

## **History of the ICU**

The International Congress on Ultrasonics (ICU) was constituted in 2005 as the result of the merger of two international existing Congresses: The World Congress on Ultrasonics (WCU) and Ultrasonics International (UI). The ICU is currently an international affiliated member of the International Commission for Acoustics (ICA), the parent organization of many national and regional acoustical societies. The ICA has membership within both the IUPAP (International Union for Pure and Applied Physics) and the IUTAM (International Union of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics) and has as its mission to promote the international development and collaboration in all fields of Acoustics.

The history of the ICU, as the merger of the two previous Congresses on ultrasound, is thus relatively short because its first meeting was held in Vienna in 2007. However, the history of the two Congresses integrating ICU, is much longer: the UI started in the 1960s and the WCU started in 1993. UI, the first international congress devoted to ultrasound, was linked to the journal "Ultrasonics" created by the group Butterworth-Heinemann in England and later acquired by the well known publisher Elsevier.

The WCU was created in 1993, as an independent world congress, by a group of ultrasound scientists from several countries. The first WCU meeting was held in 1995 in Berlin (Germany), under the leadership of the WCU Steering Committee, then composed of 17 renowned scientists from 13 different countries. The President of this congress was Prof. J. Herbertz. The attendance at this first ultrasonics world congress was 562 delegates from 37 countries. The following WCU was held in 1997 in Yokohama (Japan) under the Presidency of Prof. S. Ueha. The third WCU was held in Lyngby (Denmark) jointly with the UI. The President of this Congress was Prof. L. Bjørnø. This meeting was a first attempt towards a merger of WCU and UI. The following WCU was held in 2001 in Atlanta (USA) jointly with the IEEE. In 2003, the WCU was held in Paris (France), and its President was Prof. P. Laugier. This Congress was chaired by Prof. L. Crum. In 2003 WCU was held in Paris and the President was Prof. P. Laugier.

Finally, the last WCU meeting, again jointly with UI, was held in Beijing (China); organized by Prof. H. Zhang and co-chaired by Profs. Ying Chong Fu and L. Bjørnø. This meeting marked the starting point of the definitive merger of both Congresses into the present ICU. In fact, the first ICU was held at the Technical University of Vienna (Austria) with Prof. E. Benes as President. The next ICU will be held for the first time in Latin-America, in the city of Santiago de Chile, organized by the University of Santiago de Chile under the Presidency of Prof. L. Gaete Garretón.

Presently the Board of the ICU is constituted of the following members:

- Adriano Alippi, Italy
- Ewald Benes, Austria, ICU Chairman
- Leif Bjørnø, Denmark
- Noriyoshi Chubachi, Japan
- Lawrence Crum, USA
- Marc Deschamps, France
- Arthur George Every, South Africa
- Luis Gaete-Garretón, Chile, ICU President
- Juan A. Gallego-Juarez, Spain
- Joachim Herbertz, Germany
- Sigrun Hirsekorn, Germany
- Pascal Laugier, France
- Oswald Leroy, Belgium
- Peter Lewin, USA
- Bogumil Linde, Poland, ICU Secretary General
- Tim Mason, UK
- Nick Pace, UK
- Wolfgang Sachse, USA
- Antoni Sliwinski, Poland
- Sadayuki Ueha, Japan
- Hailan Zhang, China