



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE

THE RESULT OF THE MERGER AND INTEGRATION OF IRMA AND IFPMR

NEWS & VIEWS – MAY 2002

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Message from the President-Looking Forward

Now is an exciting time for the ISPRM. Many of us are preparing for the professional stimulation and fun of the 4th Mediterranean Congress of PM&R in Siracuse. During the Congress there will be two meetings of the Board of Governors. The first will be on June 25, 2002. Among the items addressed will be the formation of a new Board under the leadership of Haim Ring. This Board will have its first meeting later in the week of the Congress to plan the activities of the ISPRM in the next two years.

The Nominating Committee has identified many energetic members to fill the available Board positions and to serve on the committees. These nominees have committed to advance further the activities that have begun in the last two years. It is a good time for substantial progress within the ISPRM. There now is a Central Office to coordinated communication and support activities. It has prepared a database of members that will expand as the membership grows.

Activities ready to expand include the availability of News and Views: electronically per e-mail, on the www.isprm.org website and printed in the Journal of Disability and Rehabilitation. The News and Views is a venue for sharing information and communicating the activities of the ISPRM and its members.

The ISPRM leadership has been active providing lectures at conferences throughout the world, an activity that will be expanded to help conference sponsors find speakers to address the various aspects of PM&R. The program to facilitate the availability of experts will be further organized for more effective implementation.

The ISPRM through its regional vice presidents will continue helping multicenter research projects find participants from throughout the world as it has done for the University of Munich International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health project. In addition, the ISPRM will expand its participation as a NGO of the World Health Organization through participation in a number of initiatives planned by the WHO.

I hope many of you will also become excited about the future of the ISPRM, and join me in volunteering to help these and other projects to become reality. Consult the ISPRM website www.isprm.org and make your interests known to our central office

SEE YOU IN SIRACUSE!

John Melvin, MD, MMSc
ISPRM President

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Special Focus on the 2nd World Congress of the ISPRM now scheduled for Prague

New Venue for the 2nd World Congress of the International Society of Rehabilitation Medicine!

Due to recent events in the area the Local Organizing Committee, together with the ISPRM Board have regretfully moved the venue of the 2nd World Congress to Prague, Czech Republic. The Israeli Organizing Committee will continue to plan the program, supported by Kenes International, the professional conference organizers, who have experience of organizing conferences widely throughout Europe and particularly in Prague. This move has the support of our Czech colleagues and we look forward to welcoming you at the new venue.

Prague, one of Europe's outstanding tourism destinations, offers unique historical sites and the most modern conference facilities. It is served by all major international airlines and, for European participants, is accessible by road and by train. The venue will be the Prague Hilton Hotel and Convention Centre, and accommodation has been blocked in this luxurious hotel, and in a variety of hotels in the city.

Preparations for the Congress are well under way and we look forward to updating our website (www.kenes.com/physical) with details of a stimulating scientific program and unforgettable social events. The Congress will also offer an opportunity for participants to update themselves with the latest equipment and products through the commercial exhibition.



2nd World Congress of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine – ISPRM

Prague, Czech Republic, May 18 - 22, 2003

The Fourth National Rehabilitation Symposium and the First Regional Meeting of the ISPRM



Was held at The Armed Forces Hospital in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia between the 4th and the 6th of February 2001. The inauguration ceremony was a grand event attended by numerous official and military dignitaries in addition to the participants of the symposium.

The Scientific Program included 15 oral presentation sessions and separate poster presentation sessions. There were 26 international speakers of which 8 were from the USA, 4 from Europe, and 11 from other Arab countries. There were 25 speakers from Saudi Arabia. Numerous relevant topics were presented, which included recent developments in Stroke, Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation.

There was a session on Outcome Measures and Quality Improvement in Rehabilitation. A Workshop on Training in Rehabilitation Medicine was held which provided ample opportunities for the participants to obtain information and discuss Rehabilitation Training options available in Saudi Arabia and other countries like the USA, Canada, UK, Australia and Jordan.

The Social Program included free organised trips to various sites of touristic importance like trips to The Old City of Diriyah, the Camel Souq and the Spectacular Red Sands, a journey of beautiful scenery and dramatic rock formations.

The Symposium was a great success, with intense interactive participation by the speakers and the audience, who exchanged recent ideas, experiences and knowledge, which hopefully, will result in the delivery of improved Rehabilitation Services to individuals with special needs.

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The 2nd Congress of the Kuwait PM&R Society combined with the 2nd ISPRM Regional Meeting

This Congress took place from April 1 – 4, 2002 and had a large audience coming from the Middle East countries and was organised under the presidency of our ISPRM Regional Vice President Dr. Abdullah A. Eyadeh.

The Congress was held in Kuwait under the patronage of His Excellency The Minister of Health for the State of Kuwait. It was organized by the Kuwait Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Society and sponsored by the ISPRM with the active role of Dr Abdullah A. Eyadeh, Chairman of the Organizing Committee and Regional Vice President of ISPRM, whose efforts have provided number of forums for the presentation of the benefits provided to patients by physical medicine and rehabilitation.

The Conference was divided in various sessions: neurorehabilitation, long-term care for stroke patients, rehabilitation of spinal cord injuries, pain management, disability evaluation, functional assessment, management of spasticity, pediatric rehabilitation, neurogenic bladder care, research in rehabilitation medicine, rehabilitation of speech and swallowing disorders, orthotics and prosthetics, rheumatology and musculoskeletal disorders and sport and disability.

Eighty papers were presented by delegates from the USA, Canada, UK, Germany, Belgium, Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Korea. Invited speakers were Dr. John Melvin, President of the ISPRM, Dr. Martin Grabois, Secretary of the ISPRM, Dr. Ali Ghouse, Canada, Dr. C.A. Thiyagarajan, UK, Dr. Jorg Wissel, Germany, Dr. Mark Lissens, Belgium, Dr. C. Marincek, Slovenia, Dr. Helal Abd El Moniem, Egypt, Dr. Mohammed Baraka, Egypt, Dr. Chun Sae-il, Korea, Dr. Maher Al Jadid, Saudi Arabia, Dr. Ziadh Dehne, Syria. In addition there was a poster session and an exhibition on medical products.

The delegates enjoyed the social activities: there was the Rehabilitation Day, traditionally organized in the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Hospital campus, and also the visit to the Diwaniya of Mr. Al Ghannam.

In his closing remarks Dr. John Melvin, President of the ISPRM, praised the conference as timely and useful, enhancing the clinical activities and promoting the development of PM&R in the Middle East. He noted that the progress of the Kuwait Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Society is an indication of the expansion and increased sophistication of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Kuwait.

The ISPRM meeting was held on the first day during which the reports of different regions were presented and a few proposals were put forward. The Presidents' Cabinet also met during the Congress.

A delegation of the ISPRM was received at the Cabinet of the Minister of Health, Dr. Mohammed Al Jarallah (surgeon) in order to discuss the strength of PM&R in the future.

We congratulate Dr. Eyadeh and his team for the high-quality scientific level of the meeting and the perfect organisation.

News from China

The New Board of Governors of the China Association of Rehabilitation Medicine (October, 2001) is composed of: Chairman: Geng Dezhang; Vice Chairman: Guo Shenggui, Deng Kaishu, Zhuo Dahong, Wang Maobin, Li Jianan; Secretary General: Sun Qiliang. The election took place in October, 2001. Dr. Li Jianan is in charge of the foreign affairs.

The New Board of Governors (April, 2002) of the China Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is composed of: Chairman: Li Jing; Vice Chairman: Wu Zongyao, Du Baozong, Li Jianan. The election took place in April, 2001. Dr. Wu Zongyao and Dr. Li Jianan are in charge of the foreign affairs.

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Siracuse Congress of the “Mediterranean Forum of PRM”:

The 4th Mediterranean Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine will be held in Siracuse (Sicily, Italy) from June 25 to June 28, 2002. It has reached its fourth edition through an increased participation of interest and excitement, through the steps of Tel Aviv (Herzlia), Valencia and Athens, always keeping a highly valuable scientific basis.

The Mediterranean Countries recognise themselves as a homogeneous group of experts of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation discipline, that within a Forum represented by all national realities, meet every two years to exchange their scientific knowledge and experience.

The Congress held in Athens in September 2000 has laid down this reality: the Siracuse (Italy) Congress of June 2002 in the sign of continuity will mark a time for verification and therefore the growth of the Forum. During the Congress topics of great interest will be discussed giving ample space for debate and constant training.

The wonderful city of Siracuse, which will be hosting the Congress, is situated by the sea, rich in history and monuments, enjoying a distinctive natural and urban environment: the town centre rises on the island of Ortigia where three thousand years of Mediterranean civilisation have followed one another in their most diverse expressions.

Additionally, the congress participants will also have the opportunity to attend the popular classic plays that will take place at the “Teatro Greco” throughout the Congress.

During the Congress the ISPRM Board (Old and New) will have meetings and Dr. John Melvin will pass the Presidency of the ISPRM on to Dr. Haim Ring.

The ISPRM as a sponsor of the upcoming congress of the Physical Medicine Research Foundation

The Physical Medicine Research Foundation (PMRF) is pleased to invite you to participate in the **First International Conference on Symptom, Diagnosis, and Disability Validity: Improving Patient Outcomes**, September 26 - 29, 2002, Toronto-Markham.

The validation of health care practices is a vital priority today. Patient care and disability determination and management is being shaped by economic forces and the demand that current practices must be based upon sound scientific research. At this conference, Canadian and international experts from a broad range of health disciplines will present current research and systematic evidence-based knowledge on this important and under explored area. The conference will be the first in a series on this topic and will spawn a new journal and research awards.

Abstract Call for Posters and Papers is possible both electronic and in print. Deadline: June 30, 2002.

Themes

- Medical, Ethical and Legal Aspects of Symptom, Diagnostic and Disability Validity
- Diagnostic Validity
- Validity of Disability
- Symptom Validity
- Validity in Treatment Efficacy Research
- Physician Patient Communication

For more information visit the website: www.icpro.org - Early-bird registration available.

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World Health Organisation in Geneva

The Disability and Rehabilitation (DAR) team of the World Health Organization is seeking your assistance for updating its list of addresses. Please provide the WHO / DAR team with your current correspondence details. This would enable the WHO to disseminate information on the programmes carried out by the DAR team in a quick and efficient manner.

You can register at <http://who.int/ncd/disability/database.htm> and the new addition to this website allows access to publications. Further review of the website is underway.

WHO Contact persons are Hasheem Mannan or Eva Sandborg, both Technical Officers Disability and Rehabilitation Team (DAR), World Health Organization, CH-1211 Geneva, Switzerland,
Phone: +41 22 791 36 61, Fax +41 22 791 48 74, Email: mannanh@who.ch or sandborge@who.ch

ISPRM Membership

Members of a National Society, member of the ISPRM, do NOT automatically become individual members – Application for individual membership remains necessary.

From the correspondence we receive at the Central Office it has become clear that some members of a National Society Member of the ISPRM, think that they automatically become an individual member of the ISPRM as well. This is not the case. Individual membership and membership of a national society are clearly two separate things. Individuals wishing to become a member of the ISPRM have to apply for membership individually. We refer to the April issue of the News & Views in which the advantages of individual membership are outlined. These advantages do NOT apply for members of a National Society who have not applied for individual membership.

National Societies are more than welcome to join the ISPRM as we need to join forces in order to put the ISPRM on a global level and this can only be achieved by collaborating in one major global society which the ISPRM is.

Meanwhile we would also like to invite all ISPRM members who did not renew their annual membership to do so ASAP as this News & Views will shortly only be mailed to ISPRM members in good standing.

In the margin

Mid April, a 25 year old woman, of whom one leg is amputated, succeeded in climbing to the top of the Kata Pattar Hill in the Himalaya (height: 5,545 m). Her only aid to conquer the mountain were two crutches. Her strong will, her positive attitude, her perseverance and her unrelenting courage will undoubtedly help all disabled persons to continue their daily struggle and to keep up the good spirit.

Her comment afterwards: "I am born again and I am going for other hill tops in the future".

Comment by her accompanying guides: "it was impossible to keep up with her over the last 200 meters"

Congratulations from the ISPRM !

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