

## **IMIA Conference in 2011 Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in a Big Way**

Almost 500 attendees were amazed by the recent IMIA 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference that took place at Harvard Medical School in Boston on September 30 to October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This year marked several firsts; the Silent Auction and Poster Exhibition had never been done at an interpreter conference and will now become a staple of IMIA's annual events. It was a historic moment for the organization and all celebrated in a big way.

Our theme "*Client Education – Everyone's Responsibility*" couldn't be more appropriate. We launched the event on Friday with the IMIA Medical Terminology Boot Camp and three pre-conference sessions offered by **David Hunt**, **Rosana Balistreri** and **Andrew Clifford**. During the Stakeholder Meetings, leaders of IMIA and other associations met to brainstorm about the present and future of our profession. Members met with Committee and Division Chairs to discuss what they wanted from the organization reflecting the participatory model of the IMIA and giving attendees an interactive forum during the conference.

After a full day of deliberations and great conversations, we had a fun spirited reception for all attendees. Later that night, the Spirit of Boston cruise took us through the Boston Harbor. It was a great way to network with colleagues and I can't think of a better way to celebrate the International Translators Day together at sea.

On Saturday, we launched the day with the first expert panel on *Client Education* followed by a keynote speech by Ms. **Marion Boers**, President of the International Federation of Translators (IFT/FIT), who talked, among other topics, about the importance of working together. Her speech was followed by an enthusiastic motivational speaker **Yvonne Oswald**, who spoke about the Power of the Word and later did book signings of her new book.

At the end of the day, organizations joined the Interpreter Services Provider - ISP Division Reception. Other stakeholder groups also organized their get togethers, and the IMIA is happy to be a forum and host for these activities.

### **Congratulations to the IMIA and to all medical interpreters for their 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Wonderful Conference Celebration!**

On Sunday, we welcomed our keynote speaker **Louis F. Provenzano Jr**, who did a wonderful speech about our collective responsibility towards client education and the professionalization of medical interpreting, which was followed by a second Expert Panel on *Certification Implementation* followed by the IMIA's Annual Meeting titled *The Status of the Profession*. During our annual meeting, presentations were given about the work of the organization and we recognized several of our IMIA past leaders for their selfless contribution to the profession. Each afternoon provided us the opportunity to hear from the expertise of over 25 speakers each day.

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**We also presented four Awards:**

- IMIA *Interpreter of the Year* to Mr. **Cesar Peña**
- IMIA *Provider Award* to Dr. **Eric Hart**
- IMIA *Raquel Cashman* to Mr. **Moe Rustom**
- IMIA *Education Award* to Ms. **Lourdes Cerna**

IMIA congratulates and thanks our Award winners for their outstanding contribution and dedication to our field. I would like to thank the many volunteers that contributed to make this 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration a success, State Representatives, International Representatives, Liaisons, Committee and Division Chairs, and members of the IMIA Board and Executive Committee. Last but not least, Ms. **Kyra Marino** and Ms. **Izabel Arocha** who are pivotal to the realization of the event.

We have many accomplishments to celebrate as well as many tasks to take on. The IMIA would like to invite you to join one of the many IMIA Committees or Divisions. Your profession needs you today, not tomorrow. To join simply go to your IMIA profile and click on the committee you wish to join or send the chairperson of the committee or division an email. The Trainers Division, for example, is looking for a new chairperson to work alongside with Hank Dallmann who is ready to move to other activities.

Perhaps most important is that this year we were able to become the first Conference Event site to have on site National Certification oral exams taking place and 17 candidates took these exams in the three days of the conference. We wish them the best of luck and hope that we can soon count on 17 more CMIs. We have many online and face to face events planned for 2012.

**About the International Medical Interpreters Association (IMIA)**

The IMIA is an umbrella association that promotes all standards and best practices in the field of medical interpreting. As an international trade association of medical interpreters, it represents over 2,000 practicing medical interpreters as the ultimate experts in medical interpreting. It is also 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, annual conference, 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. Most current work involves developing an accreditation for medical interpreter training program. ([www.imiaweb.org](http://www.imiaweb.org))