Dear Colleagues:
If you were not present at this First Joint Haitian American Urology Conference, you missed an opportunity to be part of history or to watch history in the making. This meeting that was sparked by Mike Ziegelbaum's query after his first trip to Cap-Haitien, was eagerly supported by the AUA, the IVUmed, the Haitian Society of Urology, the Haitian Medical Association and the Association of Haitian Physicians Abroad. The latter group played a key role in organizing this conference with the support of the Haitian Society of Urology and Dr. Margarett Osselyn-Abraham. Most of the Urologists who have been involved in Haiti in the past responded to the call. So did 13 of the 26 urologists practicing in Haiti. Altogether, there were 28 participants.
The conference went on as scheduled and allowed both the Haitian and the American sides to consider the many aspects of the situation which have brought it to the level of a crisis and an inventory of the resources available both locally and from the organizations involved in support missions to the different medical centers of the country. The discussion was frank, albeit at times uncomfortable. At the end, we all came out completely convinced that such meeting of the minds was overdue and a sine qua non to proceed forward.
If specific solutions were not elaborated, steps to bring about changes at all levels were taken. At the end of the meeting that concluded exactly on time, the following motions were made and approved:
1- The entire group including both the American and the Haitian Urologists would meet again next November in Haiti at a specific date to be determined. There will also be an interim focused gathering of the minds at the Annual AUA conference in Orlando, FL next May 2014.
2- The assembly elected a team of nine individuals to organize the subsequent joint activities. It included:
- Angelo Gousse, MD, representing both the AUA and the AMHE
- Samuel Broaddus, MD
- Pierre Boncy, MD
- Frank Burks, MD
- Geto Dube, MD
- Henri Lanctin, MD
- Claude Paultre, MD
- Francis Schneck, MD
- Michael Ziegelbaum, MD
with the administrative support of Josh Wood and Ellen Molino.

3- The group will elaborate a calendar of activities, workshops and other educational opportunities over the coming 3 or 4 years, to allow individuals to arrange their schedules accordingly. Although the website www.urohaiti.org is not completely ready, it is agreed that it will play a major role in the programming of these activities.

It is worth noting that the participants were able to acquire up to 6 CME credits for the event.

In addition to being a working conference, it was also an enjoyable occasion to have personal interaction with this incredible bunch of "nice people."

As for me, it was a lot of fun (and a lot of work) to help make this meeting a reality. Now I am happy to pass the baton to Dr. Gousse.

Thank you for having given me the opportunity to serve the people of Haiti.

Louis Joseph Auguste, MD

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PS. The Minutes of the Conference will be forthcoming and it would be enlightening to have everyone share his or her own opinion/perception of this conference.