Dear Colleagues

In the late 80's we started with a group of South American physicians dedicated to neuro intervention, annual informal meetings held in São Paulo and Buenos Aires in order to exchange experiences following the style observed every year in Val D'Isere. All of us, shared by then a common history of having recently reentered our home countries after receiving training periods in the interventional field abroad, mainly in European centers.

As years passed by, from our small annual morbidity and mortality meetings held in Argentina or Brazil the South American Working Group in Interventional and Therapeutic Neuroradiology was born, increasing the number of participants with already-trained-in-South America younger physicians, but keeping always the same spirit our lectures gave to the Val D'Isere working group. Being our continent so large we decided from the very beginning to keep our "Reunion Annual del Grupo Sudamericano" moving not only in the original countries but to Uruguay and more lately to Chile as well as having every time a new "Guest Lecturer" to play as moderator of the cases discussions. Our acknowledgement then to every one of these our "referees", Doctors Lasjaunias, Moret, Rufenacht, Picard, Khune, Vinuela, Mawad, TerBrugge and Casasco, for having helped us along all these years.

In the meantime the WFITN was founded and the first meeting in Zurich was held; the Val D'Isere meeting received it's final denomination as WIN; the ABC in Neuroradiology Course started in Paris and then moved to join the WIN meeting... Biannual Congress of the WFITN kept moving from place to place around the world... from Europe to North America and then to Asia as well... And now we have been distinguished by the Executive Committee and voted by the General Assembly of the World Federation as organizers of the year 2003 meeting to be held for the first time in our continent, South America.

The organization of this meeting has meant for us a hard but enjoyable task during the past two years. We believe that only with the support of the Executive Committee of the WFITN, the Journal of Interventional Neuroradiology Editors and our colleagues from the "Grupo Sudamericano" and the Colegio Brasileiro de Radiología made possible to succeed in our goal: the WFITN 2003's Congress in Recife. To all of them our recognition from the heart for their permanent help and advice.

More than one hundred physicians devoted to neuro interventional procedures in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Perú, Venezuela and Uruguay welcome you to the WFITN 2003 in Recife.

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink.

Ronie Leo Piske
President

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink.

Luis Lemme-Plaghos
Secretary General