

Latin American activity discussed in Toronto

During the 27th IFHE Congress in Toronto last September 2022 (HEJ – November 2022), the IFHE Latin America Regional Group held its 7th Meeting, writes Brazilian architect, Fábio Bitencourt, a member of IFHE's Executive Committee, and director of International Relations at Brazil's ABDEH (Associação Brasileira para o Desenvolvimento do Edifício Hospitalar).

He explains: "One of the priorities was to update the Latin American IFHE associations and their respective members on the proposals and decisions discussed throughout 2022." The Meeting also saw attendees consolidate the proposals and strategies for the Latin American Continuously Functioning Thematic Network of representatives from healthcare engineering and healthcare architecture from across Latin America – which is drawn both from IFHE organisations in the region, and other bodies sharing common interests in this field, (HEJ, November 2021).

Fábio Bitencourt continued: "At this and its other meetings, the Latin American Regional Group will discuss and evaluate the Thematic Network's activities, and seek to ensure that the level of participation of the members across the region is sufficient to make the various initiatives truly effective." There was a consensus that reducing the number of groups participating in the Network's work is an extremely positive way to increase participation, and enable the resulting benefits to be shared among all members and their associations. It was thus proposed to maintain the following groups:

- Congresses and seminars.
- Teaching and education.
- Publications.
- Research.

Fábio Bitencourt said: "The reduction in the number of groups – implemented to maximise cost-effectiveness – does not exclude the activities the others have been developing, but rather recommends their inclusion in a purposeful way in the Thematic Network's wider activities. The work of the four groups should now be able to encompass all the Network's proposed areas of activity, traversed by thematic axes. Sustainability, for example, can be presented in a transversal and complementary way."

Another important topic discussed was the IFHE Latin America Regional Group's website. It was agreed that the Group should have its own page on the main IFHE website – with



the content and format following the same model the IFHE European Group uses to disseminate news of its activities, professional experience, new technologies, and hospital building projects. A preliminary format for evaluation and future discussion is already in hand.

"The Latin American community is also keen to explore the possibility – starting

in 2023 – of a Latin American Award for Hospital Infrastructure," explained Fábio Bitencourt. "The Congress to be held in Mexico City in November 2023 may see the first iteration. Finally," he added, "those attending the meeting heard that a matter of common interest for all Latin American associations is the need to formally establish a Collaboration Agreement between them."

Have you read the latest Digest?

"I hope you have all had the opportunity to read the latest edition of the *IFHE Digest 2023*," writes the publication's Commissioning Editor, Andy Wavell. "Once again, we have been supported by many members of the international community, resulting in 22 articles being available in the digital version. The link, for those who have not seen it yet, is: <https://tinyurl.com/zh37k6z4>

"The circulation list each year is based on the details held by the IFHE Secretariat in Portsmouth, and historically this also details whether member organisations would like to receive some hard copies for distribution among their members. By using the link above every member of the IFHE family could have the opportunity to gain useful knowledge from the varied input. I am hearing more and more that the electronic version is sufficient for many national organisations. It would be helpful if your preferences could be made known to me so that we do not print excess



copies of the Digest. I can be contacted at grandyandy68@gmail.com

"Work on the 2024 edition will begin soon, and I would be grateful if you could canvas your members for interesting articles that could be included. Finally, thanks must go to the Editor, Matt Seex, for translating your synopses into meaningful articles."

'A benchmark European platform for debate' with energy, decarbonisation, and sustainability on Paris event agenda

French hospital engineering association, **Ingénieurs Hospitaliers de France (IHF)**, will host the 10th European Conference on Healthcare Engineering (ECHE) at the Palais des Congrès de Paris from 14-16 June this year, in conjunction with the 63rd IHF Study and Training Days.

Jacques Roos, Vice-President of both the IHF and the IFHE-EU (the latter was established in Strasbourg in September 2005, with the first European Conference on Healthcare Engineering (ECHE) held from 5-7 September that year in Baden-Baden, Germany), said: "Ingénieurs Hospitaliers de France is happy to welcome the 10th ECHE in Paris this June. The 10th ECHE Scientific Committee has put together a great conference agenda from the many abstracts received.

"Around half the speakers will come from European countries – including Germany, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Finland, the UK, and Switzerland, but also Iraq, with the remainder from France. While much of the focus will be on energy, decarbonisation, and sustainability, delegates will also have the opportunity to find out more about emblematic hospital architectural projects like the new Hôpital Paris Nord, designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop in association with Brunet Saunier Architecture – in our opinion a milestone in hospital design.

European associations attending

"Many European hospital engineering associations have confirmed their attendance, which is pleasing, since one of the IFHE's key goals is to allow



members to get to know each other better, and promote the critical sharing of experience and expertise between European countries, particularly through ECHE."

The IHF added: "Difficult events in Europe, including the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, the war in Ukraine, and the need for universal access to healthcare, are further complicating the major challenges currently facing healthcare engineering – sustainable development and reducing carbon emissions, lifecycle, and overall costs, the development of digital and artificial intelligence, and involving users in the design of healthcare spaces. All these elements are now influencing the more traditional themes of managing the maintenance, operation, and design of the healthcare built environment. These critical issues will be discussed by leading speakers from IFHE-EU member countries during two plenary sessions and eight themed workshops, and will feature in articles published in the Book of the proceedings – a printed brochure given to all participants on their arrival, which will remain a reference publication.

"A trade fair will allow visitors to

discover innovations and enjoy discussion and debate with other professionals, and there will be multiple opportunities for friendly interaction.

"Ingénieurs Hospitaliers de France is counting on you – European healthcare engineering professionals – to make this conference a benchmark European platform for debate and discussion. We look forward to meeting you in Paris."

Current trends in European architecture

Among the wide-ranging subjects covered in day one of a topical conference programme will be current trends in European architecture – with a look at the design of Tower 7 at the Liège Sart Tilman University Hospital by Stéphane Vermeulen, Director of Healthcare, and Pascale Velghe, Senior Architect, at VK Architects & Engineers, and a presentation titled 'Man, machine and beauty' on the 'revolutionary' design of the new Hôpital Paris Nord in Saint-Ouen, by Antoine Chaaya of Renzo Piano Building Workshop and Jérôme Brunet of Saunier Architecture. A first day 'Management' plenary session will include a report, by SIAIS president, Daniela Pedrini, on how lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic will impact the future of project management and the work of healthcare engineers, a look at hospital bed management – by Germany's Mandmehr Institute of Environment and Health, and a focus on 'Knowledge-sharing among NHS estates and facilities management (EFM) personnel – with a particular focus on knowledge flows about hospital oxygen infrastructure during the pandemic' – by Carl-Magnus von-Behr, of the University of Cambridge.

'Smart' hospitals and digitalisation

Day Two's conference programme will include a workshop on 'Smart hospitals and digitalisation', with the topics covered including 'Digital twins and knowledge management for a smart and sustainable hospital in ASL, Lecce, Italy', 'Smart



A rendered image of the new Hôpital Paris Nord, designed by Renzo Piano Building Workshop in association with Brunet Saunier Architecture. The project **will be the focus** of a conference address at the 10th ECHE Conference on Healthcare Engineering.

buildings, digitalisation, flexible plans, and the increasing agility of care facilities as a suitable response to the pandemic' – by Ann Vandycke, Architect, and director of Technical Facilities, Mintus in Belgium, and 'As-built Drawings with BIM' – by Frédéric Foret, Draughtsman-Designer, and Guillaume Ledebt, Legacy Engineer manager, of the University Hospital of Caen.

Estate Management

An Estate Management session will then include presentations on 'A Legacy Hospital: Medical and Legacy Challenges', by Alain Benini, Architect, and head of Architecture and Project Management in Pre-Work Diagnosis at University Hospitals of Lyon, and 'The City of Health and Research: an innovative project' by Susanna Azzini, freelance hospital engineer, and Mauro Rossi, hospital architect and director of the Technical Department at the Neurological Institute, Milan. 'Revaluing hospitality in contemporary hospitals: points of attention in the context of chronic diseases' will be the subject of an address by Coline Periano, **assistant project manager at the University Hospital of Saint-Ouen.**

Energy management in the spotlight

An Energy Management-themed workshop will see David Carette, head of the Technical Department at Sint Andries Ziekenhuis in Tiel in Belgium, discuss 'The hunger for energy in times of energy savings and high energy prices, while new departments are being built', while two senior personnel from the Spanish hospital will discuss 'An example of energy efficiency in hospitals over 40 years' old' – with a specific focus on the Mostoles University Hospital.

Three varied presentations in a day two 'Architectural and design' workshop will include a look by Michaël Jaconelli, Engineer in charge of Operations, University Hospitals of Lyon (Hospices Civils de Lyon), at the new 'Tropical and



Courtesy the Palais des Congrès de Paris



The French capital's Palais des Congrès de Paris will be the venue for the 10th European Conference on Healthcare Engineering.

Infectious Diseases Department building' at L'hôpital de la Croix-Rousse, and two Healthcare Concept developers at Saint Gobain Ecophon, Anne Pollet and Maria Quinn, discussing the 'Acoustic and modular conception of an operating theatre in Sweden'.

Climate change considerations

A day two 'Sustainability' workshop will include presentations on 'Wood & health – how to reconcile these two imperatives for our environment', 'Hospital refurbishments', by two architects from French practice, Groupe-6, and a look at 'Energy: climate change, scarcity of resources, coping between adaptation and mitigation', by Camille Devroedt, Sustainable Development Real Estate Project manager at ANAP, and Yoann Leloutre, Project engineer, Regional Energy Efficiency & Transition Coordinator, Nantes.

Rounding off the conference's second day will be a session on Project Management. Here, Michel Remon, Urban Architect, founder, and manager, at Atelier Michel Rémon & Associés, and Gaëtan Peeters, Project director, VK Architects & Engineers, will focus on 'Determining the cost of a hospital building', and Valéry Brunel, head of the Works Investments Department at University Hospitals

of Lyon, will look at 'A clear definition of roles and responsibilities within the project manager / operation duo'.

Energy and engineering

The day three conference programme will start with an 'Energy and engineering' session, with Dennis Wald, senior Engineering Expert Qualification & Validation, of Chemengineering Switzerland, speaking on 'Gases and gas distribution systems in the healthcare sector – classification of borderline therapeutic products', and Florent Donnard, Fluid Energy Thermal Service engineer at AIA Ingénierie, and Jean-Marie Melo, Thermal engineer and environmentalist, HVAC Service, AIA Ingénierie, focusing on 'Towards fossil-free energy production for hospitals?'

Project management in healthcare

A simultaneous 'Project management' workshop will see Rashmi Karolina Werning, director, Healthcare Consulting Delfoi Oy, address 'Advanced dimensioning framework that supports future service and workplace concepts in hospital outpatient departments – examples from Finnish hospital development projects', while Bashar Hassan, architect and Infrastructure coordinator of La Chaîne de l'Espoir in Iraq, and Elsa Negre, head of the Infrastructure and Biomedical Department there, will speak on 'A new hope and engineering challenge in a post-conflict zone'.

The conference will be complemented by an exhibition, with the event offering ample opportunity for interaction among delegates, speakers, and other industry figures from across the European healthcare engineering sector.

The above text gives only flavour of the presentations; there are too many to include details on all. For the full event programme, plus information on registration and accommodation, visit <https://eche-paris2023.com/en>

An 'early bird' rate for attendance applies until 19 February.



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This architectural render shows part of the new Tower 7 extension building at the University Hospital of Liège.