



NYCPM

NEW YORK COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE

THREE SPANISH AND CANADIAN DOCTORS OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE RECEIVE HONORARY DOCTORATES FROM NEW YORK COLLEGE OF PODIATRIC MEDICINE AT ACADEMIC CONVOCATION AND LUNCHEON

Three Doctors are Honored for Helping Set Up and Sustain International Programs of Study in Podiatric



On-stage participants in the NYCPM International Academic Convocation (front row, left to right): Claude Dugas, Ph.D., Director, Department of Kinesiology and Podiatric Medicine, Université du Québec à Trois Rivières; Bruno Fortier, Delegate-General of Quebec in New York; Louis L. Levine, President & CEO, NYCPM; Maj. Gen. William F. Ward, A.U.S. (Ret.), Chairman, NYCPM Board of Trustees; François Allart, D.P.M., Honoree; Ricardo Becerro de Bengoa Vallejo, D.P.M., Ph.D., Honoree; Marta Losa Iglesias, R.N., Ph.D., Honoree; Roberto Varela, Consul for Cultural Affairs, Office of the Spanish Consul-General in New York; (back row, left to right) Rev. Dr. Hector A. Chiesa, Chairman, FCNY Board of Trustees; Paul Tucci, M.D., NYCPM Trustee; Stanley S. Mandel, Vice-Chairman, NYCPM Board of Trustees; Rosario J. LaBarbera, D.P.M., NYCPM Trustee; Michael J. Trepal, D.P.M., Vice-President for Academic Affairs & Dean, NYCPM; Eugene H. Webb, NYCPM Trustee; Rev. Edward Culvert, D.D., Member, FCNY Board of Trustees.

On Wednesday, August 22nd, the New York College of Podiatric Medicine held an Academic Convocation and Luncheon at the New York Academy of Medicine to salute international cooperation between the College and universities in Spain and Canada that have worked with NYCPM to create programs in podiatric medicine during the last two decades. NYCPM awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, to three individuals – two from Spain and one from Canada – to acknowledge and honor their efforts leading to the creation and ongoing success of these international programs.

Receiving honorary doctorates were Dr. Marta Losa Iglesias, professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Rey Juan Carlos Public University in Madrid, and Dr. Ricardo Becerro de Bengoa Vallejo, who received his D.P.M. degree from NYCPM in 1995, and is the only podologist in Spain and in Europe with the earned D.P.M. degree. Dr. Becerro de Bengoa was instrumental in setting up the program between NYCPM and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid for the training of Spanish podologists in pathology and foot surgery at NYCPM. Also receiving an honorary doctorate was Dr. François Allart, who received his D.P.M. degree from NYCPM in 1993, and was instrumental in founding the program in podiatric medicine at the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières. The program, which draws on a number of resources at NYCPM, is the first D.P.M. program in Canada, and the first French-speaking D.P.M. program in the world.

The Convocation began with an opening processional of the honorees and the faculty, led by Michael J. Trepal, D.P.M., Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean; Maj. Gen. William F. Ward, A.U.S. (Ret.), Chairman of the NYCPM Board of Trustees; the members of the Board; and the Hon. Louis L. Levine, President and Chief Executive Officer of the College. Following an invocation delivered by Rev. Dr. Hector A. Chiesa, Chairman of the Board of Foot Clinics of New York, General Ward and President Levine offered welcoming remarks.

Next, speaking in honor of their countrymen were Roberto Varela, Consul for Cultural Affairs, Office of the Spanish Consulate-General in New York; Bruno Fortier, Delegate-General of Quebec in New York; and Claude Dugas, Ph.D., Director, Department of Kinesiology and Podiatric Medicine at the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières. Following these remarks, General Ward and President Levine presented each of the three honorees with his or her honorary degree and NYCPM medal. Each of the three doctors then spoke briefly to acknowledge the honor. The Convocation concluded with a benediction delivered by Rev. Edward Culvert, D.D., a member of the Board of Foot Clinics of New York.

"Each of these three honorees has been instrumental in setting up and sustaining pioneering programs in podiatric medical education in their home countries, as well as programs for their fellow countrymen to come and study at NYCPM," said General Ward. "Without the passion of these three individuals for podiatry, and their perseverance in seeking to create international programs of study in the field of podiatric medicine, these programs would likely never have come to fruition."

"We are honored to have known and worked with the three doctors whose achievements in podiatric medical education we are celebrating here today," said President Levine. "We are extremely proud that they chose to ally themselves and their institutions with the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, and that they gave us the opportunity to contribute to the very successful programs in their own countries that have been the result of our international cooperative efforts."

Dr. Ricardo Becerro de Bengoa Vallejo was born in Madrid, Spain. He completed his studies for a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing in 1985, and then began to study toward his Bachelor of Science in Podology, which he completed in 1988. He has been an Assistant Professor at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid since 1988, and received the rank of Professor there in 1990.

Dr. Becerro de Bengoa is director of various specialized programs in podiatric surgery and orthopedics. He is the director of an international journal in podological sciences and has been invited to participate as a visiting professor in various European universities, also participating as a professor in more than 100 continuing education programs for professional podologists throughout Spain, Europe and Latin America.

Every year beginning in 1988, Dr. Becerro de Bengoa pursued clinical programs of two or three months' duration at the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, until in 1992 he began his studies toward the D.P.M. degree at NYCPM. He completed his degree in 1995, returning to Spain to practice and to teach at the Universidad Complutense the knowledge and skills acquired during his D.P.M. studies. Notably, he is the only podologist in Spain and in Europe with the earned D.P.M. degree. In the year 2000, he completed a Master's degree, and the following year began to pursue a Ph.D., in Bioethics, receiving the Diploma of Advanced Studies in 2002 and finally, in 2007, receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Alcalá in Madrid.

In 1991, an agreement was signed between NYCPM President Louis Levine and the Universidad Complutense de Madrid for the training of Spanish podologists in pathology and foot surgery at NYCPM. Currently, the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, with the assistance of Dr. Becerro de Bengoa, continues to collaborate with NYCPM in offering at NYCPM courses and training in podiatric medicine and surgery to professionals from Spain and Europe in general.

Dr. Marta Losa Iglesias was born in the principality of Asturias, Spain. She began her academic journey at the University of Oviedo, where she earned her nursing degree in 1989. Three years later she completed her podology degree at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, where she likewise completed her studies in Anthropology in the year 2000, having received the degree of Ph.D.

Dr. Losa Iglesias visited NYCPM for the first time in 1992, completing a one-month clinical training program under the tutelage of Prof. Anthony Hernandez. From that time on, the connection with NYCPM has been made stronger and more focused, in that during their sojourn at the College, as the students participate in continuing education courses specially designed for Spanish students, this effort has been carried forward from year to year at the hands of President Louis Levine, Dr. Trepal and Dr. Jules.

Dr. Losa Iglesias operates her own clinic for comprehensive foot care in Madrid, and has held positions of academic responsibility such as directing the Podology Department and also the Podology Area at the European University of Madrid from 2000 to 2006. She is currently a professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Rey Juan Carlos Public University in Madrid.

Dr. François Allart was born in Montreal, Quebec. He received his Doctorate in Podiatric Medicine from the New York College of Podiatric Medicine in 1993, and currently has a thriving podiatric practice in Quebec, where he also serves as a clinician at the foot clinics of Quebec's Trois-Rivières University (UQTR) and teaches podopediatrics and clinical pharmacology.

Dr. Allart has helped further the cause of podiatry in Quebec in numerous ways. He has served as President, Vice-President, and in other leadership positions with the Quebec Order of Podiatric Medicine. He was instrumental in negotiating and then founding the program in podiatric medicine at the University of Quebec at Trois-Rivières, which is the first D.P.M. program in Canada, and the first French-speaking D.P.M. program in the world. He also negotiated all aspects of the structure of that program that relate to its resource-sharing with the New York College of Podiatric Medicine, and he continues to be a liaison between NYCPM and UQTR.