



# INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE

THE RESULT OF THE MERGER AND INTEGRATION OF IRMA AND IFPMR

## NEWS & VIEWS – MARCH 2004

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### ISPRM WEBSITE UPDATE

**By Tom and Andrew Haig**

The ISPRM website will undergo a major renovation in the next few months, provided by Tom Haig Communications (<http://thcommunications.tripod.com/>).

Please provide any ideas on the current website or ideas for the future to Andrew Haig, M.D., [andyhaig@umich.edu](mailto:andyhaig@umich.edu). Send web addresses for any national or international rehabilitation organizations that should be included in the new website, as well as any other useful websites.

#### Pictures for the Website:

The new website will include photographs reflecting our international mission and cultural diversity. Members are encouraged to submit their favorite digital photograph that reflects disability, their practice, their institution, country or culture. Please include your name, country, and a title or explanation. Only one photo per member, please submit to [andyhaig@umich.edu](mailto:andyhaig@umich.edu).

### 8TH CONGRESS OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION FOR RESEARCH IN REHABILITATION

Ljubljana, Slovenia, 13 – 17 June 2004.

**By Crt Marincek, Chairman of the Organising Committee**

After congresses in Edinburgh (1983), Dusseldorf (1985) and Rotterdam (1988), the 4th Congress was held in Ljubljana in 1991. Unfortunately, due to the civil war raging at the time in regions of former Yugoslavia, the Congress had to be postponed and transferred to Newcastle (1992). Congresses in Helsinki (1995), Berlin (1998) and Madrid (2001) followed. In the meantime, Slovenia has become an independent democratic peaceful country and EU member state from May 1st 2004. Its capital, Ljubljana, is honoured by the privilege to host the 8th Congress of the European Federation for Research in Rehabilitation and I am cordially inviting you to participate and contribute to its success.

The 8th EFRR Congress will be a unique event, bringing together many professionals and researchers working in the field of comprehensive rehabilitation of people with disabilities.

The Preliminary Program with almost 200 oral presentations and about 50 posters will be available soon on the [www.cd-cc.si/EFRR2004](http://www.cd-cc.si/EFRR2004) website.

We expect about 700 participants from more than 40 countries, most of them already registered.

You are kindly invited to register through the above Web address. Also early booking of hotels is strongly advised, because there are more congresses in Ljubljana in the middle of June.

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### OPEN LETTER TO THE ISPRM MEMBERS

By Huseyin Ertunga, Cyprus

I am a physiatrist practising in Nicosia , North of Cyprus since 1995. I am sure that our speciality has more or less the same problems with physiotherapists in most of the countries. But in my country, the problem is more than the usual.

As physiatrists we are having great authority problems both in the rehabilitation teams in the hospitals and also at private practice. The main reason of this is the lack of appropriate laws defining the responsibility and duties of a physiatrist and a physiotherapist, and also the absence of the knowladge about our speciality even among our colleagues in other specialities.

In my country, the physiotherapists are refusing to cooperate with us and not obeying any prescription of electrotherapy or other rehabilitative applications written by a physiatrist. Due to the gaps in medical laws, they can work independently and can have a patient directly, without the referral of a physician competent in rehabilitation medicine. What they are claiming is that, the physician completes his/her duty with diagnosing the problem in need of rehabilitation, and all the program of rehabilitation can be planned and applied by the physiotherapist. And this physician can be of any speciality, no matter if he or she is competent in physical and rehabilitation medicine. This last matter is therefore well appreciated by our colleagues in other specialities, making them not to place another physician between themselves and their patients, if they think that this patient needs the intervention of physical and rehabilitation medicine. Therefore, additionally, physiotherapists are well supported by our colleagues in other specialities in this country.

This situation makes a physiatrist to practise as not more than a general practitioner, examining the patient only and prescribing pain killers and muscle relaxants. How can a physiatrist be useful to the patients if he/she can not use his/her skills of the speciality? How can a physiatrist use his/her skills if he/she can not take his/her position in a rehabilitation team? And who will be responsible from a rehabilitative malpractice if a physiatrist does not have the correct position in a rehabilitation team.

Nowadays my country is getting prepared for entering the EU. Therefore medical laws will also be gone over like all the others. As the scarce specialists in this country, with my colleagues, we think that this may be an opportunity for us to make our voice stronger and get our deserved position in the rehabilitation team as physiatrists.

To convince the politicians and also our medical association, we need examples to put forward and show them the situation in other countries. Therefore what I would ask from all my colleagues in different countries is, to kindly send me any document or law or at least their opinions concerning where the responsibility of a physiatrist and physiotherapist starts and ends, and that a physiotherapist can not treat the patients independently and practice like a physician.

### Comment by Haim Ring: ISPRM President

"Dr. Ertunga's letter rises the issue of the leadership function of the physical and rehabilitation medicine specialist (physiatrist) in the rehabilitation team. The physiatrist has been traditionally leader of the team conducting the rehabilitation and accountable for the rehabilitation plan and its results. As time passes by physiatrists may found themselves and such a situation as described by Dr. Ertunga in his letter. It is therefore imperative that present and future generations of physiatrists prepare themselves for the leadership role by adding knowledge to their clinical, academic and research skills and practice that will enable them to maintain this position."

### Your comments

Any further reactions on this letter and the comment of Haim Ring are welcome and can be made through the discussion forum on our ISPRM website [www.isprm.org](http://www.isprm.org)

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### 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

- **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@erasmusmc.nl](mailto:h.j.stam@erasmusmc.nl)
- **Joint Conference of the American Society on Aging and National Council on Aging**, 14-17 April, 2004, San Francisco, California, visit [www.asaging.org/summer-series](http://www.asaging.org/summer-series)
- **10th International Congress on Public Health** by the World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA), 19 - 22 April 2004, Brighton, England, visit [www.phaworldcongress.com/](http://www.phaworldcongress.com/)



**2nd Japanese-Korean Joint Conference** (Korean and Japanese Society of PM&R), April 24-25, 2004, Kyoto, Japan, contact: [nobuishi@me.ndmc.ac.jp](mailto: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](mailto:AFRM@racp.edu.au)
- **Annual Scientific Session of the American Pain Society**, May 6-9, 2004, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, visit [www.aps.org](http://www.aps.org)
- **Spring Meeting of the Royal Belgian Society of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation- Quality of Life Measurement in Rehabilitation: Misleading Evidence?**, May 8, 2004, Leuven, Belgium. Visit [www.uzleuven.be/rehabilitation](http://www.uzleuven.be/rehabilitation)
- The 14<sup>th</sup> **European Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**, May 12-15, 2004, in Vienna, [www.ecprm2004.org](http://www.ecprm2004.org) or Dr. Michael Quittan, [michael.quittan@univie.ac.at](mailto:michael.quittan@univie.ac.at)
- **SCI ASIA Meeting**, Denver USA, May 14.-16, [www.asia-spinalinjury.org](http://www.asia-spinalinjury.org)
- **5th World Congress on Brain Injury (IBIA)**, 23 – 26 May, 2004. Stockholm, Sweden, contact: [braininjury@congrex.se](mailto:braininjury@congrex.se).
- **SpineWeek 2004**, May 30 – June 05, 2004, Porto, Portugal – Combined meeting of the Leading Scientific Spine Societies being the **International Society for the Study of the Lumbar Spine – Spine Society of Europe - Soc. Ibero-latino-americano de Columna Vertebral – Cervical Spine Research Society – Brazilian Society for the Pathology of the Spine – Asia Pacific Orthopaedic Association, Spine Section** Visit [www.medicongress.com](http://www.medicongress.com)

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- **3rd International Shoulder Course 2004, Villach, Austria, June 2nd-5th, [www.shoulder.org](http://www.shoulder.org)**



**8th Congress of the European Federation for Research in Rehabilitation (EFRR)** June 13-17, 2004, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Visit [www.cd-cc.si/EFRR2004/](http://www.cd-cc.si/EFRR2004/) or contact: [crt.marincek@mail.ir-rs.si](mailto:crt.marincek@mail.ir-rs.si)

- **Annual Scientific Meeting of the Canadian Association of PM&R**, June 16 – 20, Charlottetown, PEI, Canada. Visit [www.capmr.medical.org/agm2004.htm](http://www.capmr.medical.org/agm2004.htm)
- **Rehabilitation International Assembly and World Congress, June 21-24 (date changed), 2004; Oslo, Norway.** [www.RI-Norway.no](http://www.RI-Norway.no)
- **Principles and Practice of Pain Medicine**, June 23-27, 2004, The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, USA. Visit [www.med.harvard.edu/conted](http://www.med.harvard.edu/conted)
- **5th World Stroke Congress**, June 23-26, 2004, Vancouver, Canada, Visit: [www.kenes.com/stroke2004](http://www.kenes.com/stroke2004)
- **11<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO)**, 1-6 August 2004 Hong Kong: [ispo@pctourshk.com](mailto:ispo@pctourshk.com)
- **Conference for rehabilitation professionals Connecting the Pieces for Success, August 21-23, 2003.** Buffalo Niagara Marriott, Amherst NY organised by Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation Information: [www.udsmr.org](http://www.udsmr.org) or [info@udsmr.org](mailto:info@udsmr.org)
- **Towards Global Partnerships: Working together for Effective Clinical Practice**, An international conference organised by the **International Journal of Therapy and Rehabilitation**, 25-27 August 2004, Corinthia San Gorg Hotel, Malta. Info: [tania@markallengroup.com](mailto:tania@markallengroup.com).
- **Rehabilitation in vascular diseases of central nervous system;** International Congress of the Polish Rehabilitation Society, September 1-4, 2004, Rzeszów (south-east Poland). Visit the Polish Rehabilitation Society site: [www.ptreh.home.pl](http://www.ptreh.home.pl) or the congress site: [www.szpital2.rzeszow.pl](http://www.szpital2.rzeszow.pl).



**International Course in Management of Disability and Rehabilitation**, 20 Sept – 15 Oct, Utrecht, The Netherlands. The course is focusing to a large extent on policy and management issues of rehabilitation programmes in developing countries. There is a strong emphasis on community based rehabilitation. – ISPRM members benefit of a 20% reduction. Information: [www.enablement.nl](http://www.enablement.nl) and [h.cornielje@enablement.nl](mailto:h.cornielje@enablement.nl)

- **3<sup>rd</sup> World Congress of the World Institute of Pain**, 22-25 September 2004, Barcelona, Spain [info@clinicadeldolor.com](mailto:info@clinicadeldolor.com) or [wipcongress@meet2.net](mailto:wipcongress@meet2.net)
- **43rd Annual Scientific Meeting of the ISCOS, International Spinal Cord Society and the Hellenic Society Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**, 26-29 September 2004, Athens, Greece. Visit [www.triaenatours.gr](http://www.triaenatours.gr)

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- 19th Annual Congress of the **Société Française de Médecine Physique et de Réadaptation**, September 30 – October 2, 2004. Cité de Sciences & de l'industrie, Paris, France.  
Contact : [sofmerparis2004@rth.ap-hop-paris.fr](mailto:sofmerparis2004@rth.ap-hop-paris.fr)



- 66th Annual Assembly of the **American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R)**, 07 – 10 October 2004, Phoenix, Arizona, USA- Visit [www.aaprmr.org](http://www.aaprmr.org)
- 18th Congress of the **Mexican Society of PM&R**, 5 – 7 October, 2004 Chihuahua, Mexico – Visit <http://sociedadrehabilitacion.org.mx>
- 3rd. National Convention and scientific congress with International Participation of the **Bangladesh Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (BAPMRCON2004)**, 5 - 6 October 2004, Hotel Sheraton, Dhaka, Bangladesh: Contact: Dr. Mohd Taslim Uddin: [taslim@bdcom.com](mailto:taslim@bdcom.com)
- 5th **Interdisciplinary World Congress n Low Back & Pelvic Pain**, 10 – 13 November 2004, Melbourne, Australia – visit [www.worldcongresslbp.com](http://www.worldcongresslbp.com)



**3rd ISPRM World Congress - April 10-14, 2005 in Sao Paulo, Brazil,**  
[www.isprm.org/brazil](http://www.isprm.org/brazil)

- 6<sup>th</sup> **World Congress on Brain Injury** – IBIA, in conjunction with the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the **Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (AFRM)**, 5 – 8 May 2005, Melbourne, Australia – [www.icms.com.au/braininjury](http://www.icms.com.au/braininjury)
- 11<sup>th</sup> **World Congress on Pain (IASP)**, 21 – 26 August 2005, Sydney, Australia – [www.iasp-pain.org](http://www.iasp-pain.org)

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

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

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

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