

## **Puerto Rico Hosts 2011 ACASC Annual Symposium**

By Julie Scarano, DC

The American Chiropractic Association Sports Council (ACASC) hosted its 2011 Symposium and General Membership Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico at the scenic Caribe Hilton Hotel the weekend of July 29<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>. San Juan provided an unforgettable backdrop for the 2011 event, offering those present an opportunity to “Discover Clinical Pearls,” while at the same time unite and reunite with colleagues, and enjoy the beautiful Caribbean.



*The Caribe Hilton, San Juan, Puerto Rico*

In addition to a wonderful educational program, the site of the symposium served as a venue to hold the Board of Director’s, General Membership, Faculty Advisor and Gavel Club Meetings. According to Dr. Guillermo Bermudez, ACASC President, “Puerto Rico was unique in that we had dignitaries from Mexico, Canada, Puerto Rico, Costa Rica and FICS in attendance with a goal of fostering worldwide cooperation to address challenges to our profession united.”



*ACASC Board Members gathered for a photo after Saturday afternoon’s events.*

The ACASC experienced phenomenal growth this year in membership and the number that made the trip to Puerto Rico for the symposium significantly exceeded expectations. Over the course of the weekend, attendees were given the possibility to earn up to 16 CEUs with current topics

from expert speakers including: Dr. Jeff Spencer on *The Anatomy of Peak Performance and Structural Interference and Sports Performance*, Dr. Jennifer Illes on *Shoulder Evaluation, Management and Rehabilitation*, Dr. George Petruska on *Functional Movement Screens*, Brian Bettendorf on *Suspension Training for Shoulder Rehabilitation*, Dr. Robert Silverman on *Sports Nutrition for Injury Repair*, and Dr. Russ Ebbets on *Movement at the Speed of Sport*.

As an added bonus, Dr. John Danchik and Dr. Thomas Hyde hosted an interactive forum in which numerous veterans in the sports chiropractic arena joined in a panel discussion to answer questions and share their clinical and personal experiences throughout the metamorphosis of sports chiropractic over the last three decades.



*Panel of sports chiropractic veterans offering their expertise to others.*



*International Sports Chiropractic Dignitaries representing Costa Rica, Canada, Mexico, United States & Puerto Rico.*

Doctors and students in attendance were invited to visit multiple vendors that made the journey to San Juan to be present at the exposition. The ACASC would like to extend a special thank you to this year's vendors including OptoGait/OptoJump, Metagenics, HRV Pro, Erchonia, TRX, Fat-Tool, The Growth Institute, Narson, Lumos, Inc. (KT Tape), and the ACA Rehab Council. Support from vendors is instrumental to the growth of the organization and crucial in pulling together events such as the annual symposium. Additional thanks are offered to the University of Western States for providing CEUs for this year's event and to New York Chiropractic

College for sponsoring a reunion villa overlooking the beautiful Condado Lagoon, which provided a space for event attendees to meet and mingle throughout the weekend.



*Attendees enjoying social time in the NYCC-sponsored reunion villa.*

Many took advantage of the location and extended their trip to experience zip-lining adventures, the Caves of Camuy, Flamenco Beach, the Bacardi Distillery, Bioluminescent Bay, the San Cristobal/San Felipe Del Morro Castle, El Yunque's Tropical Rain Forest, the Plaza de las Americas, and, of course, renowned Old San Juan.



*La Cascada Coca, El Yunque Rainforest*



*A look at Old San Juan from Castillo San Felipe del Morro*

Students from many schools around the nation attended this year's symposium, several of which participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Research Symposium dedicated to Dr. Thomas Hyde. This year's winners included: Mike Burns, Palmer West – "Concussions" (Honorable Mention), Anthony Harris, Palmer Florida – "Concussions" (Honorable Mention), Mia Ortega, Bridgeport – "Psychology of an Injured Athlete" (3<sup>rd</sup> place), and Jake Altman, NYCC – "Concussions" (2<sup>nd</sup> place). Justin Rabinowitz, NYCC, took first place for his presentation on "Throwing Injuries."



*Winners of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Dr. Thomas Hyde Research Symposium along with Research Symposium Coordinator, Dr. Russ Ebbets (left), Dr. Thomas Hyde and Scholarship Donor, Dr. Peter Gorman (right).*

One of the goals of the ACASC is to help build bonds between its members so that each doctor, along with their expertise, is only a phone call away. In this light, Friday evening, the Council held a Presidential Suite Reception in which board members, athletes, students, doctors and friends were given the opportunity to share hors d'oeuvres and mojitos before heading out to explore the San Juan nightlife.



*Dr. Carlo Guadagno, ACASC Treasurer, and Palmer Chiropractic College West Student/Australian 2010 Olympic Skeleton Racer, Melissa Hoar, enjoying time at the Presidential Suite Reception*

At Saturday's General Membership Meeting and Luncheon sponsored by OptoGait/OptoJump, several news items were announced by the ACASC Board to the group:

- Moving forward, *Sports Talk* will be transitioning to digital format to be sent out each quarter. Members were encouraged to submit articles.
- Over 1,200 old ACASC photos were located and scanned this year to help preserve the history of the organization.
- Currently in the works includes an additional project to re-vamp a field manual for members which will soon be posted online.
- Past President, Dr. Jan Corwin, unable to attend the event, sent good wishes and reminded members to lead by example and give back to the ACASC.
- Student Liaison President, Shah Soleimani, spoke on mentorship and preceptorship projects, encouraging both doctors and students to participate in these programs.
- ACA Liaison, Mike Simone, discussed this year's efforts to make sure chiropractic is not discriminated in the legislature, getting Medicare full-scope coverage, and tactics for getting chiropractors into all VA hospitals.

Appreciation awards were presented to Dr. Julie Scarano for her assistance to the board throughout the year with public relations, Dr. Jay Greenstein for representing the ACA at the NATO Youth Sports Safety Summit in Washington D.C. and to Dr. Peter Gorman for his efforts in elevating the status of ACASC doctors and his ongoing commitment to challenging chiropractors to raise the bar for the profession, giving us the cultural authority we deserve.



*Dr. Julie Scarano accepting her Appreciation Award from ACASC President, Dr. Guillermo Bermudez*



*Dr. Thomas Hyde, Dr. Jay Greenstein, Appreciation Award Recipient, and Dr. Bermudez*



*Dr. Peter Gorman posing with Dr. Bermudez after receiving accolades for his dedication to the advancement of the Chiropractic profession.*

Dr. Ed Feinberg, was bestowed with the ACASC's highest honor, 2011 Sports Chiropractor of the Year, by Dr. Rich Robinson. With a dream and the help of his students in the mid 90's, Dr. Feinberg created a Student Sports Council at Palmer West. His idea has since spawned many other schools to have formed their own ACA Student Sports Councils, and his work has inspired graduates who have gone on to distinction around the globe.

"Dr. Feinberg's leadership is palpable in the quality of his students, the sharing of his skills, knowledge and ideas to benefit the chiropractic profession without recompense," says Dr. Guillermo Bermudez, ACASC President. "He has taught students to not settle in a plateau, but to climb the mountain of personal potential."

Dr. Feinberg's leadership has propelled the chiropractic profession ahead by light years and his work has and will continue to leave a legacy unparalleled. Congratulations to Dr. Ed Feinberg!



*Dr. Ed Feinberg receiving the ACASC's 2011 Sports Chiropractor of the Year Award.*

The luncheon concluded with the announcement of the location of the 2012 Symposium and General Membership Meeting at the luxurious Westin Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona. The current ACASC Board is challenging all members to recruit one new member in reaching the goal of 500 members and 300 attendees at next year's fantastic site. The

symposium will take place a week earlier than usual, July 20-22<sup>nd</sup>, so mark your calendars, get your golf clubs ready, and check out our website at [www.acasc.org](http://www.acasc.org) for more information coming soon regarding this event!



*Westin Kierland Resort and Spa in Scottsdale, Arizona, site of the 2012 ACASC Annual Symposium*