



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE

THE RESULT OF THE MERGER AND INTEGRATION OF IRMA AND IFPMR

NEWS & VIEWS – APRIL 2002

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News & Views, a New Initiative by the ISPRM

We have the pleasure of sending enclosed a new initiative of the ISPRM, the first NEWS & VIEWS, our Newsletter with all information on what is happening within the ISPRM and how the society is moving forward. We intend to distribute this newsletter every month (the month of July excepted) **through email only** to all our Members. Editor of the News & Views is Dr. Nicolas Christodolou (Cyprus) who can be reached at chrisfam@logos.cy.net

News from your Region

We would like to encourage all members to send information with regard to activities within PM&R and related fields (congresses, initiatives taken within the region, country, society etc..) to the Central Office. This information will be published in future News & Views Newsletters and will be spread to all ISPRM members and National PM&R societies member of the ISPRM.

Membership Renewal

In case you have not yet submitted your membership application for the year 2002, we kindly ask you not to hesitate to send your application form to the Central Office. Please note that only cash payment or payment by credit card can be accepted. Cheques cannot be accepted due to the high bank costs.

Advantages of ISPRM Membership

- Important reduction on the registration fee of the ISPRM World Congresses (higher than the ISPRM yearly membership)
- Substantial reductions on the registration fee of ISPRM supported Congresses
- Reduced yearly subscription rate (US\$ 75 only instead of US\$ 1,024) for the Journal Disability and Rehabilitation - 18 issues per year
- Monthly News & Views Newsletter sent by email to all ISPRM Members
- Access to all abstracts of the ISPRM congresses through the ISPRM website www.isprm.org
- Daily Central office at the disposal of all members and national societies for additional information, colleague search, inquiries, remarks etc..

The ISPRM Website

We are working hard to further develop our website www.isprm.org. The website will not only further develop its scientific input, but also other initiatives with regard to PM&R will be taken as there are: the PM&R Yellow Pages, links to National Societies, congresses and congress calendars, etc.

ISPRM CENTRAL OFFICE:

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CONGRESS NEWS

The First ISPRM World Congress in Amsterdam

The 1st World Congress of the ISPRM was held in Amsterdam from July 7-13, 2001. There were 1,065 registrants representing 62 different countries. The Scientific Committee received 912 abstract submissions, out of which 840 were accepted for presentation. These papers represented all aspects of our specialty from physiopathology of disability, to treatment, to social implications. Each day there were two Plenary Sessions complemented by 6 or 7 concurrent specialized Free Paper sessions, Posters sessions and Special Interest Groups. There was also a Symposium on Osteoporosis sponsored by the National Osteoporosis Foundation. In addition there was a large Commercial Exhibit where lunch and coffee were available.

The opening Ceremony was a unique and unforgettable experience. After a Classical Music Recital we were transported to a dream world by a fabulous Magician. This Magician was so fabulous that he finished his presentation by bringing all of us to the reality of why we were there: his last trick was a beautiful display of fire works stating that the First World Congress of the ISPRM was open for real business. Additional social activities were the President's Reception in the old Cristofori building and the Municipal Reception in the Old Church. These two events gave ample opportunity for everyone to enjoy the local art, the excellent food and the company of our hosts.

The ISPRM Memorial and Recognition Luncheon for ISPRM members was held on Thursday, 12 July 2001. During this luncheon Herman Flax delivered a eulogy for Dr. Zinn's contributions to Rehabilitation Medicine and to the former IRMA. Satoshi Ueda delivered the Sidney Licht Lecture and was awarded the Sidney Licht Lectureship Award and was also granted Honor Role Membership in the ISPRM. Jose Jimenez was awarded the Herman J. Flax M.D. Lifetime Achievement Award, and Donna Jones was granted Honorary Membership in the Society in recognition of her work and dedication through many years for IRMA as well as ISPRM.

Unfortunately, for family health reasons, the President of the Congress, Dr. William Peek, was unable to accept the Presidency of the Society and it was agreed that Dr. John Melvin would continue with the Presidency for one more year and that Dr. Haim Ring, who was scheduled to be the President in 2003, would become President in 2002 at the next meeting of the Board of Governors to be held on June 25, 2002 on the occasion of the IV Mediterranean Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Syracuse, Italy.

As a service to its Members, the ISPRM will shortly publish all abstracts of the congress on its website www.isprm.org (free access for members only).

The Second ISPRM World Congress now in PRAGUE

As you may know, the 2nd International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM) congress was originally programmed for May 2003 in Jerusalem. Political developments in the region caused the Local Organizing Committee along with the ISPRM to move the congress to an alternative venue. We are pleased to inform you that the congress will now take place **at the Prague Hilton Hotel on May 18-22, 2003**. On behalf of the Organizing Committee we hope to meet you all in Prague. For further details see www.isprm.org

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Sponsorship of your National and International Congress

The ISPRM will kindly link its name to those congresses that have a major interest in PM&R. The ISPRM will offer its database for mailing purposes as well as its logo. In exchange the ISPRM requests the congress organisers to offer a reduced registration fee to ISPRM members. Applications are to be submitted to the Central Office and will be considered by the ISPRM after selection by the President's Cabinet. All national society congresses can of course benefit from this sponsorship.

Abstracts of Former ISPRM Congresses

The ISPRM will publish the abstracts of its congresses on its website www.isprm.org so that these become available for a larger audience. The abstracts of the First ISPRM World Congress organised in Amsterdam, The Netherlands, July 7 – 13, 2001 and the 1st regional ISPRM meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, February 2001 will be available shortly.

Sponsorship by the Industry

The ISPRM will develop a close collaboration with the industry and sponsorship of the Society will become possible shortly. Companies interested in supporting the ISPRM can contact the Central Office (see below).

Message to the National Societies

As most of the National Societies have a proper website we would encourage them to inform the Central Office of their website address so that a link can be established. We also encourage National Societies to make a link from their website to the ISPRM website www.isprm.org.

Locating a colleague

Please feel free to contact the ISPRM Central Office if need to locate a colleague. We are there to help you in your search.

In the margin

ISPRM President loses luggage

After a long trip from Philadelphia over New York and London to Kuwait, Dr. John L. Melvin, the ISPRM President was confronted with the fact that although he could catch the various planes, his luggage could not... Luckily for him, the other present ISPRM Board members organised a whip-round, and collected just enough coins to purchase some typical local underwear in the "souks". So next time John is on stage we will all have the same question in mind.

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