



International Federation of Translators (FIT) Congress a Great Success

Boston, August 22, 2011-The International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) had strong participation at the FIT Congress, held in San Francisco, from July 30 until August 4, 2011. FIT stands for the International Federation of Translators, the organization which represents translation and interpreter associations worldwide. FIT represents over 100 associations and over 80,000 translators, interpreters and terminologists through the associations. IMIA has been a regular member of FIT for over 3 years.

Several of IMIA officers and representatives were present: Lola Bendana, IMIA President, Linda Joyce, IMIA Board Member and National Chapters Liaison, Carlos Garcia, IMIA San Francisco Chapter Representative, Alvaro Vergara-Mery, IMIA Nevada Chapter Representative, Mari Gonzalez, IMIA Social Media Director, and Izabel Arocha, IMIA Executive Director.

Izabel Arocha, M.Ed, CMI, attended the Statutory Congress which was held on July 30 and 31st. Izabel was nominated by Lola Bendana to join the FIT Council, and she was elected at the Statutory Congress to join the next FIT Council. Then on the Council's first meeting, there were nominations to the Secretary-General, and FIT president Marion Boers nominated Izabel Arocha and the new FIT Council elected her in such a role. This positions the IMIA as a leading organization within FIT worldwide and allows IMIA to help FIT grow as an organization. The Secretary-General decides which organizations are approved to join FIT among other matters. *"I am honored with the confidence FIT has placed on me and will do my best to uphold the values and mission of FIT and represent the IMIA well"*, stated Izabel Arocha, M.Ed, CMI.



New FIT Council Members

From left to right, front row first
Perpetua Uiterwaal
Sabine Colombe
Silvana Marchetti (Vice-President)
Marion Boers (President)
Huang Changqi
Izabel Arocha (Secretary general)
Béatriz Rodriguez
Andrew Evans (Treasurer)
Mao Sihui
Henri Liu (Vice-President),
Denis Bousquet
Reiner Heard
Reina de Bettendorf
Laimantas Jonusys
Jiri Stejskal (Vice-President)
Joroslav Soltys
Kevin Quirk (not in picture)

New FIT Council at 2011 FIT Congress, August 2, 2011

Linda and Izabel presented on the International Job Analysis for Medical Interpreters. It was well attended and raised the awareness of those in the audience who were from other countries. Lola Bendana, IMIA President, and Denis Bousquet, President of Canadian Translators, Terminologists and Interpreters Council (CTTIC) spoke of the pending international job analysis to take place in August in Canada. It seems there is strong interest from the Interpreter Association of Panama, New Zealand and other countries to expand this work as basis for national certification for medical interpreters in their countries as carried out in the US. "The goal of the international job analysis is to compare the knowledge and skills required by interpreters in different parts of the world and identify commonalities and differences. In the future we may be able to collaborate with international partners to set global minimal qualifications for medical interpreters," commented Linda Joyce, IMIA Board member and representative of the Global Advisory Council (GAC) for Language Line University (LLU). Nancy Zarenda, another representative of GAC also participated at the FIT Congress. The international job analysis is a collaborative project between the IMIA and GAC.

Lola Bendana moderated an expert panel titled *Bridging the Cultures of Specializations* with Izabel Arocha speaking on medical interpreting, Patricia Lessard, Certified ASL interpreter, speaking on sign language interpreting, and Rob Cruz, the new chair of the National Association of Judiciary Interpreters and Translators (NAJIT), speaking on judiciary interpreting. The topic was bridging the cultures among specializations and the discussion was very interactive. It seems we are moving into an era where associations are interested in collaborating more versus the creation of new interpreter associations. *"Collaboration among organizations is essential to move the professionalization agenda forward, only unity can bring us closer to our larger mission"* said Lola Bendana, President of IMIA.

“We had a great exhibit and Carlos Garcia and Mari Gonzalez were instrumental in giving out information and holding the fort. The IMIA published guides and more information was made available to participants. Our goal was to raise the awareness of our organization worldwide, promote the upcoming conference and let participants know that we need representation in other countries,” stated Lulu Sanchez, the IMIA Public Relations Committee Chairperson.

The IMIA was listed as one of two contributing sponsors from a short list of five program sponsors. The IMIA was nominated for the prize of association with the best website. Although not the winner, the IMIA was honored to be considered and we congratulate the French Translators Association for their award, see www.sft.fr. The next FIT Congress is set to take place in Berlin, Germany in 2014. The IMIA is looking forward to this event and encourages all interpreters and translators to attend.

To see pictures of the event please visit: <https://picasaweb.google.com/114920280531758090153/FITXIX2011WorldCongress#>
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About the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA)

The International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA) is an umbrella association that promotes all standards and best practices in the field of medical interpreting. The IMIA mission is to lead the advancement of professional medical interpreters worldwide. As an international trade association of medical interpreters, it represents over 2,000 practicing medical interpreters as the ultimate experts in medical interpreting and as the best option for equitable care for minority language patients around the world. It promotes language access as a human right. It is the only national trade association of medical interpreters in the US, and is an official active member of FIT, the Federation of Interpreters and Translators, an international organization comprised of trade associations of interpreters and translators worldwide. It is a partner member of AILIA, the Languages Industry Association, headquartered in Canada. IMIA developed the first code of ethics, standards, educational workshops, events, and certification for medical interpreters and continues to be a pioneer in the field with its recent work to develop the first Interpreter Educators Code of Ethics and National Education Registry. The IMIA contains the only free international registry of medical interpreters, where they can be found by language, state, or country. Some of the current work involves expanding national and international chapters, developing a Leadership Academy for Language Access, and an Accreditation Council for Medical Interpreter Education. (www.imiaweb.org)

About the International Federation of Translators (FIT)

FIT (the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs/International Federation of Translators) is an international grouping of associations of translators, interpreters and terminologists. More than 100 professional associations are affiliated, representing over 80 000 translators in 55 countries. The goal of the Federation is to promote professionalism in the disciplines it represents. It seeks constantly to improve conditions for the profession in all countries and to uphold translators' rights and freedom of expression.

The **Recommendation for the Protection and Improvement of the Legal and Social Status of Translations and Translators**, adopted by UNESCO in 1976 at its general conference in Nairobi, marked a milestone in the history of the translating profession. The **Translator's Charter**, revised in 1994, specifies the rights and duties of translators and recommends the principles of their organisation into associations. FIT is pleased with the significant progress made in defense of the profession since its foundation, but remains conscious of the need to further develop international cooperation. It will continue to play its vital role in overcoming linguistic boundaries and thus maintaining good communication and understanding between the peoples of the world. (www.fit-ift.org)