NEW YEAR MESSAGE
HAIM RING MD, ISPRM PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

We have just started a new year, full with hope of a better life for everybody, men and women, children and elderly, from East and West, from all races and religions. Rehabilitation medicine can do a lot for improving peoples’ life by diminishing disability, improving function and lessen pain. Moreover, rehabilitation medicine can bring people together and build bridges for a better understanding. When the bridges will be built and open, rehabilitation people will be the first to cross them. Peace will start with us.

The ISPRM, as the umbrella organization of the world rehabilitation, is indeed doing a serious work by allowing people to get to know each other in regional and international meetings and by promoting international exchange of residents and teachers from one country to another. In the last world congress held in Prague in May 2003, 27 colleagues from 22 countries could be present and assisted in the congress educational and other activities thanks to grants from the ISPRM Trust Fund, under John Melvin.

An intention document was signed with AMLAR (Latin America rehabilitation systems) to improve relationship with the ISPRM. Most probably a document of understanding will be signed also with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), a branch of the World Health organization (WHO), after discussions we had the last AMLAR congress in Panama. As reported the ISPRM is already involved in WHO programs: ICF, Brain Trauma, etc.

In this year 2004 we have very ambitious plans: re-structure and tighten communication with the Central Office, improve feedback reports, enhance efforts for industry sponsorship and keep growing in number of both national societies and individual members. In this year a world survey of rehabilitation systems all over the world is going to be conducted by our vice-president Chang-il Park with the help of the regional vice-presidents: Abdullah Eyadeh, Matilde Sposito, Nobu Ishigami, Alberto Esquenazi, and Daniel Wever.

The Finance & Audit Committee under our treasurer Mark Lissens will liaise with the Membership Committee under our Secretary Naoichi Chino and reconsider the membership categories. When the ideas will crystallize, Jose Jimenez with his known skills will activate his By-laws Committee to prepare a formal proposal, all together, to the next Board meeting, through the President’s Cabinet and the Executive Committee, to take place in Antalyia (Turkey) during the 5th Mediterranean PMR congress in October 2004.

In this year educational publications of the Education Committee under William Micheo will appear (see note in this issue) and the “white paper” by John Melvin. The News and Views electronic bulletin will appear hopefully monthly, if all of you will send enough material!

I wish all our members and friends, a very happy and productive New Year 2004!
MINI-MONOGRAPHS
By William Micheo

The Mini-monographs are a project of the educational committee requested by our President Dr. Haim Ring with the idea of disseminating information to our members. They will be concise, with practical information, and a bibliography.

The 2 topics for this year are:
- Evaluation and Prosthetic Prescription for the Lower Extremity Amputee
  Author: Alberto Esquenazi, MD, Moss Rehab Hospital, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
- Functional Rehabilitation of Musculoskeletal Injury
  Authors: William Micheo, MD, University of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico, Walter Frontera, MD, PhD, Harvard University, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

Other proposed topics for the following years include:
- Recent Developments in the Treatment of Myofascial Pain Syndrome
- The use of Functional Scales in the Rehabilitation of Stroke Patients
- The Development and Evaluation of Competencies for the practice of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

The committee is in the process of identifying other topics of interest to our members, those interested in collaborating with the project, and authors for future Mini-monographs. We will be happy to receive input from the different regional representatives as well.

FACULTY-Student Exchange Committee of the ISPRM
by Mark Young

The Faculty-Student Exchange Committee of the ISPRM has established a new pictorial web site summarizing its activities in promoting global rehabilitation education. The web site can be accessed by conveniently linking to www.isprm-edu.org.

Committee members, Chairman Peter Disler (Australia), Mark A. Young (USA) and Luigi Tesio (Italy) would like to warmly welcome your participation in the committee’s important international activities.

The Primary Functions and Responsibilities of the Committee:
- To serve as a central clearing house for international learning opportunities in Rehabilitation
- To facilitate placement of medical students, residents, faculty physicians and allied rehabilitation professionals in global voluntary didactic rotations
- To share information about global PRM educational opportunities with the membership of the organization
- To track the outcomes, progress and successes of the committee's educational initiatives
- To interface and network with other rehabilitation educational organizations in pursuit of International Education and Scholarship in the field

The web site WWW.ISPRM-EDU.ORG provides a pictorial, virtual photo album documenting the committee’s activity.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome the Canadian Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (CAPM&R) as a new member of the ISPRM. So as you can see the ISPRM is growing and does cover already national societies and individual members from all over the globe.
ISPRM - INDUSTRY DISCUSSION FORUM – THE ISPRM LIAISON COMMITTEE
CALL TO THE INDUSTRY

In order to have a more close collaboration and to exchange ideas between the ISPRM and the industry active within the field of PM&R, the ISPRM intends to establish a Liaison Committee which will be an advisory board acting between the ISPRM and the Industry. This means that the ISPRM will discuss its activities, marketing, sponsorship, industry and congress related matters within this Liaison Committee first before taking major decisions.

Senior managers with an international function at the headquarters of a multinational company have the ideal profile for this function.

We encourage industry representatives to apply for a seat within this ISPRM Liaison Committee, which will consist of three industry representatives together with Dr. W. Peek, chairman of the First ISPRM World Congress, Prof. Haim Ring as the chairman of the Second ISPRM World Congress, Prof. Linamara Battistella as the chairwoman of the Third ISPRM World Congress and Werner Van Cleemputte, Executive Director of the ISPRM.

For any details and applications: please contact the Central Office.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP DUES
by Werner Van Cleemputte, ISPRM Executive Director

For each society it is mandatory to be supported by a large number of members. Usually ISPRM members are very faithful and renew their membership spontaneously. This is mainly thanks to the fairly low membership fee especially when compared to what other societies charge. Thanks to their membership (30 Euros per year), ISPRM members can benefit from reduced registration fees at quite a number of congresses. Consequently, their financial input is largely earned back.

However, we have experienced that a number of ISPRM members do not renew their membership in a non-congress year. The main reason for this phenomenon is the fact that the immediate advantage of the reduced registration fee in the ISPRM World Congress is not applicable. But do keep in mind that, firstly, there are many other congresses worldwide that are endorsed by the ISPRM and in which our members can benefit from reduced membership fees and secondly the main asset for the renewal of your membership should remain the fact of being a member of the Worldwide organisation active to support you, your work and your specialty. Our monthly News & Views proves what efforts your colleagues within the ISPRM Board are constantly doing for you.

The International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM) strives to bring together as many national organizations and individual members as possible active in the field of rehabilitation medicine and indeed more and more of them are joining our ranks and as such are contributing to the strength of the ISPRM. Hopefully more individual members will join us.

For the year 2004, the invitations for membership renewal will be mailed in the upcoming weeks.

The 2004 membership fee will remain at 30 Euro for individual active members.

Due to the difficulties we experience working with several currencies (Euro and Dollar), the ISPRM Board has now decided to use one currency from now onwards, being the Euro, which is the currency of the country where its Central Office is located.

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HISTORICAL NOTE I:
THE FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE IN 1952
By Haim Ring, MD and Joel A. DeLisa MD

A few days ago I got an envelope (a rather curious thing in these days of “electronic mailing”) from the USA, to be more precise from New Jersey Medical School. Inside, Joel DeLisa was sending me a photocopy of the transcript of the Second John Stanley Coulter Memorial Lecture, Report on the International Congress of Physical Medicine, by Frank H. Krusen, presented at the meeting of the American Congress of Physical Medicine (pay attention Physical only!) in New York, August 27, 1952. The lecture deserved a full 10 pages (!) in the Archives of Physical Medicine’s November 1952 issue pp 651-660. As there is no room for such an extensive review in the electronic News & Views we, nevertheless, thought that some details will surely be of interest for our colleagues, as it was for us. Moreover, we think it will be very interesting to have more such notes from all over the world. We felt compelled to make some comments most of them comparative to the present times. Hope you’ll like the comments as well. Other comments are welcome.

The meeting started on July 13, 1952 at the King’s College, London (England) and in fact was the constitutional meeting of the International Federation of Physical Medicine (We guess later on “the” IFPMR). As president of the Federation Dr. Frank Krusen was elected. Representatives of 15 (74 present in Prague, remember?) associations of physical medicine were present: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Israel, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and United States. 2 other countries were “provisionally accepted into the Federation”: France and Yugoslavia during the congress. More interestingly, 5 people from Cuba, Egypt, Eire, Italy and Portugal, were “observers” as “have no (national) associations of physical medicine” (this was the reason why IRMA was later on founded and also the reason why we still have in the ISPRM these 2 categories of members after the IFPMR and IRMA merging in 1999). Representatives from Brazil and Chile that wanted to, but were unable to attend sent words of support and desire to participate in future activities.

The president of the congress was Lord Horder. An impressive list of people manned different positions and we would refer the readers to the original paper for details. Full membership in the Congresses of the Foundation should be restricted to qualified physicians and surgeons. The offices were established in London (now Assenede in Belgium) and the annual subscription was 2 shillings sterling (equivalent of approx. US$28 cents) per individual member of the association (now it is US$3 per member up to US$2,500). The official languages were to be French, English and Spanish and there were “properties and insignia, ceremonial lamp, gavel and block, and presidential badge”.

There was an impressive and colorful opening ceremony where “speakers and guests of honor were robed in academic costumes... the Marshal of the Royal Air Force (!) the Lord Tedder gave the opening oration…” and many speeches took place. In a picture of the opening ceremonies the audience is looking backwards as the photographer seemingly was not allowed to reach the front part of the hall.

There was also a scientific and historical exhibition as well as a trade exhibition (corporate sponsors?).

The Scientific Program
The first scientific activity was a symposium on “Developments in Physical Medicine in the Past Decade”. Four speakers, from Great Britain, USA, Denmark and Austria described the progress in their countries in our field. The consensus was: “World War II stimulated the development of physical medicine”… “Our discipline progressed from a therapeutic to a clinical specialty” … “Physical Medicine has progressed from empiricism to precision in diagnosis and treatment” … “increase in laboratory and clinical research in the field” … “There is a growing program of teaching of physical medicine in the universities” … “The value of rehabilitation programs in various hospitals is being increasingly recognized” (!)... Contacts between nations are developing rapidly” … “A vigorous new medical specialty, which emphasizes research and clinical aspects of practice has come into being during the past decade” (!).
Later on, there were “valuable discussions…and demonstrations on physical education” (exercises for army recruits). Also, a symposium on “rehabilitation and settlement” (apparently an innovation by then, rehabilitation!) and the consensus was: “rehabilitation has become established as a new medical discipline which aims at restoration of the physically handicapped person…to normal life”, “physicians should be interested not only in adding years to life but also in adding life to years”, “…the physician should consider the psychological as well as physical problems”.

In a symposium on “various aspects of rehabilitation” Henry Kessler (USA) mentioned that “many minds and skills meet on the rehabilitation team (physicians, nurses, therapists and counselors) under the leadership of the medical director…”. A.B.C. Krusen (USA) indicated that “the accomplishment of rehabilitation objectives produced tremendous economic savings”. A parallel session discussed convalescence care of poliomyelitis. H.E. Weiser from Israel “advocated the intensive use of progressive power exercises”.

Various sessions dealt with rheumatic diseases, “prolonged cortisone therapy should be kept below 75 mg. per day”. In a symposium on electrodiagnosis E. Kugelberg (Sweden) “concluded that EMG has become and indispensable routine method of diagnosis in hospitals…”. Physical measures in diagnosis and treatment, was another session. In the closing session H.A. Rusk (USA) advocated “total treatment for the disabled patient in terms of his whole problem”, H. Balme (Great Britain) talked about “rehabilitation and international economy” (!). A special committee was appointed “to settle problems of terminology and conflicts concerning variations in the meaning of words in different languages”. It was decided the next congress would be in 1956 (every 4 years by then, now every 2 years) in Copenhagen. Frank Krusen ended up by quoting from the Lancet of July 26, 1952 where an editorial was published, saying “The physical medicine specialist needs to be a ‘good doctor’ as well as a trained clinician…This is the medicine of the future, but its disciples must remember and live the warning of their president: Le malade., toujours, le malade [The patient, always, the patient.]” (Do we need to add anything to these words?).

In the next issue: the exhibition and social activities. Worth to be read by future congresses organizers!
UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONGRESSES

Congresses with the ISPRM logo in the left margin are endorsed by the ISPRM and offer reduced registration fees to ISPRM Members

- The 6th International Conference on Pain and Chemical Dependency, February 4-7, 2004, Brooklyn, New York, visit www.painandchemicaldependency.org
- 32nd Annual National Conference of the Indian Association of PMR, 6-8 February, Calicut, Kerala, India, visit www.iapmrcon2004.org/
- Super EMG MMIV February 14-21, 2003, Lahaina, Maui, Hawaii, visit: http://ccme.osu.edu
- 8th Annual meeting of the Biofeedback Foundation of Europe, February 18-24, 2004, Zurich, Switzerland. Visit www.bfe.org or contact Vickie Gaves Danielle Matto at dm-matto@hetnet.nl
- State of the art in Chronic Low Back Pain Symposium, 4-6 April 2004, Bodrum (Turkey) organized by the Erasmus MC. Info: h.j.stam@erasasmusmc.nl
- Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging and National Council on Aging, April 14-17, 2004, San Francisco, California, visit www.asaging.org/summer-series
- 2nd Japanese-Korean Joint Conference (Korean and Japanese Society of PM&R), April 24-25, 2004, Kyoto, Japan, contact: nobuishi@me.ndmc.ac.jp
- Combined Annual Scientific Meetings of the Australian Society for Geriatric Medicine (ASGM) and the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM), 27 – 30 April 2004, Esplanade Hotel, Fremantle Western Australia: Contact: AFRM@racp.edu.au

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE

THE RESULT OF THE MERGER AND INTEGRATION OF IRMA AND IFPMR

NEWS & VIEWS – JANUARY 2004

- Annual Scientific Session of the American Pain Society, May 6-9, 2004, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, visit www.aps.org


- SCI ASIA Meeting, Denver USA, May 14.-16, www.asia-spinalinjury.org


- Principles and Practice of Pain Medicine, June 23-27, 2004, The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, USA Visit www.med.harvard.edu/conted


- 11th World Congress of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO), 1-6 August 2004 Hong Kong: ispo@ptcoursk.com

- Rehabilitation International Assembly and World Congress, August 9-13, 2004; Oslo, Norway. www.RI-Norway.no


- 3rd World Congress of the World Institute of Pain, 22-25 September 2004, Barcelona, Spain info@clinicadeldolor.com or wipcongress@meet2.net


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NEWS & VIEWS – JANUARY 2004

5th Mediterranean Congress on PM&R. September 30 –October 03, 2004, Antalya, Turkey, visit www.medcongress.org or contact Pr. Tansu at Arasil, tansu@surf.net.tr


• 5th Interdisciplinary World Congress n Low Back & Pelvic Pain, 10 – 13 November 2004, Melbourne, Australia – visit www.worldcongresslbp.com

3rd ISPRM World Congress - April 10-14, 2005 in Sao Paolo, Brazil, www.isprm.org/brazil

• 6th World Congress on Brain Injury – IBIA, in conjunction with the 13th Annual Meeting of the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM), 5 – 8 May 2005, Melbourne, Australia – www.icms.com.au/braininjury


4th ISPRM World Congress – October 8 - 12, 2007 in Seoul, Korea

5th ISPRM World Congress – May 9 -13, 2009 in Istanbul, Turkey

Please feel free to announce your upcoming congresses in this agenda by sending an email with all relevant information to the Central Office