1st International CE-HTM Congress, and Global CE Summit
October 21-23, 2015, Hangzhou, China

A historic event and set of events. Long awaited. Magical. Significant ACCE participation. Yadin David does it again!

Some of the descriptions of ICEHTMC and the following 1-day Summit, see www.ICEHTMC.com, story follows.

Who was invited and who came?

First, this inaugural event was sponsored by: the Chinese Society of Biomedical Engineering (BME) Clinical Engineering Branch (CEB) and the IFMBE/Clinical Engineering Division (CED). The organizer was the Journal Press of China Medical Devices, with other sponsors/endorsers including the World Health Organization (WHO), ACCE, AAMI, HTF, the Italian Clinical Engineering Society (AIIC), the Malaysian Society of Medical and Biological Engineering (MSMBE), the Chinese Society of Medical Engineering, the Chinese College of Clinical Engineers (CCCE), the Japan Association for Clinical Engineers (JACE), the (local Chinese) Zhejiang Society of Medical Engineering, and national BME or CE societies from Australia, Canada, Ethiopia, Korea, Mongolia, Portugal, Singapore, South Africa, and Taiwan.

All in all, there were 400 Chinese CEs and 60 foreign participants. ACCE attenders / presenters included: Yadin David, Adriana Velazquez (WHO), Zhou Dan (China), Mario Castañeda, Saide Calil (Brazil), Tobey Clark, Tony Easty (Canada), Tom Judd, Jitendar Sharma (India), Elliot Sloane, Yoshio Takagi (Japan), Suly Chi & Binseng Wang, and Jim Wear. Dr. Herb Voigt – friend to ACCE, ACEW faculty member, and past chair of IUPESM, as well as current IFMBE chair Dr. James Goh (Singapore) and IFMBE secretary Dr. KP Lin (Taiwan) attended. Dr. Ernesto Iadanza, IFMBE CED chair, and Dr. Paolo Lago, CED board member, both from Italy, also joined, as did CE colleague John Robson from Australia.

Where was it held and why?

The CCCE was founded in recent years, see http://accenet.org/publications/Newsletters/ACCENewsNovDec2014.pdf, currently with over 1000 members, and of those nearly 300 certified CEs. Yadin and Dr. Zhou Dan, chairman of CCCE, envisioned a Congress that brought a program celebrating global CE and HTM best practices from all over the world – including those from China. Yadin and others have been assisting the rise of China’s CE the last 15 years, so it was great timing to bring the program to Hangzhou, a site on the beautiful West Lake on China’s east coast south of Shanghai that Marco Polo once called “heaven on earth”. The venue was the aptly named Shangri-La Hotel, across from the lake.

Magical ... how?

For starters, after a Tuesday evening arrival prior to the program’s start on Wednesday, October 21, Yadin and Dan brought the Chinese and foreigner organizing teams together for dinner and to view an amazing performance on the lake, see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Qh5xKVCKug. At dinner for 50, Yadin broke the ice immediately with our hosts by introducing many of the foreign guests in his lovable, big brother fashion, setting a tone for CEs from around the globe to build relationships with new friends and colleagues throughout the week. There was several other smaller performances throughout our time that gave a peek into this amazing country and its unique culture.
The ICEHTMC program

The first morning – after a time of introductions and global CE awards for teams and best manuscripts from IFBME CED leaders, see http://ifmbe.org/organisation-structure/divisions/clinical-engineering-division/ - was led by Yadin David announcing that October 21st annually would become Global Clinical Engineering Day, see pictures below. A declaration agreeing to this that will be distributed has been signed by various stakeholders. Adriana Velazquez began the Plenary session describing WHO Tools and Resources for Improving and Outcomes of Health Care Services. Other morning presentations included topics of Technology Deployment to Improve Clinical Outcomes, Establishing HTM Programs in Challenging Locations, Integration and Innovation in CE, International Device Standards, and Use of Big Data.

There were two afternoon concurrent sessions – one focused both on (1) HTA of High Value Technologies and (2) Best Practices in Device Evaluation and Procurement, the other on (1) HTM Professional Development, Education, Certification and Training as well as (2) Establishing Best Practice in Health Technology Regulation, Risk Management, and Disaster Preparedness. International vendor partners such as Philips, Johnson & Johnson, Storz, General Electric, and others also participated. ACCE members presented during all of these sessions.

There was a gala dinner that evening, both a time to further get to know our Chinese and other colleagues, and to observe various brief cultural delights of “Beijing Opera performers”, see www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/arts/beijing_opera/. Truly a time of international cooperation and celebration.

Day 2 of ICEHTMC on Thursday, October 22, was equally strong, with a full morning program moderated ably by Elliot Sloane on Medical Device Support Models and Benchmarking, including presentations by Binseng Wang, Elliot, Dr. Jitendar Sharma (Ministry of Health India) and others from China. The afternoon included a Dragon Boat ride on the lake – above right, with further fantastic time to build relationships with Chinese and other global colleagues.
Many of those CE colleagues were able to participate on Friday, October 23, at the Global CE Summit. Convened by Yadin, facilitated by IFMBE CED & ACCE, the purpose of the Summit was to review various country approaches for:

- Clinical Engineering (CE), Biomedical Engineer (BME), & Health Technology Management (HTM) Definitions & Job Roles / Body of Practice (BoP)
- CE Education (levels and content) Body of Knowledge (BoK)
- CE Certification (local and global)
- CE Licensing and Registration
- CE Education Accreditation
- CE Regulation

With Country and Organization Reports in the morning, an Action Plan and Initial Declaration was developed in the afternoon. There were 25 on-site attenders and another 10 global colleagues who made input. Here are the Results:

Global Summit Declaration

1. This inaugural Global CE Summit group was convened in Hangzhou, China on October 23, 2015 for the purpose of improving global health and wellness for the growing world population ... by identification of common issues, strengths, expanding opportunities and demand ... for clinical and biomedical engineering (CE/BME) research and skills.

2. The Global CE Summit group included representatives from senior CE/BMEs, national societies, international federations, and WHO that agreed on the need to educate, advocate, articulate, and harmonize definitions, scope of practice of CE/BME body of knowledge (BOK), education, credentialing, certification, recognition, value, international collaboration, and interdisciplinary relationships.

3. We agree a draft Action Plan will include ... (below) ... and find Resources needed by end of March 2016

We agree on goals, priorities and deadlines to include:

- A core of knowledge all CEs are expected to possess
  - Understand how systems engineering methods to CE/BME
  - Others ... including management ...
- Categories of specialization of advanced skills
- Articulating our value proposition to address needs of our healthcare systems
- Promoting the creation of academic programs that deliver required BME/CE knowledge
- Identify appropriate Grand Challenges to encourage problem solving and innovation
- Promotional program to recognize the contribution of the CE profession to improvement of healthcare systems

Stay tuned for more work on this Action Plan to come.
Finally, a potpourri of other pictures from Hangzhou, a time to remember! Thanks to Suly Chi.

2015 Clinical Engineering Teamwork Awards: Zheng Kun, China & Dr. Lorenzo Leogrande, Italy, with Yadin, Calil, Ernesto

Celebrating International Clinical Engineering Day – October 21, 2015
“Small Steps for Clinical Engineering, Giant Leaps for Patient Safety”, Yadin David
ACCE members and friends on October 22, 2015