News & Views distributed to ISPRM Members in good standing only

We kindly inform that this News & Views will be the last distributed to all present and former ISPRM members. From July onwards, we will only mail the News & Views to the ISPRM members in good standing only. If not made already, please contact the Central Office and renew your ISPRM membership ASAP as our society can only survive by your support.

Report of the May meeting of the WHO – ICF Project
G. Stucki to send in an article

ISPRM Website
Wim Peek

Japan-Korea meeting
Chang-il Park should write about the (and may be the mondial...)

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People in the News
Author: Martin Grabois, ISPRM Secretary

John Melvin, M.D., Vice President of Medical Affairs, MossRehab and Professor and Chairman of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Thomas Jefferson, Philadelphia, PA, President IRSPM and Martin Grabois, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, TX; Secretary ISPRM, recently attended the Fifth International Symposium: Clinical Advances in Osteoporosis. This meeting was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, March 6-9, 2002 and sponsored by The National Osteoporosis Foundation, The Asian-Pacific Osteoporosis Foundation, and The Sociedad Ibéroamericana de Osteología y Metabolismo Mineral. Doctor Grabois presented on the topic of “Pain Treatment of Osteoporosis,” and Doctor Melvin presented an overview of rehabilitation guidelines being developed.

Martin Grabois, M.D. is currently secretary of ISPRM and Chairman of the Rehabilitation International Medical Commission. He recently was invited to speak at several national and international meetings. In February he presented, “Skills course – Musculoskeletal Examination,” at the American Academy of Pain Medicine Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. He also presented, “Chronic Pain Syndrome: Multidisciplinary Evaluation and Treatment,” at the Chinese Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Guangzhou, China. In March, Doctor Grabois presented, “Assessment and Management of Chronic Spinal Pain: Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Techniques,” at the 21st Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Pain Society, held in Baltimore, Maryland.

Thomas E. Strax, M.D., ISPRM Individual Member Representative to the Board, was recently elected as President of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The Academy is currently making final preparations for their Annual Meeting to be held in Orlando, Florida, November 21-24, 2002. For more information: www.aapmr.org

Transition means continuity
by Haim Ring MD, ISPRM President-elect

In a short time the organization will enter a new period, the second term since its creation. Although “change of shifts” always creates some concern about the nature of the developments to come, in our case and thanks to the wisdom of the members of the Joint committee IRMA-IFPMR whose merging gave birth to the ISPRM, continuity is secured through the appointment system of the senior members of the Board.

During the first two years of ISPRM existence I had the opportunity to serve as Vice-President and during the last year as President-elect, with John Melvin as President. In this way a close collaboration was established between us and other members of the President’s Cabinet and crucial issues of the organization were dealt with, virtually “on line”. In this way the basis for continuity was laid. During the first period, the by-laws were reviewed vis-à-vis the dynamics of the new era trying to reflect the spirit of changes in different systems throughout the world as well as the willingness of new people to integrate into the organizations’ work. In the last year we have been working with the regional vice-presidents, hence the “RVPs project”, trying to better delineate the lines of work of these officials and beyond that, to know better the rehabilitation systems in the different parts of the world. The project entailed to survey the different regions, promote membership, send information to the News & Views, promote and participate in regional activities and last but not least to identify candidates for future appointments and activities. The regional
vice-presidents performed the work in different ways and still it has to be completed, but the initial results are very encouraging. The overall picture is that of old and well established rehabilitation systems along with emerging ones, and even individuals, willing to integrate in a big global network. The ISPRM is the perfect framework for this integration. As reported by John Melvin the ISPRM already is the link to activities initiated and conducted by the WHO. More will come and we must know our strengths. In this sense the regional congresses are a very interesting situation (“regionalism”), considered by some as a threat to the ISPRM integrity, but as a positive phenomenon by others. Personally I think they can be the basis for global integration as they reflect the geopolitical and socio-economical trends in defined parts of the world. If conducted during the years between the ISPRM big world congresses (Prague 2003, Sao Paolo 2005, Seoul 2007), they will bring the people together and strength the links between them, on regional basis. In the Syracuse meeting by the end of June, a new Board will be elected and will reflect the willingness of the people to push the organization forward, with old and new forces working in harmony. Looking forward to seeing you in Syracuse and more importantly looking forward to working together.

Events in the News
Author: Martin Grabois, ISPRM Secretary

The Second Conference of the Kuwait Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Society and the Second Regional Meeting of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine was held in Kuwait, April 1-4, 2002. Numerous members of the ISPRM Board and membership attended and presented at this meeting including: “The Use of Motor Evoked Potentials in Rehabilitation of Locomotor Disorders,” Dr. Mark Lissens (ISPRM Treasurer); “Role of State and Community in Management of Stroke Patients,” “Functional Assessment in Neurological Problems,” “Recent Research Activities and Support by ISPRM,” Dr. John Melvin (ISPRM President); “Role of Multidisciplinary Approach in Pain Management,” “Pain in Osteoporosis,” “Disability Evaluation in Chronic Pain,” Dr. Martin Grabois (ISPRM Secretary); “Role of Alternative Medicine in Rehabilitation Medicine,” Dr. Sae-il Chun (ISPRM Regional Vice President); “Review of Research Activities in Kuwait,” Dr. Abdulla A. Eyadeh (ISPRM Regional Vice President); and well as other ISPRM members.

Additional Meetings Held
Author: Martin Grabois, ISPRM Secretary

13th European Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine was held May 28-31, 2002, in Brighton, UK. Doctor Anthony B. Ward, President of the 13th European Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM Member at Large), welcomed the participants on behalf of the British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine and Society for Research in Rehabilitation to this meeting. This is the first Congress to be held under the auspices of the new European Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine which has succeeded the European Federation of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine. Some of the traditions of recent European Congresses will continue, but Brighton did break new ground in putting on “state of the art” plenary and concurrent sessions, along with practical teaching to meet the demands for continuing professional development and to allow trainees and junior members of staff to acquire new skills.
The Chinese Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Society recently held a very successful meeting in Guangzhou, China in early under the leadership of Professor Wu Zongyau. The ISPRM members who attended and spoke included Doctors Grabois, Ishigami, and Li.

Martin Grabois, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Baylor College of Medicine and John Melvin, M.d., Professor and Chairman, Rehabilitation Medicine, Thomas Jefferson University, recently joined the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Research Foundation Board of Directors. He also presented a lecture entitled "Pain Curriculum Course for Medical Students," at the Pain and Palliative Care Grand Rounds, Houston, Texas.

Dr Mark A. Lissens, ISPRM Treasurer has participated in the World Congress on Osteoporosis, 10 to 14 May in Lisbon, Portugal and made a presentation on "A LACK OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND LOW CALCIUM INTAKE LEADS TO OSTEOPOROSIS IN YOUNG ADULTS".

Upcoming Meetings
By Werner Van Cleemputte, ISPRM Executive Director

The 10th World Congress of the International Association for the Study of Pain, August 17-22, 2002
San Diego, California, For More Information: URL: http://www.halcyon.com/iasp

The International Symposium in Neurobiological Background to Rehabilitation, September 19-21, 2002.
Goteborg, Sweden. For More Information: gunnar.grimby@rehab.gu.se

The Annual Meeting of the ACRM will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, October 4-6, 2002
Martin Grabois, M.D. is currently President of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. The scientific program for the Annual Meeting has been finalized now and more information can be found at: www.acrm.org

Partnerships for Disability Rights: International Forum on Disabilities to Mark the End Yard of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, October 21-23, 2002 - Osaka, Japan
Contact: Japanese Society for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities;
E-mail: forum@dinf.ne.jp Visit: www.normanet.ne.jp/-forum/english/index.htm, Fax: +81-5273-1523

The Mexican Academy of PM&R will organise its congress in Mazatlan, Mexico, November 7-10, 2002

The American Academy of PM&R will take place in Orlando Florida, November 21-24, 2002. Orlando World Center Marriott, Orlando, Florida - E-mail: fcogan@aaprm.org - Web www.aapmr.org
November 19-20, 2002 : - Preparing Yourself for Physiatric Practice, Disability Evaluation Program, PASSOR
Spinal Procedures Workshop
November 21-24 - AAPMR 63rd Annual Assembly and Technical Exhibition in conjunction with the AHA Section for Long-Term Care and Rehabilitation and American Medical Rehabilitation Providers Association
November 24-25 - Coding and Billing Workshop
November 24-26 - Principles of Manual Medicine

The 22nd Annual Scientific Meeting of the American Pain Society, March 20-23, 2003, Chicago, Illinois
Visit www.ampainsoc.org/meeting/
The Association of Academic Physiatrists Annual Meeting, March 26-30, 2003, Fort Lauderdale, Florida
Visit: www.physiatry.org

The European Congress on Sports Medicine will be held in Hasselt, Belgium, May 14 – 16, 2003,
Visit www.medicongress.com for all detailed information and on-line abstract submission and registration.

The 2nd World Congress of the ISPRM has been moved from Jerusalem, Israel to Prague, Czech Republic, May 18-22, 2003. Please contact Haim Ring (hring@post.tau.ac.il) for further information.

Remember the 3rd ISPRM World Congress will be organised in 2005 in San Paolo, Brazil and the 4rd ISPRM World Congress will take place in 2007 in Seoul, Korea.

Please feel free to announce your upcoming congresses in this agenda by sending an email with all information to the Executive Director
The Israeli Rehabilitation System Public Activity
Author: Haim Ring, ISPRM President-elect

Different members and organizations of the Israeli rehabilitation system have been involved in the past year in different activities of value to the public and country, beyond the routine clinical and research activities:

1) The inter-ministerial national task force for earthquake in Israel: following the intervention of the IDF rescue team and a fact-finding mission of rehabilitation experts (by initiative of the department of international cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs – MASHAV) to Turkey after the August 1999 earthquake in the Izmit area, the Israeli government decided to form a special committee to deal with this issue. The reason is that Israel is in geological terms under the influence of the Syrian-African rift and a lot of seismic activity takes place in his territory. Members of health, infrastructure, financial and other systems entailing civilian, voluntary and military forces compose the committee. A special sub-committee was appointed to study the needs for Rehabilitation activities based in the Turkish experience and other emergencies situations where the rehabilitation took part in the past. The sub-committee mapped the needs and also prepared contingency plans for different possible scenarios. The entire national committee also visited rehabilitation centers and become aware of their strengths and needs, what can be considered as an extra benefit for all.

2) Disability Committees Under the National Insurance Institute (N.I.I. - Social Security): following growing discontent with the activities of the work accidents as well the loss of earning capacity disability committees, both implemented by the N.I.I., a special study group was appointed by the Minister of Work, Welfare and Health. This group entailing physicians, jurists, disabled organizations and representatives of the N.I.I., Israeli Medical Association (IMA) and Health and Finance Ministries functions as sub-committee of the Work, Welfare and Health committee of the Israeli Knesset (Parliament). Representatives of the Israeli rehabilitation system are part of the study group and also of the steering committee appointed as a result of the discussions in order to recommend an alternative way of operating these committees and play a central role in this endeavor.

3) Road Accidents Educational Preventive Workshops: given the high prevalence of youth involved in road accidents in our country educational workshops are organized in the Loewenstein Rehabilitation Center in Raanana, with students of the before last year of the secondary schools. The activities are coordinated by the Center’s Social Work and physiatrists take part of the presentations. During this activity the students not only attend to lectures but also have opportunity to meet road accident victims under rehabilitation and families. The results so far seem to be very positive and stimulating.

In the Side Margin

All participants in the European Congress of Sports Medicine, 14 – 16 May, 2003, Hasselt Belgium, will have a bicycle at their disposal for all local transport between the congress centre, the city and the hotels. For all information: www.medicongress.com