

precertification.org>. Y a propósito de certificaciones, cabe destacar que las jornadas de Tremédica valen 10 puntos de educación continua para mantener la certificación de la ATA.

Fueron tres días muy provechosos, durante los cuales ampliamos nuestros conocimientos y nos informamos de otras posibilidades de formación profesional; y también hubo tiempo para socializar, salir a comer, conocernos un poco personalmente y hacer contactos de negocios. Gracias a Cristina Márquez Arroyo y Lida B. Vros, quienes organizaron todos los aspectos de las jornadas, y a los ponentes por la generosidad de impartir las sesiones *ad honorem*.

Esperamos que las jornadas de Tremédica vuelvan a los Estados Unidos en un futuro no muy lejano, pues por aquí se necesitan mucho actividades formativas como esta.

Report on Tremédica's VIth Scientific and Technical Symposium

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For the first time, Tremédica held a Scientific and Technical Symposium in the United States. This event took place Thursday, September 30 through Saturday, October 2 at Hunter College in New York City and was attended by participants from around the world. Organizers Cristina Márquez Arroyo and Lida Barbetti Vros planned a full slate of presentations on English-Spanish medical translation by recognized experts, many of them qualified physicians as well as professional translators. Despite the serious and academic nature of the workshops, the three-day event was surprisingly lighthearted, as the presenters created a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

The program began Thursday morning with "Typology and Formation of Medical Terms" by doctor and philologist Bertha M. Gutiérrez Rodilla from the University of Salamanca. She discussed the historical necessity for creating new words in medicine and outlined three methods of forming new medical terms. Dr. Gutiérrez Rodilla explained when and how each method has been used throughout history, provided examples of all three types of medical terms, and through a series of practical exercises gave attendees the opportunity to build appropriate medical terms from common lexemes. She also discussed the influence of global languages on Spanish medical terminology. Greek and Latin, unsurprisingly, account for the vast majority of Spanish medical terms, but other previously influential languages like French and Arabic have been largely replaced by English in their influence on medical terminology. The impact of English on Spanish medical writing would become a recurring theme throughout the workshops.

On Thursday afternoon, workshop participants met Gustavo A. Silva, MD, a physician, translator, editor and the founder of MedTrad, which in time became Tremédica. Dr.

Silva asked volunteers to translate into Spanish fragments of a journal article on obstetrics written for medical and public-health professionals and led the group in revising the translated document, pointing out common pitfalls associated with English-Spanish translations of this type of text. Such pitfalls included differences in conventions for designating the four stages of labor and delivery (the stages are numbered in English and named in Spanish), difficulties in translating highly specific terms such as 'facility-based deliveries' into a language that is naturally less compact than English, and the dichotomy of 'labor and delivery' in English as opposed to the all-inclusive term 'parto' in Spanish. The collaborative style of the workshop allowed those present to participate in the translation process while benefiting from Dr. Silva's expertise and advice as a long-time translator and subject matter expert.

On Friday morning, freelance scientific-technical translator and Tremédica Treasurer Cristina Márquez Arroyo recounted Tremédica's purpose and history. Begun as the MedTrad Yahoo group for doctors and medical experts who translated in the English-Spanish language pair, the group decided early on to keep membership fairly exclusive in order to preserve the high quality of advice offered to members. This commitment to quality led MedTrad members to begin publishing *Panace@*, an online journal devoted exclusively to English-Spanish translation in medicine and related sciences, and to launch the Tremédica organization and its affiliated website filled with free resources for medical translators. Tremédica is now an internationally recognized organization and an excellent resource for translators working in these specialties.

The title of the next presentation, "Dimensional, Metric and Algebraic Concepts in the Writing, Translation and Revision of Spanish Texts," caused no small amount of concern among the participants, but presenter José A. Tapia of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor quickly set everyone at ease with his self-deprecating humor. Dr. Tapia began by explaining the difference between counting and measuring, then proceeded to demonstrate a dizzying variety of ways in which numbers may be combined algebraically to create rates, ratios, equations, and other complex measurements such as work-hours or meters per second squared. Dr. Tapia peppered his mathematical explanations with suggestions for proper translation of these concepts, giving particular attention to the variety of English prepositions that can all be expressed by the Spanish equivalent "por." In expressions of dimensional units, according to Dr. Tapia, "por" may indicate either multiplication *or* division, so its use must be carefully considered in order to avoid introducing ambiguity into the translated text. The difference between hours per worker and work-hours, for example, can be quite clear in English but obscured as a result of translation into Spanish. Dr. Tapia concluded the mathematical and mental gymnastics by suggesting a set of guidelines to assure correct, unambiguous translation of these types of terms.

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The Friday afternoon session included two presentations focused on training and certification. First, María Cornelio, Coordinator of the Spanish Major Concentration in Spanish-English / English-Spanish Translation and Interpretation for the B.A. in Spanish at Hunter College of the City University of New York, outlined the goals and methods of Hunter College's Bachelor of Arts program in Translation and Interpretation. Virginia Pérez-Santalla, Secretary of the American Translators Association and a Commissioner of the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI), then presented the history and development of the upcoming CCHI Healthcare Interpreter Certification program. Both presentations led to lively discussion on topics pertinent to healthcare translation and interpretation, including United States federal regulations for patient education materials, professional ethics for healthcare interpreters, and issues in telephonic interpretation.

Saturday's presentation dealt with the highly specialized terminology of clinical trial protocols. Dr. Pablo Murgüerza Pecker, a highly-experienced freelance translator and Trémédica member based in Valladolid, Spain, tackled this difficult topic. Emphasizing the need to understand the terminology and procedures used in clinical trial protocols, Dr. Murgüerza's presentation was in some respects a bilingual glossary of clinical trial terminology. He provided a wealth of practical advice on how to understand and translate this specialized terminology into Spanish, occasionally pointing out synonymous English terms that all correlate to a single Spanish term, and gave special attention to the title of a given protocol

and best practices for translating it. His wonderful sense of humor and obvious fascination with the subject matter kept participants engaged and invited audience questions on all aspects of translation, including Spanish to English back translations of these texts. The workshops ended with a drawing for several reference books, including a coveted first edition of Fernando A. Navarro's *Diccionario crítico de dudas inglés-español de medicina*.

Workshop attendees found the presentations very helpful. Mabel Lima, a freelance English to Spanish translator, said, "I think the symposium was very informative, and it covered a wide range of topics. The presentations were interesting, and the speakers showed a high level of expertise. In general, the symposium was well-organized and very useful for translators and interpreters in the medical field." Norma Candia, a clinical trial protocol translator with Quorum Review IRB, found Pablo Murgüerza's presentation particularly helpful: "The instructor was good and really knew about the subject." Several translation students were also present, and one of them, Carol Lujan, expressed great satisfaction with the event: "It was an organized event with many helpful tips to apply in our work. Every presentation provided vital information to those who are in the translation and interpretation industry regardless of years of experience or specific field." By the end of the symposium, the participants were prepared to apply their new-found knowledge to their own work as medical translators and interpreters. The symposium was yet another success in Trémédica's tradition of offering support to translators in medicine and related fields.

