The XVIII World Congress of the World Association for Sexual Health was held in Sydney, Australia, from April 15 to 19, 2007. This time the Congress was also named the First World Congress of Sexual Health, recognizing the change of name of the WAS that took place in its previous meeting, almost two years before.

A surprisingly large and diverse audience: 877 participants from all the continents and from 63 different countries made it to Sydney to share a wonderful scientific program, an entertaining social program and the beauty and uniqueness of the hosting country.

There were so many important contributions presented during the sessions of the Congress, but of special merit was the series of Plenary Sessions that initiated every morning and created the necessary environment of excellence in quality of presentations to prepare participants for the rest of the days. The structure of the Plenary Sessions included the discussion of each topic from different academic perspectives, in this way, participants could have a very updated and truly multidisciplinary approach on the critical issues of: The Health Benefits of Sexual Expression; Achieving Pleasure: Adding Meaning to Life; Achieving Respect: Sexual Rights & Diversity; and Current and Future Perspective in Sexual Medicine.

There were interesting additions to the traditional format of the WAS Congresses. The inclusion of Debates, and the informative Highlights of the Day, were amongst the innovative elements of the Sydney Congress.

For most participants, Australia, with its marvels, kangaroos and koalas represented the cherry to the cake to this wonderful experience.

For the first time, some 350 lectures from the XVIII WAS Congress are available for those who for any reason could not attend the meeting, or for those who want to remember a significant moment or contribution, or, for all of us who, due to the magnitude of the event, even being there was not enough to see and hear everything. The presentations were videotaped and are available together with the graphic material that was presented in the session. To access the presentations of the XVIII WAS congress go to WASVisual at: www.WasVisual.com

There is a small fee to access the presentations, as the investment necessary to make this available to everybody was made by Audio Visual Archives. Enjoy the advantage of technology now brought to WAS.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>CONGRESS NAME</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>WEB PAGE/CONTACT PERSON</th>
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<tr>
<td>November 16-18, 2007</td>
<td>2nd Japan – ASEAN Men’s Health &amp; Aging Conference</td>
<td>Ishikawa, Japan</td>
<td><a href="http://www.k-svr.net/JAMHAC2/">www.k-svr.net/JAMHAC2/</a></td>
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<td>November 23-25, 2007</td>
<td>XVI Simposium Internacional Sexualidad : El placer…</td>
<td>Caracas, Venezuela</td>
<td><a href="http://www.utesve.comrh2positivo@yahoo.com">www.utesve.comrh2positivo@yahoo.com</a></td>
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<td>December 2-8, 2007</td>
<td>Global Health and Economic Conference</td>
<td>Vienna, Austria</td>
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<td>December 6-9, 2007</td>
<td>Fall Meeting of the Sexual Medicine Society of North America (SMSNA)</td>
<td>Chicago, USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.smsna.org">www.smsna.org</a></td>
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<td>February 20-24, 2008</td>
<td>8th Meeting of the International Society for the Study of Women’s Sexual Health (ISSWSH)</td>
<td>San Diego, USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.isswsh.org">www.isswsh.org</a></td>
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<td>February 21-24, 2008</td>
<td>6th World Congress on the Aging Male</td>
<td>Tampa, FL, USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.kenes.com/aging">www.kenes.com/aging</a></td>
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<td>March 13’16, 2008</td>
<td>Sexual Disorders : Latest Research and Effective Treatment. SSTAR Annual Meeting in Chicago</td>
<td>Chicago, Ill, USA</td>
<td><a href="http://www.sstarnet.org">www.sstarnet.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13-17, 2008</td>
<td>9th Congress of the European Federation of Sexology (EFS)</td>
<td>Rome, Italy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ef62008.com">www.ef62008.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 20-25, 2008</td>
<td>Congreso Español de Sexología</td>
<td>Leon, Spain</td>
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<td>June 1-7, 2008</td>
<td>Global Health and Economic Conference</td>
<td>Paris, France</td>
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<td>July 9-12, 2008</td>
<td>2008 Meeting of the International Academy of Sex Research</td>
<td>Leuven, Belgium</td>
<td><a href="http://www.iasr.org/">http://www.iasr.org/</a></td>
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<td>August 3- 8, 2008</td>
<td>International AIDS Conference</td>
<td>Mexico City,</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 23-26, 2008</td>
<td>XIV Congreso Latinoamericano de Sexología y Educación Sexual</td>
<td>Guayaquil, Ecuador</td>
<td><a href="http://eclases2008guayaquil.com/crrodrig@ecutel.net">http://eclases2008guayaquil.com/crrodrig@ecutel.net</a></td>
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WAS Award for Excellence & Innovation in Sexuality Education

NGO category: Girls’ Power Initiative (GPI) of Nigeria

This organization has, in the words of the International Women’s Health Coalition, done “groundbreaking work in developing and promoting sexuality education programs and policies in Nigeria and globally since the organization’s inception in 1994. GPI has been identified as one of the most innovative sexuality education programs in the world by the staff of the NY-based Population Council based on their extensive assessment of sexuality education programs across the globe. They currently serve as a model for a multi-agency global initiative to develop guidelines for curricula in gender equity, human rights and sexuality.”

Academic Institutions category, Sexology Program at Curtin University, Perth, Australia.

The Sexology Program within the School of Public Health at Curtin University is the only program of its type in Australia, and outstanding at the international level. The Program provides opportunities for students to study sexology at undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate levels.

In its innovative pedagogic approach, adult learning principles are applied in every class, encouraging students to think laterally and to bring their own experiences and learning to the class. They are their own ‘experts.’ Staff use interactive strategies to help students articulate their understandings and to hear the comments of their university peers.

Two Honorary Mentions were Granted:

Two Honorary Mentions of the WAS Award for Excellence & Innovation in Sexuality Education were also been granted: Sexual and Reproductive Health needs of LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning) Youth in Mexico (Mexico) and the Sexual Health and relationship education. Iran/UK

Scientific Quality also Recognized in Sydney

Kevan Wylie, WAS International Scientific Committee Chair, was also the immediate past Editor in Chief of Sexual and Relationship Therapy, attended the Sydney WAS conference with a number of members of the Editorial Board of Sexual and Relationship Therapy.

The editorial team organised a special debate, sponsored by Taylor & Francis. The title of the debate was Marriage is the Best Form of Relationship Recognition and the proceedings will be published in volume 22.4 of the journal.

In addition the journal, in conjunction with the scientific team in Sydney, organised a “Best Manuscript” competition for the WAS congress. Eighteen manuscripts were received and after a great deal of deliberation by members of the Editorial Board a winner was chosen – Bente Traeen for her paper on Reduced Sexual desire in a Random Sample of Norwegian Couples. She received her award on behalf of her team at the conference.

The best abstracts for the Sydney meeting, as judged by the WAS Scientific Committee will be submitted for publication in the Journal of SR. Plans are progressing for the delivery of a specifically commissioned supplement of an indexed journal for the accepted abstracts for Gothenburg 2009.
WAS HONORS LIFE-TIME CONTRIBUTIONS TO SEXUAL HEALTH, AND DELIVERS THE WAS GOLD MEDAL TO DISTINGUISHED SEXOLOGISTS

JOLE BALDARO VERDE ITALY

Dr. Jole Baldaro Verde MD from Italy is a pioneer within the field of sexuality education at the University level as well as at medical schools all over Italy. Beloved by her students, she received the award in a very emotional ceremony.

ELI COLEMAN U.S.A

Dr. Eli Coleman PH.D. from the USA. Professor and Director of the Program in Human Sexuality, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota Medical School, administrator, researcher, teacher and clinician. Former President of WAS and still a strong worker for the organization.

HELEN O’CONNELL AUSTRALIA

Dr. Helen O’Connell MD from Australia. She is a urologist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital where she has conducted important research on women’s sexuality. She has revealed that the clitoris is shaped more like a mountain than a hill. The findings could also have repercussions for women coping with continence problems.

ROBERT PORTO FRANCE

Dr. Roberto Porto MD, from France is a psychiatrist and gynecologist, the former president of European Federation of Sexology. He is currently the director of the sexology training program at the University of Marseille.

D. NARAYANA REDDY INDIA

Dr. D. Narayana Reddy, M.D. PH.D. is from India. He is the chairman of the largest Sexology Association in India, CSEPI. He has devoted his career to promoting sexual health on all levels. A charming man who includes sweetness in all his doings in life.

ELI COLEMAN U.S.A

Dr. Eli Coleman PH.D. from the USA. Professor and Director of the Program in Human Sexuality, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, University of Minnesota Medical School, administrator, researcher, teacher and clinician. Former President of WAS and still a strong worker for the organization.

NOMINATE YOUR CANDIDATE TO THE WAS GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Every two years WAS, the World Association for Sexual Health, awards the Gold Medal to people who have made life-long achievements in the fields of Sexology, Sexual Rights and Sexual Health.

As the chair of the WAS Gold Medal Committee I invite you all to look for suitable candidates for the award in Gothenburg, Sweden 2009. The nominations should be sent to me including 2 persons seconding the nomination and the candidate’s curriculum vitae. The decision is taken by the WAS GOLD MEDAL COMMITTEE, which is formed by the awardees of 2007, namely the persons honored in this page.

Lilemor Rosenqvist
<lilemorrosenqvist@swipnet.se>
Chair of the WAS Gold Medal Committee
The Sexual Health for the Millennium Declaration is now an official WAS Declaration

The Sexual Health for the Millennium Declaration

The promotion of sexual health is central to the attainment of wellness and well-being and the achievement of sustainable development and more specifically to the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. Individuals and communities who experience well-being are better positioned to contribute to the eradication of individual and societal poverty. By nurturing individual and social responsibility and equitable social interactions, promotion of sexual health fosters quality of life and the realization of peace. Therefore we urge all governments, international agencies, private sector, academic institutions and society at large, and particularly, all member organizations of the World Association for Sexual Health to:

1. Recognize, promote, ensure and protect sexual rights for all

Sexual rights are an integral component of basic human rights and therefore are inalienable and universal. Sexual health is an integral component of the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. Sexual health cannot be obtained or maintained without sexual rights for all.

2. Advance toward gender equality and equity

Sexual health requires gender equality, equity and respect. Gender-related inequities and imbalances of power deter constructive and harmonic human interactions and therefore the attainment of sexual health.

3. Condemn, combat and reduce all forms of sexuality related violence

Sexual health cannot be attained until people are free of stigma, discrimination, sexual abuse, coercion and violence.

4. Provide universal access to comprehensive sexuality education and information

To achieve sexual health, all individuals, including youth, must have access to comprehensive sexuality education and sexual health information and services throughout the life cycle.

5. Ensure that reproductive health programs recognize the centrality of sexual health

Reproduction is one of the critical dimensions of human sexuality and may contribute to strengthening relationships and personal fulfillment when desired and planned. Sexual health encompasses reproductive health. Current reproductive health programs must be broadened to address the various dimensions of sexuality and sexual health in a comprehensive manner.

6. Halt and reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections (STI)

Universal access to effective prevention, voluntary counseling and testing, comprehensive care and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other STI are equally essential to sexual health. Programs that assure universal access must be scaled up immediately.

7. Identify, address and treat sexual concerns, dysfunctions and disorders

Since sexual concerns, dysfunctions and disorders impact quality of life, it is critical to recognize, prevent and treat sexual concerns, dysfunctions and disorders.

8. Achieve recognition of sexual pleasure as a component of holistic health and well-being

Sexual health is more than the absence of disease. The right to sexual pleasure should be universally recognized and promoted.

It is essential that international, regional, national and local plans of action for sustainable development prioritize sexual health interventions, allocate sufficient resources, address systemic, structural and community barriers and monitor progress.

Approved by the WAS General Assembly, April 17th, 2007, Sydney, Australia
The process of defining the specialties in sexology was carried forward by a committee chaired by the WAS Vice President Rosemary Coates. A series of definitions of each specialty was presented to members prior to the General Assembly, these definitions were discussed and approved. Sexologists work in a wide variety of disciplines. Although there is often overlap, the specialties now defined include: sexual counselor, sexual psychotherapist, sexual health physician, sexual health surgeon, sexuality educator, sexological researcher, sexological anthropologist, and sexological sociologist.

The full definitions have been distributed to members and are available on the WAS Website. The process will continue with the development of standards of practice and training. See page 10 of this newsletter for more information.

The Sexual Health for the Millennium Declaration was refined, presented and approved by the WAS General Assembly. The full declaration is reproduced on page 5 of this WAS Newsletter.

With funding from the Ford Foundation, WAS has conducted a process of revision and substantiation of the Sexual Health for the Millennium Declaration and the end product of these efforts will be released very soon: A Technical Document, with an account of the available evidence that supports the assertions of the Declaration. The draft of the document has already been presented to WAS members and the final editing is in process.

The WAS Technical Document on the Sexual Health for Millennium Declaration will be a major contribution for the field and a very usable tool in the construction of a sexually healthier world.

The name of the Association has been changed to World Association for Sexual Health, along with the mission and purpose that were updated according to the Strategic Plan approved at the World Congress in Havana, Cuba in 2003.

A new category of members is created: The International Organizations, to make room for those organizational members who are truly International in their nature.

A new Executive Committee structure was approved: The presidents of the Federations automatically become voting members of the Executive Committee, which now will have 13 members.

The full document can be downloaded from the WAS Website.
THE FUTURE IS NOW . . . DEVELOPMENTS THAT WILL IMPACT WAS LIFE

STRENGTHENING THE LINKS BETWEEN WAS AND THE REGIONAL SEXOLOGICAL FEDERATIONS

During the last two years a series of actions have taken place that look for more efficient ways of interacting and networking between WAS and the Regional Federations. With the last change of statutes two changes impact in a significant way the relationship between WAS and the Regional Federations.

First, the Federations are now considered part of WAS, and not members, and for this reason the President of each Federation now has a seat in the WAS Executive Committee.

Second, WAS will admit immediately, with no need for the evaluation process that usually occurs, all members of the Federations who do not belong to WAS and that accept this proposal. The idea is to reach the objective that all interested organizations become involved both at the global and the regional level.

We live in a complex and diverse world, and surely, the process of adapting the ways of greater integration will have to be varied and creative, but this will fortify both WAS and the Regional Federations.

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SEXUAL HEALTH. NOW BEEN DELIVERED TO MEMBERS

The International Journal of Sexual Health, the WAS official journal appeared for the first time this year just before the Sydney congress. Issue 2 was recently released.

The Advisory Committee decided to pay for the subscription of all members of WAS (regardless of their dues status), so all members will be receiving the WAS journal shortly or have already received it.

Organizations receive a number of hard copies relative to the size of the organization, and individual members receive electronic access to the journal. If you are an individual member and have not received the instructions on how to access please contact WAS so we can pursue the solution of the problem.

The subscription for the journal for 2008 and beyond, will be restricted to members who are up to date with their dues.

Members are also encouraged to submit manuscripts to the journal. Inquiries and submissions to the journal can be sent to: ijsh@umphysicians.umn.edu.

WAS TO DECIDE ON THE VENUE FOR 2011 VIA ELECTRONIC VOTE OF MEMBERS

With the new system for organization of WAS Congresses, the decision for the Venue for 2011 was not taken during the General Assembly in Sydney. Instead, a process for selection of the WAS Professional Congress Organizer Company has been initiated and once this process is completed a call for bids of WAS Member Organizations interested in hosting the 2011 and 2013 meetings will be issued. The final decision will be taken by all members or the Association with a process of electronic vote that will be organized for this goal.

In the meantime, the process of organization of our next meeting is going ahead. Two meetings in Goteborg, Sweden have already occurred, one with the WAS top officers and the other with the Scientific Chair of WAS and the Swedish Organizing Group.
Action Health Incorporated, under the auspices of the African Federation for Sexual Health and Rights, is pleased to announce the third regional conference on Sexual Health and Rights. The conference seeks to bring together key actors in the field of Sexual Health and Rights to explore how sexuality has affected and can improve development in Africa, especially when working with women and youth.

Participants, speakers, and sponsors are expected from the media, academia, civil society organizations, government agencies, development partners, faith based organizations, regional and sub-regional bodies in Africa and international agencies.

The conference will consist of plenary sessions, skills building activities, symposia, roundtables, poster presentations and exhibitions. The following sub themes will be explored:

- Adolescent and Youth Sexuality
- Women’s Sexuality
- Family Planning and Reproductive Health
- HIV/AIDS and Sexuality
- Sexuality and Religion
- Sexual Abuse and Gender Based Violence
- Culture, Media and Arts
- Sexuality and Knowledge Management
- (Im)Mobility and Sexuality
- Sexuality and the Law

The Congress will help explore how sexual health and rights are key to achieving some of the Millennium Development Goals, and in identifying the Sexual Health Goals for Africa. The Congress will explore all the perspectives of Sexual Health including physiological, psychological, cultural, political, legal and jurisdictional, historical, religious, educational and medical.

For enquiries and additional information please contact:

The Conference Coordinator
c/o Action Health Incorporated
17 Lawal Street, off Oweh Street, Jibowu.
P.O. Box 803 Sabo Yaba
Lagos, Nigeria
Tel: +234 1 774 3745, 7919307
Email: conference@actionhealthinc.org

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**9th Congress of the European Federation of Sexology**

**Therapy, prevention and promotion of sexual well-being**

**Rome, 13-17 April 2008**

**Cavaliere Hilton Hotel**

**President of the Congress**

**Chiara Simonelli**

www.efs2008.com
The theme of this Congress and Exhibition, Sexual Health and Harmony, will look into the future of the development trend and direction of Sexology from its every aspect. This Congress will also study and communicate the related content of sexual education, sexually transmitted diseases, protection of AIDS and the industry of sexual medicine, and will show and recommend high-tech products of sexual medicine and products of health care.

The success of this Congress will be so contributive to strengthening international communication of sexology and raising the status of sexology in the social development that it will drive sexology of the whole world to develop fast.

The Secretariat of the 10th Asia-Oceania Conference for Sexology and Exhibition for Sexual Medicine and Products of Health Care and the hospitable Chinese people sincerely welcome you to attending the Congress and Exhibition!

Your presence is cordially requested!
The World Association for Sexual Health is an international organization founded in Rome in 1978. WAS membership is composed of Regional Federations, National Societies and Institutes and individual supporting members WAS currently has 124 active members Societies around the World and many Individual Supporting Members.

**WAS MISSION:**

The World Association for Sexual Health promotes sexual health throughout the lifespan and throughout the world by developing, promoting and supporting sexology and sexual rights for all. WAS accomplishes this by advocacy actions, networking, facilitating the exchange of information, ideas and experiences, and advancing scientifically-based sexuality research, sexuality education, and clinical sexology, with a trans-disciplinary approach.

**WAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**President:** Eusebio Rubio-Aurioles.  
**Vice-President:** Rosemary Coates.  
**Secretary General/Treasurer:** Beverly Whipple.  
**Past-President:** Marc Ganem.

**WAS Secretaries:** Mónica Rodríguez, Antonio Palha , Emil Ng, Uwemedimo Esiet .  
**Presidents of Federations:** Ruben Hernández Serrano (FLASSES), Antonio Palha (EFS), Joseph DiNorcia (NAFSO), Uwemedimo Esiet (AFSHR), Verapol Chandeying (AOF) President of the Scientific Committee: Kevan Wylie (United Kingdom) .  
**Members:** Pierre Assalian (Canada), Walter Bockting (USA), Jacqueline Brendler (Brazil), Francisco Cabello (Spain), Mariela Castro (Cuba), Prakash Kothari (India), Reiko Ohkawa (Japan), Oswaldo Rodrigues (Brazil), Lillemor Rosenqvist (Sweden), Chiara Simonelli (Italy).  
**Ex officio members:** Lars-Gösta Dahlof (XIX WAS CONGRESS), Margaret Redelman (XVIII WAS CONGRESS) , Eusebio Rubio-Aurioles (XVIII WAS CONGRESS) , AJ Wabrek (USA), Ruben Hernandez-Serrano (Venezuela), Eli Coleman (USA)  
**Committee Chairs:** Sexual Rights Committee Juan Jose Borrás , International Liaison Committee Esther Corona

**VISIT OUR WEB PAGE!**

www.worldsexualhealth.org

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Help WAS to maintain an accurate contact database

Beverly Whipple, Ph.D., our very active Secretary General/Treasurer, is conducting a big effort to create an accurate database of our membership. Please contact her at bwhipple@pics.com to inform us of any change in your contact information. If you know members who did not receive this Newsletter, please ask them to contact her with their correct e-mail address. All WAS correspondence will be done primarily by e-mail.

Integrate yourself to one of the various groups working in the standards of training and practice of the sexological specialties

WAS is developing a standardized version of Standards of Practice for the five sexology specialist areas, as appears in the WAS Definitions. A template for each area has been designed, modelled on the International Professional Standards protocols for a number of professions. The content of the Standards of Practice must now be developed. To achieve this, we are in the process of setting up five working groups to cover each of the discipline areas. We have already had a number of volunteers, but require more, particularly in the behavioural clinical and research science areas. If you are interested in participating in one of the working groups, or as an advisory reviewer of the documents once they are produced, please contact Rosemary Coates: r.coates@curtin.edu.au

The groups are:

**Behavioural Sciences:** Encompassing Sexual Counsellor; Sexual Psychologist 

**Clinical Sciences:** Encompassing Sexual Health Physician; Sexual Health Surgeon 

**Education and Pedagogical Sciences:** This working group is already full, however, we would welcome members as advisors. 

**Research Sciences**

**Socio-cultural Sciences:** Encompassing Sexological Anthropologist; Sexological Sociologist

For full details of the definitions and professional categories please refer to the Definitions document presented at the General Assembly in Sydney 2007, or contact Rosemary Coates

Please note that the final documents will be advisory only and cannot be mandated.