference was held February 2009. It was a big success for the Colima ostomy community. We had the great presence of very important persons; Mrs. Di Bracken, Past-President IOA, Doug and Astrid Graham, Presidents NCACOA and FOW Canada, Jim and Dianne Garde from Canada. Kristin Knipp, President-Elect UOAA, Ruth Salinger, Director FOW-USA, Martha Velez de Nieves, Past-President NCACOA and Estela Rodriguez from Puerto Rico and Thomas Howe from USA.

There were very important lectures from Dianne Garde from Canada and Dr. Aaron Bernal Martinez from Colima, Mexico. An excellent presentation from Doug Graham about the NCOCAO region and Astrid Graham about the work of FOW Canada. On behalf of Colima Ostomy community, I want to express and to give thanks, thanks, thanks to all beautiful persons from Canada, Puerto Rico and USA that came to Colima. We will never forget you. Thanks for coming.

### Psychological Approach

In order to support ostomy people from a psychological approach, we have welcomed Roman Gonzalvo from Spain. He is working with the patients in an advanced state as part of the agreement between the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid Spain and the Universidad de Colima, Mexico under the great effort from Master Karel Ochoa Reyes, chair of programming named Estudiantes Voluntarios de la Universidad de Colima. Thank you so much, Master Karel for her valious support to our association.

### Coming events

Major Jorge Vargas will participate as speaker at the third international congress of the Mexican association for wound care and healing, taking place September 3-6, 2009 at the mission Juriquilla Hotel, in Juriquilla, Queretaro, 210 km from Mexico City.

Major Vargas will present the topic "experiencia vivida - diferencia entre salir adelante con apoyo o sin apoyo" (experience life differential between go ahead with support and without support).

We have no ET nurses in Colima state. In order to solve this problem and to enhance the quality of live for ostomates we will organize in November this year short courses for local nurses and students trying to become stoma nurses.

As for the WOD 2009 we are arranging a special event on 3<sup>rd</sup> October. It will take place at the auditorium "Archivo Historico de la Universidad de Colima".

**ASOCIACION DE OSTOMIZADOS DE PUERTO RICO**By: **Martha Vélez de Nieves**

In Puerto Rico we have summer all year but when it comes to July and August we have the highest temperatures of the year.

On April 24-25, 2009 we presented the Super



Colon at Plaza Las Américas Mall. This is the largest mall in the Caribbean, with daily visits of approximately 900 daily. This was a collaborative participation together with other organizations that included the National Cancer Institute's Cancer Information Service, Oncology Nurses Association, Sanofis Aventis and the ACS. Attached are some photographs and advertising flyer.

During summer we always plan an outdoor activity. This year we will be visiting a historic site and will have a pool party. Ostomates are very enthusiastic about this activity as for some of them this will be their first visit to the pool after Ostomy surgery.



Time passes by so fast we are already preparing World Ostomy Day activities. We hope to have a big celebration as we have done during the past. We encourage all Ostomy associations to

get together for this important celebration.

**United States of America,  
United Ostomy Association of America**

**President: Ken Aukett**  
**Extracts from the UOAA Updates**

UOAA UPDATES is a way that UOAA communicates with its members. It is hoped that the information is being passed on to all members, either by including some of the news in Affiliated Support Groups (ASG) newsletters or by discussing it at the local meetings. Ken has asked that I extract some information from these updates as their report. To read these Updates please visit: <http://uoa.wordpress.com/>

**News From New Orleans**

Near the Conference Registration Desk on the Hotel's 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor UOAA will have a table where the following items will

be sold: Colondars, UOAA Luggage Tags, Stress Balls, Mardi Gras Masks and, introducing the new UOAA Organizational Pin and the Official UOAA Conference Limited Edition Collector's Pin.

**World Ostomy Day Reminder**

UOAA will hold World Ostomy Day on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2009. Traditionally WOD is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of October, but in 2009, since this date conflicts with the widely observed Jewish Holidays of Shmini Atzeret and Simchas Torah, UOAA's MBoD approved moving the official WOD'09 observance in the United States to Saturday, October 17<sup>th</sup>. Seize the opportunity to reach out and inform others of the Ostomy experience.

**Advocacy**

Jennifer C. Jaff, Esq., Executive Director of Advocacy for Patients with Chronic Illness, Inc. has entered into an agreement with UOAA wherein she will provide legal counsel to members of UOAA's Affiliated Support Groups who are experiencing discrimination issues because of their ostomy, be it in the form of social discrimination, or discrimination in the workplace. Jennifer stands ready to advise you of your rights and assist you in the development of a plan of action. This service is provided free to any inquiring ASG member. (As a service to its members, UOAA underwrites the cost of these services.)

Doug Graham

**SOUTH PACIFIC REGION – SPOA**  
**Peter McQueen, President**

Preparations for World Ostomy Day are well underway in both Australia and New Zealand with many local Associations (Chapters) incorporating innovative ideas to celebrate the event. New Zealand are once again designing and producing a legal stamps highlighting the day as well as producing promotional posters in support of local activities. In Australia all Associations and support groups are being involved in public awareness activities which hopefully attract media attention.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2009 the 2<sup>nd</sup> regional meeting of SPOA held outside an IOA meeting will be held in Canberra, Australia's capital city. As part of the annual meeting of ACSA there will be a regional meeting of SPOA where delegates from New Zealand and Australia have been invited to attend, no doubt the membership status of Australia will be high on the agenda.

The annual conference of the Federation of New Zealand Ostomy Societies will take place in Hamilton from the 7<sup>th</sup> till the 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2009.

In an effort assist those in our region Australia and New Zealand are continuing to supply appliances to Indonesia, The Philippines' Tonga and Fiji and recently supplies were forwarded to Nepal, the supply of appliances to other countries is also under consideration.

We in the south Pacific are in the middle of winter although not as severe as the northern winters we never the less are looking forward to spring and the optimism it brings. We hope our fellow Ostomates in the northern hemisphere an enjoying summer.

*Peter McQueen*

## 20/40 Focus

Greetings from the 20/40 Focus Committee!

In the SPOA region, Andrea Shaw of Australia continues to make headway expanding the 20/40 contact list. She has identified several different groups and has set up a communication list – keeping all 20/40 members aware of what is happening in their region.

After many years of inactivity of the 20/40 Focus in the AOA region, Ronaldo Lora of the Philippines has done incredible work reestablishing a 20/40 plan. Ronaldo has set up several 20/40 Focus 'desks'. These focus groups are comprised of a structured set-up of young volunteer ostomates coming from the countries and regions of Asia. In essence, each 'desk' has established themselves as a satellite group with their own rules. There is constant communication with the IOA 20/40 Focus AOA representative and the group falls under the umbrella of the 'desk's' particular country association. In particular the JOA 'desk' has started a blog which offers information on topics including, marriage, childbirth, work and the like. The blog can be accessed at: <http://20/40focus.blog10.fc2.com/>. The group also hopes to publish an email magazine with the objective of participation and exchange of information among young ostomates. The JOA also held a Youth Forum in June that had 47 people in attendance including observers. The AOA region and in particular Ronaldo Lora should be complimented on the fine work done encouraging young ostomates in the AOA region.

Currently, in the NCACOA region, members are gearing up for the start of the UOAA 2009 Conference. Members will recall that at the IOA World Congress in Puerto Rico, August 2007, Ken Aukett invited members of the 20/40 Focus to join the YODAA (Young Ostomate & Diversion Alliance of America) group at the conference. The programming for the joint 20/40 Focus and YODAA gathering will run in conjunction with the UOAA sessions. The conference is being held August 5-8<sup>th</sup> in New Orleans, LA in the southern United States. Please check the IOA 20/40 blog at [www.cblog.ostomyinternational.org](http://www.cblog.ostomyinternational.org) for a daily update of the exciting activities taking place at the conference.

Janet Paquet  
20/40 Focus Chair

## Save the date!!!



*Let the Good Times Roll!*

5-8 August, 2009

### WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!!!

Join UOAA and its Young Ostomate & Diversion Alliance of America support group in the culturally diverse city of NEW ORLEANS. Meet with fellow 20/40 ostomates from around the world to exchange experiences and information about the conditions ostomates are facing in their life situations.

**Network .. Learn .. and Enjoy**

*For info e-mail Kristin at [kristinknipp@uoaa.org](mailto:kristinknipp@uoaa.org)*

*Sheraton New Orleans Hotel [www.sheraton.com/neworleans](http://www.sheraton.com/neworleans)*

