

## **IFHE RIO 2017 – International Seminar Hospital Environment for Patient and Worker Safety**

The city of Rio de Janeiro will be marked in the history of contemporary architecture and hospital engineering, after realized the most important international event to discuss aspects related to health buildings happened in August, 27 to 31. IFHE Rio 2017 - International Seminar was promoted by

International Federation of Hospital Engineering (IFHE) and Brazilian Association for Development of the Healthcare Building (ABDEH).



The IFHE is a global membership body supporting national member associations of architecture and engineering to promote safe, efficient, effective and environmentally sustainable concept, design and facilities management in the healthcare and hospital context.



**Executive Committee of IFHE in the IFHE RIO 2017.  
Place: Othon Palace Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**

The event started on August 27 and was extended for 5 days with multiple activities. On the first day, the Executive Committee Meeting of the IFHE was held, where, among other matters, it was decided to change its name to the International Federation of Healthcare Engineering, preserving the IFHE acronym. This Committee is composed of one representative from each of the following countries: South Africa, Germany, Argentina, Australia, Canada, Netherlands, Italy, Japan, Norway, United Kingdom, United States and Brazil.



**The IFHE Executive and Council Meeting in the Thon Palace Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August,28, 2017.**

More than 300 participants from 32 countries of all five continents and their respective representations have been discussing issues relating to the safety of the health environment for patients and workers in health care. This issue had been one of the most important concerns of the World Health Organization (WHO) in this century and also had been accompanied by the institutional healthcare agencies of each country. In Brazil, the Ministry of Health has dedicated special attention to patient safety care with recommendations for specific procedures and regulations.

The II Meeting of the Regional American Group was held on August 29, with the participation of all IFHE countries in the continent (Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay, Paraguay, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Mexico). And with the special guests from America Latina (Peru, Bolivia, Guatemala) and North Americans (USA and Canada). Agreements of cooperation of knowledge were signed between the different countries and, at the same time, confirmed the agenda for the next years with Meetings in Santiago (Chile) in 2018 and Bogota (Colombia) in 2019.



**Regional America Group and Executive Committee of IFHE in the IFHE RIO 2017.  
Place: Othon Palace Copacabana, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.**

During the event, the book Health Architecture in Latin America (Arquitectura para Salud en América Latina) was launched in Spanish and English and will be available online in October, 2017. The book was organized by architects Fábio Bitencourt (Brazil) and Luciano Monza (Argentina) and has chapters with references to architecture for health in the following Latin American countries: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Peru, Mexico, Uruguay and Venezuela. The book was sponsored by the UNOPS (United Nations Office for Project Services) entity linked to the World Health Organization (WHO) and also was supported by the architectural and engineering associations for health environments in these respective countries, as well as ABDEH in Brazil. Most of these associations are IFHE Members.

In addition to regular International Seminar programming, two workshops were held with approaches of special relevance for discussion on the future of hospital buildings and other health settings. The first workshop on "Global Innovation for Healthcare Sustainability" was held on August 29th, which addressed the environmental impacts on people's health, current mitigation and adaptation strategies for climate change. Contemporary studies of climate resilience as well as sustainable solutions in health environments were also presented. This event was coordinated by the

North American engineer Walt Vernon, Member of the IFHE Executive Committee, with the participation of Shannon Bunsen and Laura Faye. Vernon is the founder and leader of the Sextant Foundation, a nonprofit organization for sustainable projects and co-author of the upcoming WHO book, *Health in the Green Economy: a prescription for the Global Health Sector*.



**Workshop Global on *Innovation for Healthcare Sustainability*, August, 30, 2017.**

On August 30th, a workshop on "Electrical Patient Safety Regulator Requirements and Responsibilities for Electrical Safety of Patients in Health Care Facilities" was held. The discussion was on the technical requirements for the implementation of the electrical safety of patients in surgical and life support environments, in accordance with the normative requirements in force in several regions of the world. This event was coordinated by the Brazilian engineer Sérgio Castellari, an international expert on the subject.



**Workshop Global on Electrical Patient Safety Regulator Requirements and Responsibilities for Electrical Safety of Patients in Health Care Facilities, August, 30, 2017.**

All participants also had the opportunity to participate in technical visits to the various hospitals in the city of Rio de Janeiro, divided into groups in the morning and afternoon with access and technical guidance to the following health facilities: UNIMED Hospital, Star Hospital Cup, Hospital das Américas, Hospital da Lagoa, Sarah Network Hospital, Institute of Traumatology and Orthopedics (INTO), Family Health Clinic and Souza Aguiar Municipal Hospital.



**Architects and engineers participating in IFHE RIO 2017 during a visit to the Sarah Network Hospital in Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August, 2017.**



**Visit to the UNIMED Hospital in Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August, 2017.**



Additional visits were also made to the Santa Casa de Misericórdia in Rio de Janeiro, the first hospital built in the city by the Jesuit José de Anchieta in 1582 and still carrying out health care activities.

At the end of the event was presented by Australia's representatives, Darryl Pitcher and Darren Green, the special invitation to the upcoming IFHE Congress to be held in the City of Brisbane, Australia, in October 2018. A great opportunity to know the important Australian health care model, while at the same time getting to know some of the architectural and engineering hospital facilities.



The Brazilian architect Fábio Bitencourt (Brazil) between the Aussie engineers Darryl Pitcher and Darren Green. Rio de Janeiro, August, 2017.

Fábio Bitencourt  
**IFHE RIO 2017**  
August, 06, 2017.