

Montreal PAHO/WHO Conference on Intellectual Disability

1. REPRESENTATIVES FROM MEMBER COUNTRIES OF PAHO

ARGENTINA

Jorge Oscar Badaracco

Director,

Servicio Nacional de Rehabilitación y Promoción de la Persona con Discapacidad

A graduate in Medicine from the University of Buenos Aires, Dr. Badaracco has long been involved at the governmental level in the fields of health and services to disabled persons. With funding from the PAHO and the Adenahuer Foundation in Germany, he specialized in the study and analysis of American public health systems and those other countries such as Chile, Peru, Colombia, Panama, Mexico, Venezuela, Brazil and Puerto Rico. He is currently National Director of the Secretariat of Health and Director of the National Service for Rehabilitation and Promotion of the Disabled, a decentralized body that comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Health and whose main function is to define public policy in the areas of prevention, equality of opportunity, and the overall promotion of disabled persons and their rehabilitation.

Diego Gonzalez Castañón

Coordinator,

ITINERIS - Talleres de Capacitación Institucional en Discapacidad

Dr. Castañón is a psychiatrist and a graduate of the University of Salvador in Buenos Aires (USAL). Professor of psychiatry at the same university, he is also honorary supervisor of the Piñeiro and Álvarez Hospitals. Finding his interest in the field of intellectual disability, Dr. Castañón has become a member of the International Committee of the American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR), and has worked as Psychiatric Director of the *Instituto Recreativo Terapeutico Especial (IRTE)*, an occupational therapy institute directed by his associate, Mrs. Andra Aznar. Mrs. Aznar and himself are also the coordinators of the ITINERIS project since 1995, a project whose main goal is to support the rights of persons with an intellectual disability and to promote their need for self-determination by offering seminars and workshops to parents, friends, and professionals of the intellectual disability field.

Hilda Miñón De Aubert

President,

FENDIM - Federacion Argentina de Entidades Pro Atencion al Deficiente Intelectual

An accountant and graduate in Economics from the University of Buenos Aires (UBA), Mrs. Miñón de Aubert has specialized in the organization and management of non-governmental organizations over the years, particularly those dedicated to intellectual disability. President and founding member of a mothers' association, Mrs. de Aubert has also been deeply involved with *MENCAP, the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Children and Adults*. She is currently president of FENDIM, an organization whose goal is to promote and defend the fundamental rights of persons with an intellectual disability and their families, to provide legal support to persons with an intellectual disability, to monitor the quality of services they receive, to collaborate in the drafting of laws on intellectual disability and to carry out prevention and awareness campaigns so these laws will be respected. In 2003, Mrs. Miñón de Aubert was recognized as one of 100 Argentine leaders.

BRAZIL

Francisco B. Assumpção Jr.

Head of Mental Health and Childhood Department,
Assessorate of the Municipality of São Paulo

A Brazilian physician (1974), Dr. Assumpção holds a Doctorate in Psychology (1988). As a specialist in psychiatric care for children, he heads up the Department of Psychiatry for Children and Adolescents at the Clinical Hospital of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of São Paulo. He has also chaired the Brazilian Association of Child Neurology and Psychiatry, as well as the Association of Psychiatrists of Brazil. In his work, Dr. Assumpção has been particularly interested in cases of children and adolescents with intellectual disabilities. He has been a guest on radio broadcasts and has contributed articles to specialized journals on the relationship between intellectually disabled children, their special needs, and their parents. Dr. Assumpção Jr. is presently head of the Department of Mental Health and Childhood for the Municipality of São Paulo.

María Amelia Vampré Xavier

Director of International Relations,
FENAPAES - Federação Nacional de Pais e Amigos Excepcionais

Mrs. Vampré Xavier specializes in communication and transmission of information on intellectual disability. A Brazilian representative for International Inclusion and for Inclusion Interamericana, she has headed the international relations department of the National Federation of Parents and Friends of Intellectually Disabled Persons (FENAPAES) for almost 40 years. As the mother of Ricardo, who has an intellectual disability, Mrs. Vampré Xavier knows just how difficult it is for parents to live with the fear and uncertainty that are brought on by the birth of an intellectually disabled child. She believes in the importance of making parents, as well as the general population, aware of the importance of the recognition of the rights of persons with an intellectual disability, their independence and their need for freedom.

CANADA

Diane Bégin

Head of Services,
Service des personnes handicapées,
Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux du Québec

Mrs. Diane Bégin is Head of Services for persons with disabilities at the Ministry of Health and social Services, a decentralized body that comes directly under the aegis of the Ministry and whose main function is to support the Health and Social Services network in its efforts to implement its different programs, to follow their evaluation, and to bring their necessary adjustments. As Head of Services, Mrs. Bégin's work has spanned on the areas of coordinating research and analysis of public programs, of writing ministerial Policy in order to support services offered to persons with disabilities, and of coordinating public services orientations in the field of health and social care provided to persons with pervasive developmental disorder and their families.

Daniel Boisvert

Professor,
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
and Director,
Consortium national de recherché en intégration sociale (CNRIS)

Born in Shawinigan, Mr. Boisvert holds two masters degree from the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR) : one in philosophy and the other in education; and holds out a doctorate in education from the University of Montreal. Today, he teaches Social communication at the UQTR. He is a known researcher in the field of intellectual disability: Member of the Quebec Council for Social Research, member of the American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR) and a member of the International Association of Scientific Research in favour of the Persons with an Intellectual Disability (AIRHM), he is mostly interested in subjects related to communication between caregivers and users as well as their families and has published several articles in this area. Since 2003, it directs the National Consortium of Research on Social Integration (CNRIS), an organization which promotes research on intellectual disability and pervasive developmental disorder.

Cameron Crawford

President,
The Roeher Institute

Mr Crawford is President of the Roeher Institute, a research and development organization focused on issues of intellectual disability, public policy, human rights and the socio-economic integration of persons with an intellectual disability. The Institute has published numerous studies on disability and integration into the workforce, social security, social services, planning and delivery of health care services, literacy and education, problems faced by disabled children and their families, violence and mistreatment, the justice system, new technologies and integrated methods of service delivery in the private sector. As Executive president of the Roeher Institute, Mr. Crawford's work has spanned all of these areas.

Paul Young

Consultant on Intellectual Disability,
Young & Associates

Born and raised in North Sydney, Mr Young spent the early part of his adult life in a sheltered workshop. But his tenacity and desire to succeed outshone the nay-sayers from his early years; his life story is one of consistently overcoming attitudinal barriers created by society and of commitment to the issues that impact on the lives of people who have been "labelled". His greatest personal accomplishments include his marriage, owning his own home, and driving a car. Today, Mr. Young is the Past Chair of the *Council of Canadians with Disabilities*, a founding member of *People First of Nova Scotia*, and a former President of *People First of Canada*. In 1998 he created his own consulting business and he is now known internationally as a respected and gifted motivational speaker. Mr Young's speaking engagements have taken him across the world, as he understands the need for a voice for people with disabilities and is a strong advocate for the principles of equality and self-determination.

CHILE

Enrique Norambuena

President,

UNPADE – Unión Nacional de Padres y Amigo de Personas con Discapacidad

Father of daughter with Downs syndrome, Mr. Norambuena is a true activist in the area of the recognition of the rights and equality of opportunity for persons with intellectual disabilities. He is president of an inter-American forum on this subject, and, through advocacy and awareness raising, Mr. Norambuena works to promote change in social policies in order to bring about increased social integration of the intellectually disabled. Mr. Norambuena also acts in an advisory capacity to the national police department and the penal service, where he is working on developing a program and an institutional policy on tolerance and non-discrimination against disabled persons in the judicial system. He is also co-ordinator of Chilean Association Movement on Disability and a consultant on disability, tolerance and non-discrimination.

Andrea Zondek

Executive Director,

FONADIS - Fondo Nacional de la Discapacidad

A graduate in Occupational Therapy from the University of Chile, Mrs. Andrea Zondek also holds a Master's degree in Work Integration of disabled persons, from the University of Salamanca in Spain. In 1985, she founded the Tacal Foundation for the training and professional integration of disabled persons, while she was managing social projects for the ANDES Foundation, where she worked until 2000. She then administered FONADIS (the National Office on Disability), an independent statutory body created in 1994 whose mandate is to administer the resources made available to it by law, in order to improve living conditions for the almost 800,000 physically and intellectually disabled persons in Chile.

COSTA RICA

Luis Fernando Astorga Gatjens

*Representative for Central America and the Caribbean,
IID – Instituto Interamericano de la Discapacidad*

and President,

Foro Interamericano por los Derechos Humanos de Personas con Discapacidad

A journalist by profession, Mr Astorga Gatjens has been involved for more than 20 years in the defence of fundamental human rights of persons with disabilities. He was co-ordinator of the Commission for the Defence of Human Rights in Central America (CODEHUCA) and Director of its official magazine *Brecha*. He has also been Chairman of the Board of Directors of *Fundación Sin Barreras (Barrier-Free Foundation)*, a non-governmental organization specialized in the protection and promotion of the rights of disabled persons. More recently, Mr Astorga Gatjens has been appointed President of the *Human Rights Forum for Persons with Disabilities*, and he represents the *Inter-American Institute on Disability (IID)* as one of the NGO members of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on a *Global and Integrated International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities*.

Lady Meléndez Rodríguez

National Advisor on Multiple Disabilities,
Ministerio de la Educación Pública de Costa Rica

Holder of a doctoral degree in Special Education from the University of Costa Rica and the University of Salamanca, Dr. Meléndez is an expert in the field of research on intellectual, visual and multiple disabilities. She is national advisor on Special Education and a researcher in the area of socialization and diversity at the Institute of Psychological Research of the University of Costa Rica, She is also a professor in the Master's Program in Education at the National Autonomous University of Costa Rica, and collaborates as well with the Master's program for the development of creative and critical thinking at the Inter-American University of Costa Rica. Over the years, she has given numerous seminars, talks and training workshops on pedagogy, educational inclusion and diversity and she is the author of many publications for parents and educators of children and adolescents who are handicapped or have an intellectual disability.

Barbara Holst Quirós

Director,
CNREE - Consejo Nacional de Rehabilitación y Educación Especial

Holder of a Master's degree in Special Education from the University of Oslo, Mrs. Holst Quirós also has a Bachelor's degree in Special Education for intellectually disabled persons from the National University of Costa Rica, where she currently teaches. Her specific interests in research and service development include recognition of the fundamental rights of handicapped and intellectually disabled persons, particularly with regards to access to higher education as well as appropriate resources and supporting technologies. The social participation and integration of disabled persons being of prime importance for her, she is presently Director of the National

Council on Rehabilitation and Special Education (Consejo Nacional de Rehabilitación y Educación Especial; CNREE).

ECUADOR

Ramiro Cazar Flores

Executive Director,

CONADIS - Consejo Nacional de Discapacidades

Born in Ibarra, Ecuador, Dr. Ramiro Cazar's professional training is extremely varied. He holds a degree in Education from the Central University of Ecuador, a Master's degree in Integration of Disabled Persons from the University of Salamanca in Spain; a Master's in Social Administration and Management from the University of Alcalá de Henares, in Spain; as well as a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from the Central University of Ecuador. He has been a professor for almost 19 years in the Faculties of Psychology and Science of Administration. He has held high public office as Director of the psychiatric unit of the Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador and Director of the Department of Special Education in the Ministry of Education. Since 1993, he has been Director of the National Council on Disability (CONADIS).

Edgar Molina Montalvo

President,

FEPAPDEM - Federación Ecuatoriana Pro Atención a la Persona con Deficiencia Mental

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Molina Montalvo has a wealth of expertise in politics as well as in the field of intellectual disability. National Secretary of the University Students Federation and City Council, he was also national deputy as well as a candidate to the vice-presidency of the Republic of Ecuador. Moreover, he is a highly skilled professor and teaches at the faculty of political sciences of the Central University of Ecuador. Father of five children, his youngest son has Down syndrome. Today, Mr. Edgar Molina is President of the FEPAPDEM, a federation of parents and friends of persons with an intellectual disability.

JAMAICA

Grace Duncan

Executive Director,

Jamaican Association on Mental Retardation

Specialized in the education and the training of children with an intellectual disability, Mrs. Duncan holds a wealth of experience in the field of mental retardation. Being more specifically interested in the advocacy for the training of parents of children or teenagers with an intellectual disability, she holds the office of executive Director of the *Jamaica Association for Persons with Mental Retardation*, a nongovernmental organization created in 1956 by that works through education, advocacy and research to improve the quality of life for children and adults with mental retardation, and their families and work to prevent the causes and effects of mental retardation.

MEXICO

Virginia González Torres

Technical Secretary,
National Council of Mental Health,
Ministry of Health

Mrs. Gonzalez Torres is an internationally recognized activist known for her implication in the defence of the rights of the mentally ill. She was 22 when her sister was diagnosed with manic-depression and when Mrs Torres' interest for public institutions grew stronger, as she realised the neglects or abuses on the patients of these institutions, among which many had an intellectual disability. For 25 years, Virginia Gonzalez Torres has been fighting to close psychiatric hospitals and institutions. It is thanks to her that the Hidalgo model was adopted in Mexico, a model which promotes the quality of the services provided to mentally ill patients or persons with an intellectual disability, and which aims at ensuring their full and complete social participation. Mrs. Gonzalez also believes in the importance of the dissemination of information on mental illness and intellectual disability, so as to prevent stigmatization and discrimination and thus support the respect of their basic rights.

Carlota María Hammeken Pérez

President,
VOZ Pro Salud Mental

Mother of a 32 year-old son who suffers from mental illness, Mrs. Hammeken is president of VOZ Pro Salud Mental, which she founded in 2001. The main objective of this non-profit lay organization is to provide support for persons suffering from mental illness or persons with an intellectual disability, by offering information as well as rehabilitation and social integration services. By training family members as educators, the organization's philosophy is to encourage the transmission of information and knowledge to people with an intellectual disability or those suffering from mental illness in such a way that they can help themselves and be equipped with the necessary tools for making independent choices. The organization also supports these persons by seeking improvement in the services they are offered and in the struggle for the respect of their fundamental rights.

NICARAGUA

Roberto Leal Ocampo

Executive Director,

Inclusion Interamericana

and Secretary general,

CONCAPAD – Confederación Centroamericana y Caribe de Padres y Amigos de Personas con Discapacidad

Mr. Leal Ocampo holds a degree in Juridical and Social Sciences from the Central American University of Nicaragua (UCA), a degree in International Political Relations from the Higher Institute of International Relations of Cuba, as well as a degree in Law and Disability from the University of New York School of Law. As a lawyer and diplomat, is a great defender of the human rights of persons with an intellectual disability and other marginalized groups. The birth of his son Gabriel in 1978 opened his eyes to the importance of fundamental human rights being indivisible and not only civil and political. Motivated by the desire of integrating diversity throughout democratic processes, he has founded several associations and federations of parents and friends of intellectually disabled persons. Besides being Executive Direction of Inter-American Inclusion, Mr. Ocampo is also founder and Secretary General of CONCAPAD, the Caribbean Confederation of Associations of Parents and Friends of Persons with a Disability. A signatory of the Yale Declaration, Mr. Ocampo is also an international consultant on the defence and respect of the rights of disabled persons.

PANAMA

Natasha Velotti

Director,

Dirección Nacional de Discapacidad,

Ministerio de la Juventud, la Niñez, la Mujer y la Familia

Mrs. Natacha Velotti is the Director of the National Secretariat for the Disabled, a governmental body that comes under the aegis of the Ministry of Youth, Childhood, the Woman and the Family, of the Republic of Panama. The function of this organisation is to promote the human development of persons with an intellectual disability and their families, in order to eliminate the stigmatization and the discrimination, which assigns these people in a legal, social as much as economic level. As director of this Secretariat, Mrs. Velotti makes sure the principal of the promotion and respect of the equality of opportunities are applied, so that persons with an intellectual disability enjoy a full social integration and an active participation in the various spheres of society.

Xania Mas de Vergara

Delegate representative of Mrs. Vivian Fernández de Torrijos,

First Lady of the Republic of Panama

and Technical Cooperation Coordinator,

SENADIS - Secretaría Nacional para la Integración Social de las Personas con Discapacidad

A graduate in physiotherapy from the University of Saint-Louis in Missouri (1966), Mrs. Vergara has been director of the physiotherapy clinic of the military Hospital Gorgas, where she has worked for nearly 23 years. She then becomes consultant for the Office for the Canal Transfer, before holding office between 1998 and 1999 of the *Dirección Nacional para the Discapacidad* (National Secretariat of Disabilities) at with the Ministry for Youth, Childhood, the Woman and the Family of the Republic of Panama. Mrs. Vergara having a broad professional expertise, she becomes professor at the Special University of Americas, where she teaches the History and Ethics of physiotherapy. However Mrs. Vergara still dedicates herself to the cause of persons with disabilities; she now holds office of the Technical Cooperation Coordinator of the National Secretariat for the Social integration of the disabled.

PERU

Julio Huamán Pineda

President,

IESM “HD-HN” - Special Institute for Mental Health “Honorio Delgado-Hideyo Noguchi”

A graduate in Medicine from the National University San Luis Gonzaga de Ica (1970-1978), Dr. Huaman Pineda specializes in Psychiatry at the Peruvian University Cayetano Heredia, where he teaches today. He did post-graduate studies in psychiatric rehabilitation in Japan and, upon his return to Peru, in psychotherapy, Ericksonian hypnosis and neurolinguistic programming. Over the years, Dr. Huamán Pineda has developed numerous models for assessment scales of psychosocial skills and for the organization of rehabilitation departments in mental health and intellectual disability. Today, he is president of the Special Institute for Mental Health, where he has worked since 1983, which he also represents at the Ad Hoc Committee for the Protection of Fundamental Human Rights of Intellectually Disabled Persons of the Ministry of Health of Peru.

Eduardo Henry Zorrilla Sakoda

Deputy Minister of Health,

Ministerio de Salud del Perú,

Member,

CONADIS - Consejo Nacional de Discapacidades

Well known surgeon and physician, Dr. Zorrilla Sakoda has a solid training in the field of management and administration of the private and public health services. Having graduated in medicine at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos in the middle of the Nineties, he acquires scientific and humanistic knowledge, and quickly becomes Secretary of the Hypolite Unanue Order, Consultant in New technologies and Statistics at the Ministry of Health, and leads various hospital centres. He is also a member of the CONADIS (the National Council of Disability), Dr. Zorrilla Sakoda holds high public office as Deputy Minister of Health of the Republic of Peru.

UNITED STATES

Eric Rosenthal

Executive Director,

Mental Disability Rights International

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Rosenthal studied at the Faculty of Law at the University of Chicago and completed a Master's degree in Law at the Georgetown University Law Center. He is the founder and Executive Director of Mental Disability Rights International (MDRI), an organization that specializes in international advocacy for the recognition and enforcement of rights for persons with an intellectual disability. His interest in human rights has led Mr. Rosenthal to work as a consultant for the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the US National Council on Disability. He has also served as UN Special Rapporteur on Disability and has conducted and published much research on the fundamental rights of persons with disabilities. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including a Ford Foundation Fellowship in Public International Law, and a Humanitarian Prize from the Mental Health Association of New York.

Lorraine Sheehan

President,

The ARC of the United States

[Replaced by Mrs Sue Swenson]

Mrs Sheehan, is a mother of four. Her third child, John, was first diagnosed as mentally retarded and later with autism. Because of John and his needs, she quickly became involved in the disability movement, especially as it related to his schooling and to independent living opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Advocacy on behalf of individuals with disabilities and their families then became a passion. Mrs Sheehan was elected three times to MD House of Delegates, has been appointed Secretary of State by Governor Harry Hughes, and has served, as a volunteer, on many boards and commissions. She is now President of The Arc of the United States, where she has been an active member for many years. Over the last two years, she has focused much of her work on independent housing for people with disabilities, ensuring that even the most significantly disabled individuals have an opportunity to choose where they live.

URUGUAY

Milton Pesce

Assistant Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Public Health of Uruguay

An accountant by profession, Mr. Pesce is currently the Assistant Deputy Minister to the Health Ministry of Uruguay. As such, his work and expertise rise directly from the objectives set up by the Ministry: to promote the health and the well-being of the population by developing health policies which guarantee equality of access, the effectiveness, and the quality of the services offered through public as much as private services, while managing issues of the prevention of the diseases, the development of technologies of health, drugs, food and all other issue that might affect public health.

Nilda Rama Vieytes

Member of the Administering Commission,
ANR - Asociación Nacional de Padres de Personas con Discapacidad Intelectual

Mother of three young adults, one of whom has an intellectual disability, Mrs. Rama Vieytes possesses broad training and expertise in the area of handicaps and disability. She was the spokesperson and delegate for non-sighted persons at the Para-Olympic Games in Athens, and is also a member of the Administering Commission of the ANR, a National Association of Parents and Friends of Intellectually Disabled Persons. She is President of the Commission for the creation of *School 203*, a special school for the education and integration of persons with an intellectual disability. She has been involved for almost 25 years been involved at various levels in the integration of disabled persons, through participation at international meetings and conferences on the development of new social policies favouring children and adolescents with an intellectual disability.

2. SPECIAL GUESTS

Andrea Aznar

Coordinator,

ITINERIS -Talleres de Capacitación Institucional en Discapacidad

A Clinical psychologist, Mme Aznar has graduated from the Catholic University of Argentina (UCA). As well, she teaches special education at the University of San Martín (UNSAM) and is the director of a day centre which provides recreational occupational therapy services (Instituto Recreativo Terapeutico Especial, IRTE). Coordinator of a discussion group for Latin America and the Caribbean on inclusive education, she is the co-director, along with her close collaborator Diego Gonzalez Castañón, the ITINERIS project, a project supporting the advancement of the rights of persons with an intellectual disability, through training workshops for parents, friends and professionals of the field. By promoting self-determination and the respect of fundamental human rights as means of social inclusion, these workshops aim to question the paternalistic way in which persons with an intellectual disability are often treated.

Valerie J. Bradley

President elect and Vice-President,

AAMR - American Association on Mental Retardation

Ms Bradley holds a masters degree in political science from the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University. She is recognized for her work in policy analysis, evaluation and system design in the disability field. She has worked with a variety of state and federal agencies to develop more responsive supports and services for people with disabilities and their families. Over the past decade, she has worked on numerous projects, such as a 10-state project of technical assistance to families working to educate public policy makers, and which resulted in the passage of family support legislation in many states, including Missouri, Tennessee, New Hampshire, Louisiana and West Virginia. In 1994, she was pointed Vice Chair of the President's Committee on mental Retardation by President Clinton and later became President o the Committee in 1996. She is also the co-editor of books on quality assurance and on system change in the field of developmental disabilities.

Santiago Canton

Executive Secretary,

Inter-American Commission on Human Rights,

Organization of American States (OAS)

[Replaced by Mr Brian Titemore]

Mr Canton holds a law degree from the *Universidad de Buenos Aires*, Argentina, a Master's degree in international law from the American University Washington College of Law, and has also studied at the Academy of International Law (The Hague, Holland). Known for his legal expertise and his abilities in public information, he served for five years as director for Latin

America and the Caribbean at the Washington D.C.-based National Democratic Institute, where he designed and led democratic development programs throughout the hemisphere, and participated in numerous radio and television programs in the Americas. Previously Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression at the Organization of American States (OAS), he was then named Executive Secretary of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as he demonstrates a genuine concern for the respect of fundamental rights

Robert D. Dinerstein

Professor of Law and Dean of Academic Affairs,
American University Washington College of Law

A graduate of Cornell University and Yale Law School, Mr Dinerstein is professor of Law and Dean of Academic Affairs in the Washington College of Law at the American University, where he has taught since 1983. During his work as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, he had occasion to litigate cases related to mental retardation and intellectual disability. Interest in disability rights has led him to give numerous seminars and publish various articles on law and intellectual disability, intellectually disabled persons and the judicial system. In 1994, Mr. Dinerstein was appointed to the President's Committee on Mental Retardation by President Clinton, where he served until 2001. He has also served as President of the Legal Process and Advocacy Division of the American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR), and is a member of the Board of Directors of several organizations, such as Quality Trust for Individuals with Disabilities, Equal Rights Center, and Mental Disability Rights International.

Luis Gallegos Chiriboga

Permanent representative of Ecuador to the United Nations

and Executive Chairman,

Ad Hoc Committee on a Global and Integrated International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

His Excellency, Ambassador Luis Benigno Gallegos Chiriboga, is the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations. He has extensive diplomatic experience, particularly in the field of the promotion and respect of human rights. Before taking up his position as Ambassador in New York, Mr. Gallegos was the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the Geneva office of the United Nations. He has also held the position of Vice-Chairman of the High Commission for Human Rights. Ambassador Gallegos is currently Chairman of the United Nation's Ad Hoc Committee on a *Global and Integrated International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities*.

Bengt Lindqvist

Former Special Rapporteur,

United Nations Commission on Social Development for Disabled Persons

A native of Sweden, the Honourable Bengt Lindqvist is former Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Commission on Social Development for disabled persons. A former member of the Swedish Parliament, he has also served as Minister of Social Welfare of Sweden and was one of the founding members of Disabled Peoples' International (DPI). In 1994, the United Nations' Secretary-General appointed Mr. Lindqvist to be in charge of evaluation of the application of the Standard Rules for Equalization of Opportunities for persons with disabilities and to promote their application and assessment. This work was carried out within the framework of the Commission for Social Development, following the implementation of the Copenhagen World Summit, and led to collaboration with Mr. Bengt Nirje and Mrs. Ruth Luckasson.

Dulcie McCallum

Ex- Ombudsman for the Province of British-Columbia

and Representative of the Canadian Delegation,

Ad Hoc Committee on a Global and Integrated International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities

Mrs McCallum has graduated from the Faculty of Law in 1981, having entered the school with an outstanding record of achievement both in her professional career as a nurse and in her commitment to the greater community. Since then, she has devoted her talents, time, and energy to the betterment of the lives of those less fortunate than herself. She has been the British Columbia Ombudsman since 1992 and has practiced law with a special interest in persons with disabilities, serving as legal advisor to the Canadian Association for Community Living and the Canadian Disability Rights Council. Today, she still pursues her fight for social justice as she represents the Canadian delegation at the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee for a *Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities*.

Diane Richler

President and Secretary General,

Inclusion International

Author of many books on the social integration of persons with an intellectual disability, Mrs. Richler has over 25 years experience with organizations offering support to intellectually disabled persons and their families and friends. Mrs Richler has worked for many years to link intellectual disability with the larger fields of social policy, human rights, and the strengthening and democratization of civil society both in Canada and other parts of the world and as such is recognized as a leader for the promotion of inclusion for persons with intellectual disability. Former Vice-President of the Canadian Association for Community Living (CACL), Mrs. Richler

has also served as the Executive Director of the Roeher Institute and as a policy advisor to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. She is currently President of International Inclusion, an organization with offices in 115 countries, that has almost 200 members and is one of 7 organizations recognized by the United Nations in the field of handicaps and disability.

3. MEMBERS OF THE PAN-AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION AND THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Thérèse Agossou

Regional Advisor on Mental Health,
African Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO)

Dr. Agossou was born in Porto Novo, Benin. She is a child psychiatrist and has developed special interest, throughout her career in primary care services in mental health, psychopathological affections and the new services and care facilities available fields of the mental health and social assistance. Member of different psychiatric research units in Benin, Mrs. Agossou is particularly interested in the elaboration of Health Care systems which aim at the promotion of the mental, physical and social well-being of the entire population, but more specifically for children and women. She currently works as Regional Advisor on Mental Health for African Regional Office of the World Health Organization.

José Miguel Caldas de Almeida

Coordinator of Mental Health Programs,
PAHO - Pan American Health Organization

A graduate of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon, Dr. Caldas de Almeida has taught for many years at the Faculty of Medicine, where he chaired the Board of Education and directed higher studies on mental health and substance abuse. He was Director of the National Mental Health Service of Portugal in 1988, and consultant in the restructuring of Latin American psychiatric services by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) during the 1990s. Dr. Caldas de Almeida was also Coordinator of the drafting committee on the new Portuguese law on mental health adopted in 1998, and has also chaired the Mental Health Association of Portugal (1995-2000), as well as the Portuguese Society of Epidemiological Psychiatry (1995-2000). He has extensive knowledge of the development of psychiatric services and has authored over 50 articles and books on research and care in mental health.

Gaston Harnois

Director,
Montreal WHO/PAHO Collaborating Center for Research and Training in Mental Health

Holder of a doctorate in medicine of the University of Montreal, Dr. Harnois has completed post-graduate studies in legal psychiatry at the Lafayette Clinic (Wayne State University, Detroit), as well as training in Health Care Administration at the University of Montreal, and in Social and Communitarian psychiatry at the New York Columbia University. During its career, he was an administrator of hospital centres, principal adviser in mental health, psychosocial readjustment and integration in the work environment, attached to governments and of national and international organizations, such as the International Labour Organisation. Researcher and professor at the department of psychiatry of the McGill University, he currently is director for the PAHO/WHO Collaborative center of Montreal.

Benedetto Saraceno

Director of the Department of Mental Health,
WHO - World Health Organization

Dr. Saraceno is an internationally known Italian psychiatrist also trained in public health. He is Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatry, UK and of the Spanish Society of Neuropsychiatry. He has participated as senior scientist and adviser in Italian and international research projects on psychotropic drug utilization in general practice and psychiatric services evaluation. He has assisted in the reform of mental health services in South and Central American countries, including Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Brazil, Chile and Cuba. For ten years, Dr Saraceno served as Head of the Laboratory of Epidemiology and Social Psychiatry at the "Mario Negri" Institute in Milan. In 1996 he was appointed Programme Manager of the WHO special programme Nations for Mental Health. He has been the leader of the 2001 WHO World Health Report on Mental Health.

Javier Vasquez

Human Rights lawyer,
PAHO - Pan American Health Organization and WHO - World Health Organization

Mr Vasquez is a lawyer who has graduated from the University Santa Maria La Antigua (Panama) and holds a Master's Degree in International protection of human rights, from the American University Washington College of Law (Washington D.C.). He currently works for the Pan American Health Organization on the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities and is the coordinator of PAHO's initiatives on public health and human rights. In addition to this, he coordinates joint activities with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Organization of American States). In 1997, he was awarded the "Romulo Gallegos Fellowship" by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. While working in the Commission, he collaborated in the drafting of the first individual case report with regard to a person with a mental disability, the case of Victor Rosario Congo, from Ecuador.

4. MEMBERS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND PROGRAM COMMITTEE

José Miguel Caldas de Almeida
Coordinator, Mental Health Program,
PAHO - Pan American Health Organization

(see Members of PAHO and WHO above)

Yves Lachapelle
Professor and Director of LARIDI,
Department of Psychoeducation,
Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières

A graduate of the Doctorate in Psycho-education of the Laval University, Dr Lachapelle holds two Masters degree from the University of Sherbrooke, the first in Science of education and the second in specialized Education. He quickly became a specialized teacher and assistant of research, more particularly in the field of autistic children. He also serves many positions as part-time lecturer and research professional at the departments of Psycho-education and psychology of the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières, where he still teaches today. He also is the director of the interdisciplinary research Laboratory in intellectual deficiency (LARIDI).

Jocelin Lecomte
Information and Research Advisor,
Lisette-Dupras and West Montreal Rehabilitation Centres

Mr. Lecomte holds a law degree and a Master's degree in History of International Relations. He also studied at the International Court of Justice of the Hague (Holland), and carried political training in Russia as well as in the Ministry of Interior of France, where he contribute to the organisation of the parliamentary elections of 1997. Mr Lecomte has worked for more than 17 years in the field of Quebec's Health and Social Services, including 10 years spent working in a maximum security hospital for psychiatric criminals. He also worked as coordinator of research in mental health during 3 years, before joining the West Montreal and Lisette-Dupras Readaptation centers in 2003, as *Information and Research Advisor*.

Ruth Luckasson
Professor of Special Education,
University of New Mexico

Dr. Luckasson is a professor at the University of New Mexico where she coordinates the teaching and special education research program. A former President of the American Association for Mental Retardation (AAMR), she has also chaired the American Bar Association's Commission on Mental and Physical Disabilities Law. She worked for the President's Committee on Mental

Retardation and was a member of The Arc of the United States Committee on protection and advocacy of human rights. Dr. Luckasson has written prolifically on the fundamental rights of persons with an intellectual or cognitive disability and she is the author of the 9th and 10th editions of *Mental Retardation: Definition, Classification, and Systems of Supports* (AAMR, 1992, 2002).

Céline Mercier (committee President)

Director of Information Technology and Research,
Lisette-Dupras and West Montreal Rehabilitation Centres

Full professor at the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, University of Montreal and associate Professor at the Department of Psychiatry, McGill University, Mrs Mercier holds a Master's degree in psychology from Laval University, and a Ph.D. in Psychology from the Louis Pasteur University in Strasburg. Specialized in research pertain to organisation and evaluation of services in mental health and intellectual disability, her interests also pertain to the field of the respect of fundamental rights and social integration of persons with an intellectual disability. As a senior consultant at the Montreal WHO/PAHO Collaborating Centre for research and Training in Mental Health, she has primarily worked on quality of life, quality assurance, and implementation of reform in mental health services. Since 2002, she is the Director of the Research and Information Technologies Department at the Lisette-Dupras and West Montreal Rehabilitation Centres.

Bengt Nirje

Consultant
University of Uppsala
Sweden

Holder of various degrees in philosophy, ethnology, comparative literature, art history and law from Uppsala University, Yale and La Sorbonne, Mr. Nirje is a Swedish personality internationally known for his important contribution to the field of disabilities. He is considered by most as the author of the first understanding definition of the Principle of standardization and has received many prizes and distinctions recognizing his numerous efforts made in order to assure the full integration and social inclusion of persons with intellectual disabilities. He is also the founder of the Swedish Sport Association for the Disabled, as well as the International Sport Federation for the Intellectually Disabled.

Benedetto Saraceno

Director of the Department of Mental Health,
WHO - World Health Organization

(see Members of PAHO and WHO above)

Javier Vasquez

Consultant in mental health and human rights,
PAHO - Pan American Health Organization

(see Members of PAHO and WHO above)

Miguel Ángel Verdugo

Professor of psychology,
Universidad de Salamanca

Dr. Verdugo holds a Doctorate in Psychology from the Autonomous University of Madrid. He holds a Master's degree in Education from the Columbia University in New York, a Master's degree in Special Education from the University of Valladolid (Spain) as well as a Master's degree in Speech Pathology at the University of Salamanca (Spain), where he now teaches Disability psychology and assessment of psychological treatment. He is Director of the University Institute for Community Integration (INICO). His research interests lie in the areas of quality of life, social skills, employment opportunities and the assessment of programs for persons with an intellectual disability. He is also interested in disability, mistreatment, and general public opinion towards people who are handicapped or have an intellectual disability. He is Director of the Disability Information Service (SID) and is now also Director of the Master's program in Integration of Disabled Persons at the University of Salamanca, an Ibero-American program offered at Salamanca, Buenos Aires, Santiago de Chile and Brasilia.

5. MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

John Aung-Thwin

Director General,

Lisette-Dupras and West Montreal Rehabilitation Centres

Mr Aung-Thwin came to Canada on a Rockefeller Foundation Fellowship in 1968, as a graduate student in political science at McGill University. After graduating with a Masters degree in 1971, he was hired by the Lakeshore Vocational Projects Association to start up a Local Initiative Project sponsored by the federal government, in order to promote independent living for mildly retarded young adults on the West Island. He left LVPA in 1975, at the time of its merger with LARC, but not before securing three-year grant from Health Canada to expand the independent living program into what is now called AVATIL. In 1977, Mr Aung-Thwin became Director General of the Montreal united Workshop which, in 1993, was merged with the Centre Jean-Olivier Chenier, which eventually became the Lisette-Dupras Readaptation Centre. In 1996, he accepted the post of Interim Director General of the regroupment of what was later to become the West Montreal Readaptation Centre. Mr Aung-Thwin has a wealth of experience in the field of mental retardation and a deep understanding of the services that have been put into place over the years in this field in the West Island.

Simon Caron

Consultant,

Public Administration in Health and Social Services

Mr Caron holds a PhD in Political Science from Laval University, a Master's Degree in public administration from the National School of Public Administration, as well as a Bachelor's Degree in administration from the University of Quebec in Rimouski and a Bachelor's Degree in education from the Laval University. Assistant Deputy Minister at the Quebec Ministry for Health and Social Services, and Associated Deputy Minister at the Ministry of Relations with Citizens, Mr Caron has carried important public functions, such as Assistant Director of the Summit on Employment and Economy, and Chief Manager of the Secretariat for the Information Highway Still active in the field of Health and Social Services, Mr. Caron is now a consultant and a part-time teacher in this field, at the Université du Québec à Rimouski.

Ronald S. Creary

Advisor to the Director General and Secretary General,

West Montreal Rehabilitation Centre

Mr. Creary has spent almost 30 years working in the field of services for persons with intellectual disability. He was a leader in the deinstitutionalization movement in Quebec and served on the Provincial Committee that wrote the Policy of Social Integration for the Ministry of Health & Social Services. He also served as Director General of The Butters Readaptation Center located in the Eastern Townships for fifteen years. After 4 years with West Montreal Readaptation Center as Secretary General of the Board and Counselor to the Director General, Ronald Creary has recently become a consultant in his field of expertise.

Guy-Michel Des Lauriers

Advisor to the Director General and Secretary General,
Lisette-Dupras Rehabilitation Centre

Mr. Des Lauriers is currently Director of human resources at the West Montreal and Lisette-Dupras Readaptation Centers as well as the Advisor to the Director General, and Secretary General of the Lisette-Dupras Readaptation center. Holder of a bachelor degree in Psycho-education and of a Specialized Superior Studies Degree in Social Administration of the university of Montreal. Mr. Des Lauriers has a long experience of work in the field of Quebec's Health and Social services, on several levels. Though he has mainly worked in the sector of intellectual disability, Mr. Des Lauriers has also worked in the fields of the social mesadaptation, alcoholism and substance abuse, as an educator as well as an intermediate or superior supervisor or general director.

Gaston Harnois (committee President)

Director,
Montreal WHO/PAHO Collaborating Center for Research and Training in Mental Health

(see Members of PAHO and WHO above)

Céline Mercier

Director of Information Technology and Research,
Lisette-Dupras and West Montreal Rehabilitation Centres

(see Members of the Scientific and Program Committee above)

France Pomerleau

Communications Consultant,
FQCRDI - Fédération québécoise des centres de réadaptation en déficience intellectuelle

Holder of a Bachelor degree in Communication from the University of Sherbrooke, Mrs. Pomerleau has been Communication Consultant for the Quebec Federation of Readaptation Centers in Intellectual Disability (FQCRDI) since 1996. As such, she has developed and directed many different activities related to the internal or external communication of the federation and has participated in the elaboration and dissemination of various publications, organization of conferences, seminars for study or training, and has been a consultant for anything related to the communication needs of Federation Members. Mrs. Pomerleau is also particularly interested in the respect and promotion of the fundamental human rights of persons with intellectual disabilities or with pervasive developmental disorder.