

## **Fourth International Symposium on Coma and Death (Havana, Cuba, March 9-12, 2004)**

**Date :** 3 Σεπτεμβρίου, 2007

**Dear Colleagues:**

Since ancient times, man has pondered the mystery of his own death. It seemed that by knowing the meaning of his death, he would be prepared to understand the reason for his life. For ages, people considered life to exist as long as an individual was breathing. It was later realized that respiration was a means of maintaining the heart, which circulated the blood. The focus then turned to cardio-respiratory function. But, in the middle of this century, physicians became aware that the brain required much more energy than other organs and that, if its needs were not met, it would cease to function, while other parts of the body (requiring less energy) might regain their activity provided that respiration was supported by intensive care. The result would be a dead brain in a viable body. French neurologists and neurophysiologists documented this at the end of the 1950s. Is such a patient alive or dead?

Although some decades have passed, there are still worldwide controversies about a concept of human death on neurological grounds. There are also disagreements on the diagnostic criteria for brain death, whether clinical alone or clinical plus ancillary tests. Moreover, some scholars who were strong defenders of a brain-based standard of death are now favoring a circulatory-respiratory standard.

This was the scene we faced in 1992, 1996, 1996, and 2000, when we convoked colleagues from around the world to attend the First, Second, and Third International Symposia on Coma and Death. These were truly remarkable gatherings of an impressive number of the most outstanding personalities in the field. Scientific discussions were enriched by multi-disciplinary approaches covering most brain-death-related issues. To be sure, not all differences of opinion were resolved in the debates; therefore, we are far from a final consensus on the subject of human death.

We are pleased to announce the holding of the IV INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON COMA AND DEATH at the Havana International Conference Center on March 9-12, 2004. Please mark these dates on your calendar and inform us if you would like to be included on our mailing list.

Our main goal is to provide a suitable scientific platform to discuss all topics related to human death and coma. Cubans, as hosts, will sincerely offer a warm hospitality. This small Caribbean Island, with the greenness of its countryside surrounded by an incredible blue sea, will provide a most proper venue to remind us that the main motivation for discussing death is the betterment of life.

Sincerely,

Calixto Machado, MD, Ph.D.  
President of the Symposium

## Main Topics

Human Death and related issues	Coma
Conceptual approach to human death	Neurophysiology of consciousness generation
Brain death criteria in different countries	Etiologies of coma: head trauma, stroke, metabolic, etc.
Ancillary tests in brain death	Ancillary tests for predicting outcome
Brain death in childhood	Neuro-intensive care
Anencephalic infants	Neuromonitoring
End-of-life dilemmas: persistent vegetative state, dementia, terminal patient, euthanasia, assisted suicide, etc.	Neuroprotección
Legal considerations surrounding brain death and related states	New trends in cardio-pulmonary cerebral resuscitation
Philosophical, theological, sociological,	

historical and cultural considerations of  
human death  
Organ transplantation

## Speakers

Adam Zeman, MD (England)	Alireza Bagheri (Japan)
Alastair V. Campbell, MD (England)	Nora Machado, Ph.D (Sweden)
Angel Esteban, MD (Spain)	Prof. Murat Emre (Turkia)
Diego Gracia Guillén, MD (Spain)	R. Alta Charo, Ph.D. (USA)
Francisco Murillo, MD (Spain)	Antonio Culebras, MD (USA)
Jorge Matias Guiu, MD (Spain)	Arthur Grant, MD (USA)
José Dominguez Roldán (Spain)	Bernard Gert, Ph.D. (USA)
Juan Sahuquillo, MD (Spain)	D. Alan Shewmon, MD (USA)
Margaret Lock, Ph.D. (Canada)	E. Haavi Morreim, PhD (USA)
Bryan Young, MD (Canada)	Ed Berger, PhD (USA)
Joseph Boyle, Ph.D. (Canada)	Fred Plum, MD (USA)
Von Wild (Germany)	James Hughes, Ph.D. (USA)
Antonio Enamorado, MD (Cuba)	Jeffrey Frank, MD (USA)
Calixto Machado, MD (Cuba)	John M. Haas , Ph.D. (USA)
Desiderio Pozo, MD (Cuba)	John P. Lizza, Ph.D. (USA)
Ismael Clark, MD (Cuba)	José I. Suárez, MD (USA)
Julio C. Peñalver, MD, Ph.D. (Cuba)	Joseph Fins, MD (USA)
Noel González, MD (Cuba)	Julius Korein, MD (USA)
Raúl Herrera, MD (Cuba)	Linda Emanuel, MD (USA)
Sofía Sordo, Ph.D. (Cuba)	Nancy Scheper-Hughes, Ph.D. (USA)
Catherine Fischer, MD (France)	Nicholas D. Schiff, MD (USA)
Corina Puppo, MD (Uruguay)	Peter Safar, MD (USA)
David Lamb, Ph.D. (Gales)	Robert R. Young, MD (USA)
Enrico Facco, MD (Italy)	Ronald Cranford, MD (USA)
Ignacio Carrasco, MD, Ph.D. (Italy)	Steven Miles, MD (USA)
Franz Gerstenbrand (Austria)	Stuart Youngner, MD (USA)
Jean-Michel Guérit, MD (Belgium)	Tom Tomlinson, Ph.D. (USA)
Phillipe Hantson, MD (Belgium)	William Winslade, MD (USA)

## Η ΑΛΛΗ ΟΨΙΣ

Ψηλαφώντας την των πραγμάτων αλήθεια...

<https://alopsis.gr>

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Jorge Curbelo (Brazil)  
Raul Marino Jr, Ph.D. (Brazil)  
Almir Ferreira de Andrade, MD  
(Brazil)  
Josef Seifert, Ph.D. (Liechtenstein)  
John Haldane, Ph.D. (Scotland)  
Mario Shkurovich, MD (Mexico)  
Michael Piradov, MD (Russia)

Stephen mayer (USA)  
Joseph T. Giacino, Ph.D. (USA)  
David Pincus (USA)  
Teddy Roth (USA)  
J. Russell Burck, Ph.D. (USA)  
Lisa Anderson-Shaw, RN, DPH  
(USA)  
Mark Sheldon, PhD (USA)