IV. VENEZUELAN CONGRESS OF PHTHISIOLOGY AND PNEUMOLOGY. DEEP MYCOSES IN VENEZUELA WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO PULMONARY MYCOSES.


![Emblem of the Congress](image)

Venezuela, birthplace of the great South American liberator, Simon Bolivar, is a land of great variety. Snow-covered peaks, lush tropics, rolling plains and jungle make up the terrain. A coastal range rises to 5,000 feet, and in the West, terminating at Barquisimeto, is the Andean Chain with a number of peaks over 15,000 feet high. Back of the Andes lie the rolling treeless plains (llanos) of the Orinoco river basin, and South of these (making up almost one-half of the territory of Venezuela), are the vast forested, unexplored Guayana Highlands. In the northwest, bordering the Carribean, is the oil-rich Lake Maracaibo region, tropical and hot.

Venezuela is the Northernmost country of South America, bounded by the Carribean Sea on the north, Colombia on the west, British Guiana and Brazil on the east, and Brazil on the south. Its vast territory covers over 350,000 square miles.
These complex geographical features make this country a hotbed — El Dorado — of fungus diseases, superficial and systemic. Fungus diseases of the lungs, beside the wide spread tuberculosis, represent one of the foremost problems of Public Health.

Due to the unflinching endeavor of Prof. Dr. José Ignacio Baldó a unique forum was created for the study of mycoses in Venezuela: COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR A NATION-WIDE STUDY OF MYCOSES (Comisión Cordinadora del Estudio Nacional de las Micosis). Prof. Baldó is the president of this Committee.

Fig. 2. Prof. Dr. José Ignacio Baldó
Honorary President, Sociedad Venezolana de Tisiología y Neumología. President, Coordinating Committee for a Nation-wide Study of Mycoses.

Since the organization and the function of this highly important Committee and its achievement during the relatively short duration of its existence are hardly known in other parts of the world, it seems to be worthwhile to give a short presentation of its organization, its aims, and its achievements for the central coordination of the study of mycoses.

THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE FOR A NATION-WIDE STUDY OF MYCOSES 1).

The purpose of this Committee is to coordinate all of the nation’s services, both private and governmental, that devote part or all

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