A time of unlimited possibilities

Distinguished members of the ISPRM,

We are celebrating UN International Day of Persons with Disabilities, on December 3rd, 2013 with the launching of the World Health Organization (WHO) and International Spinal Cord Society (ISCoS) joint publication: the International Perspectives on Spinal Cord Injury (IPSCI). IPSCI is fully available at the WHO website, and provides recommendations for actions based on the evidence described in epidemiology, services, interventions and policies.

After the Convention for the Rights of Persons with Disability (CRPD) coming into force in May 2008, 2013 has been a landmark year for its implementation. After the approval of WHO Disability resolution during the 66th World Health Assembly in May, 2013, WHO is now preparing the Action Plan 2014-2021: Better health for persons with disability! Several consultations for this action plan have taken place and the ISPRM was able to collaborate as an official partner of the WHO during the online survey in September/October and at the Pan American Consultation for the Americas in Quito, November 2013.

A special issue on the implementation of the World Report on Disability in several sub-areas of the World will be soon published in the American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Following the same atmosphere, the specialty of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine lives in a unique moment of our history, as the health of persons with disabilities is becoming a priority item in the global health agenda.
ISPRM was able to deliver three online rehabilitation courses: on Robotics and Rehabilitation, Fascial Manipulation, and Rehabilitation of Neurological Conditions. The ISPRM International Exchange Program is now available at the members-only session of our website, bridging the gap between ISPRM members and internationally recognized Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Institutions that offer fellowships and visiting opportunities. In 2013, a talented PRM physician from Greece, Efthimios Kouloulas, has crossed the bridge, and attended a three-month fellowship program at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago in the area of pain.

After the call from the President of the Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine (PARM), Dr. Romil Martinez, ISPRM has also been able to act immediately, through its recently formed and very active Disaster Relief Committee, to assist in the disaster relief of the devastating typhoon Yolanda.

For 2014, the ISPRM has the challenge to reach several National Societies to share their expertise and assist in the implementation of the WHO Action Plan 2014-2021: Better Health for Persons with Disability, if approved in May 2014, during the 67th World Health Assembly. In order to facilitate this task, and in close collaboration with the membership committee, the ISPRM has signed the mutual recognition agreement with the Baltic and North Sea Forum of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine and will hopefully, soon also collaborate with ASEAN and the Mediterranean Forum.

I take this opportunity to wish all of you and your beloved families a blessed holiday season and the most magnificent 2014!!

Together, we will be able to make a difference to improve the health of persons with disability worldwide, by sharing WHO’s vision described in Draft 1 of the WHO Action Plan: “a world were persons with disabilities and their families enjoy the highest attainable standard of health”.

Cheers!

Sincerely,

Marta Imamura MD PhD
President, ISPRM

News from ISPRM Office

downloadable membership certificate:
We are pleased to inform you that you are now able to download a copy of your membership certificate from the members area by following these steps:

1. Log in on ISPRM website on the members area
2. Select “update profile”
3. Download your membership certificate for any year of membership held!

Call for Dues 2014:
In January 2014, the ISPRM Membership team will start the collection of membership dues for 2014 for both for societies and individuals.

2014 sees a change to the society dues, as of January 2014, all society members of ISPRM will be what was previously known as “Combined Society Members”. This means, once society dues are paid, all members of that society automatically become members of ISPRM, and have access to all member benefits. To renew society membership please contact isprmmembership@kenes.com

Individuals can renew their membership, by clicking here and following the steps! Don’t forget if you are a member of a national society, once your society has paid ISPRM dues you can register as a member for free.

If you have any queries, please contact the membership team: isprmmembership@kenes.com

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**Dr. Samuel Stover: Promoting Health and Participation Through Leadership in Spinal Cord Injury Medicine**

An early leader in the field of spinal cord injury (SCI) care in the United States, Samuel Stover, MD, contributed to the recognition and growth of the field in numerous ways. He was one of the individuals who was instrumental in the establishment and growth of the Spinal Cord Injury Model Systems (SCIMS) of Care program in the United States. The program continues, to this day, to provide cutting-edge care for persons with traumatic onset SCI and the infrastructure for applied SCI research. The SCIMS's primary aim has always been to improve the health and quality of life of this population. Stover was a key player in the development of the National SCI Dataset, which has been the model for a number of similar clinical research databases for persons with other acute and chronic disabling conditions.

[Read the article](#)

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**Guidelines on Service Provision For Families of Children with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI): An International Perspective**

Mark A. Linden PhD, Ingela Kristiansen

Acquired brain injury (ABI) is an umbrella term which includes any injury to the brain which occurs following birth or a traumatic or disease related origin. The long term care which is sometimes necessary following childhood ABI can place significant strain on the family. Research has shown that this strain can lead to the development of mental health problems, financial hardship and social isolation. It has been demonstrated that social support moderates the psychological distress of caregivers, with its absence resulting in increased distress over time. Given the crucial role caregivers play in the recovery process, and long term care of their children, the provision of support would therefore seem a logical goal of healthcare providers. Many voluntary and statutory bodies around the world have sought to provide a means to standardise the care of children following ABI. These efforts have often resulted in the production of guidelines which can vary on a regional and international basis.

Guidelines from Sweden, the UK, Canada and the US were reviewed to gain an international perspective on the proposed care of survivors of brain injury. Some of these countries lacked,
Any history of the growth and acceptance of physical medicine and rehabilitation (PM&R) as a medical specialty in the United States must include an appreciation of the barriers to and rise of women in medicine. Both histories actually began in the 19th century. Prosthetics were developed for survivors of amputations in the Civil War in the mid to late 1800s, and the American electrotherapy medical societies of the 1890s presaged the development of the physical therapeutics of modern musculoskeletal medicine. The mid 19th century also was an historic time for women in medicine. Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman to receive a medical degree in the United States, graduated from the Geneva Medical College (now the State University of New York Upstate Medical University) in 1849 and overcame, at least to some extent, the prejudicial attitudes and barriers for women in medicine.

Click here to read the article.

40 years of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in Greece

By Xanthi Michail and Kyriaki Stathi

The Hellenic Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (H.S.P.R.M.) was founded in 1974 to support clinical practice and develop scientific evidence in the field of rehabilitation. This paper presents a brief overview of the history of the specialty, its role in health care in Greece, and its relationships.

Click here to read the article.

What Is the Pain Management & Spine Care Research Fund?

- According to Johns Hopkins University, pain is the number one reason Americans visit a doctor.
- For 35% of patients, pain escalates into a chronic problem lasting 3-6 months or longer.
- Approximately 50 million Americans are disabled because of chronic pain.

The Foundation Board of Directors has identified pain management and spine care as an area of PM&R which affects a large number of patients but is lacking in a solid and comprehensive evidence base. The research to provide the needed evidence is expensive, but without it we have little hope of convincing CMS and insurance companies of the value of our services and assuring continued access to physiatric care.

We believe that a targeted research grant program to solicit quality research projects and address the unanswered questions in pain management and spine care will go a long way toward establishing a solid evidence base for physiatric treatments. The expected outcomes are more effective treatment options and improved quality of life for the ever-increasing number of individuals with pain, and continued access to PM&R and other rehabilitative services.

The Foundation for PM&R is currently soliciting
Dr. Sheldon Berrol: Champion of Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Disability Rights

An expansive array of medical and other therapeutic interventions for people with brain injuries is in evidence in the recently published second edition of a major textbook. In addition, awareness is increasing that people with disabilities are entitled to civil and human rights and deserve to live full and independent lives with access to health care services, including rehabilitation. Progress on both these fronts must be appreciated in light of the contributions of Sheldon “Shelley” Berrol, MD, academician, clinician, teacher, and advocate for people with disabilities. He was an early pioneer in the field of brain injury rehabilitation (the medical subspecialty now referred to as brain injury medicine) and was also an active participant in the disability rights movement.

Click here to read the article

International Exchange Commitee (IEC) website is now live!

ISPRM is pleased to announce the grand opening of the website for International Exchange Committee (IEC) which contains the lists of worldwide participating host healthcare facilities for voluntary didactic and public service rotations. The IEC serves primarily as a central clearinghouse for international educational and humanitarian opportunities in Physical & Rehabilitation Medicine by placing medical students, residents, faculty physicians and allied rehabilitation professionals in global voluntary didactic and public service rotations. To coordinate its initiatives, the International Exchange Committee contributions to create an endowed Pain Management and Spine Care Research Fund. Our initial goal is to raise a minimum of $250,000 to support a $10,000 annual pain management research grant in perpetuity.

You can support this initiative today by making a contribution through our secure website. Or, look for the Pain Management & Spine Care Research Fund Task Force members wearing “Ask Me about the Pain & Spine Research Fund” buttons in the Foundation for PM&R booth at the AAPM&R Annual Assembly next month. Thank you in advance for your donation!

Thiru Annaswamy, MD, and Martin Grabois, MD Co-Chairs, Pain Management and Spine Care Research Fund Task Force

UPDATE: ISPRM Commitee on Rehabilitation Disaster Relief (CRDR)

Jim Gosney MD MPH, Secretary - ISPRM Committee on Rehabilitation Disaster Relief (CRDR)
interfaces with other rehabilitation organizations, as well as relevant ISPRM committees, and shares information about global PRM educational opportunities with ISPRM members.

Click here to go on the IEC Website

Please note that the “Sign In” username is member and the password is isprm2013.

The link and the login information for the IEC’s website is also available in the ISPRM Member’s Zone when you login to the ISPRM website (www.isprm.org/membership).

We encourage you to review the valuable information for worldwide educational opportunities on the IEC website which is an exclusive benefit for ISPRM members.

Launch of first ever WHO Report on SCI

On December 3rd, the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched its first-ever report on spinal cord injury (SCI), the International Perspectives on Spinal Cord Injury (IPSCI). Exhaustively covering all aspects of SCI, and summarizing the best available scientific evidence from a global perspective, IPSCI is a ground-breaking achievement.

Click here to read the article.

Conference Report: 2nd National Rehabilitation Conference (NRC) 2013

A two day 2nd National rehabilitation conference (NRC) 2013 was held at ISRA University Islamabad by the ISRA Institute of rehabilitation sciences (IIRS) on the 4th and 5th October 2013. Dr Muhammad Naveed Babur, Principal of IIRS was the chairman of

The Committee on Rehabilitation Disaster Relief (CRDR) is a standing ISPRM committee founded in 2010 which contributes to the society’s humanitarian mandate. Formerly part of the ISPRM WHO Liaison Committee, the CRDR collaborates with the liaison committee on WHO disaster-related disability initiatives.

Large-scale disasters often result in significant mortality and disability due to degraded health and rehabilitation systems and lack of rehabilitation services as part of humanitarian medical relief efforts. Return to normal physical function and full, satisfying lives is limited for many victims and recovery of communities is also negatively impacted. The ISPRM CRDR primarily provides technical resources for optimizing the health, functioning, and quality of life of persons who sustain traumatic disabling injuries as well as for those with pre-existing disabilities affected by a large-scale disaster. Bone fracture, amputation, spinal cord injury, traumatic brain injury, and peripheral nerve injury require medical rehabilitation (with provision of therapy and assistive devices) during the emergency acute disaster response. Longer term rehabilitation measures aim to prevent medical complications, restore physical independence, and maximize individual quality of life and participation in society.

Click here to read the article.

Incidence Rates for Traumatic Brain Injury in Children

Audrey McKinlay, School of Psychology and Psychiatry, Monash University, Melbourne Australia
Carol Hawley, School of Psychology, University of Warwick, UK

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a leading source of childhood injury, with the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) stating that in the USA alone,
The first national rehabilitation conference was held last year in October 2012. IIRS is an institute for allied health professionals in the field of rehabilitation; it was founded in 2010. It offers both undergraduate and postgraduate diplomas and doctorates in physiotherapy, speech and language pathology, electroneurophysiology, sports medicine, and community-based rehabilitation. The theme of the conference was, “Ensuring a multidisciplinary approach in Rehabilitation”. The conference was also attended by participants from Karachi and Hyderabad through video link.

[Click here](#) to read the article.

Almost half a million (473,947) emergency department (ED also referred to as accident and emergency departments) visits for TBI are made annually by children aged 0 to 14 years. While most of these will be classified as mild, even this level of injury is associated with ongoing problems. Further, the numbers of children affected not only make TBI a major health issue, but also represent a significant financial burden, with charges for these hospital visits estimated at around 1 billion dollars per year in the USA. It is also important to note that children affected by TBI are likely to require extensive intervention and educational support to enable them to achieve optimal recovery. Therefore, an accurate understanding of the numbers of children affected by TBI is essential for the planning of health care and recovery management.

[Click here](#) to read the article.

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Dear colleagues,

The 1st ISPRM endorsed musculoskeletal ultrasound course “WORLD-MUSCULUS 2013 & EURO-MUSCULUS-IV” was held in Antalya, Turkey (4-6 Dec 2013). 45 participants from Brazil, Italy, Belgium, Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Poland, Netherlands, Portugal, Kuwait, Singapore, Philippines and Turkey found the opportunity to follow theoretical lectures but more hands-on practical sessions under the supervision of 8 experienced...
trainers/sonographers (with 8 high-tech ultrasound machines). Five half-days were allocated for diagnostic/interventional imaging of shoulder, elbow, wrist-hand, knee and ankle-foot. Additionally, thinking that ultrasound imaging has already made physiatrists better capable of data acquisition, one half-a-day was dedicated for state-of-the-art lectures on online ISPRM courses. PhD programs and scholarly publishing.

Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine

Discover the list of recently published articles of the "Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine"
Volume 45

> Issue 5, May 2013
> Issue 6, June 2013
> Issue 7, July 2013
> Issue 8, September 2013
> Issue 9, October 2013
> Issue 10, November 2013

ENSF Travel Grant

ENSF grants are awarded to promising scientists in diverse fields of research and covers biology, chemistry, medicine, physics, mathematics and environmental science both in pure and applied sectors.
Click on the following link to fill in the application form: 
Click here to read the guidelines.

ISPRM World Congresses

8th ISPRM World Congress,
June 1 - 5, 2014, Cancun, Mexico
www.isprm2014.org

9th ISPRM World Congress,
June 19-23, 2015, Berlin, Germany
www.isprm2015.org

Conferences & Events in the PRM World

February - April 2014

2014 Association of Academic Physiatrists Annual Meeting
Nashville, USA
February 25 - March 1, 2014
> More info

10th World Congress on Brain Injury
San Francisco, USA
March 19-22, 2014
> More info

8th World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation
Istanbul, Turkey
April 8-12, 2014
> More info

> See more events