



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE

THE RESULT OF THE MERGER AND INTEGRATION OF IRMA AND IFPMR

NEWS & VIEWS – MAY/JUNE 2003

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Dear ISPRM Members

Back from what many of you have defined as a successful ISPRM 2003 congress, on behalf of myself and my colleagues from the organizing and the scientific committees, I would like to truly thank you for your presence, help and support throughout the preparation period as well as the congress itself.

If organizing a congress in your own country is not an easy task, preparing it away from home is times difficult. Nevertheless we have done it and I think we have done it well. Without your support it would not have been possible. Special thanks are due to Naoichi Chino and John Melvin and to our Executive Director, Werner Van Cleemputte.

The congress has given the opportunity for the President's Cabinet, the Executive Board and the Board of Governors to meet and discuss issues in an "in crescendo" fashion that helped elaborating the different issues. The fact that the first two bodies met separately in time from the broad Board of Governors, allowed for people to read the reports, to have some private discussions and even for some committees, like the Audit one, to have meetings.

It was heartwarming to see so many colleagues in the Board of Governors meeting, some of them with official appointments and some – new – as observers, learning the whole process and no doubt, integrating into it in the future. Some discussions were hard but all with good spirit and in the search for solutions. The integration of the Audit Committee into the Finances one was a very important step in the process. The ISPRM mission can be found in the "basic documents", i.e. the by-laws and the policy and procedures created by the Joint Task Force under John Melvin and efficiently updated by Jose Jimenez and his committee. There is no need to re-invent them, just take care of looking at them.

The financial committee under Mark Lissens has now to do the crucial step of writing a plan in which permanent sponsorships will ensure the organization's viability while allowing a more flexible membership fee's system aimed at bringing in all the national societies and every individual willing to become an ISPRM member.

My feeling is that we have gone a step forward in consolidating the organization. I have said before and I say it again: we are not in a "steady state" mode but in the process of consolidating the organization and much work is still needed. Every one has to find out in which way he or she can effectively contribute to the organization, using the best personal skills.

To my opinion the lack of funds – until available! - is not necessarily and impediment to work in the respective countries and regions: every national meeting and regional or international congress can serve this purpose. Go for it, just do it!

I wish all of you all the best. Details on the congress will come when finalized. I am looking forward to seeing you soon at the interim 2004 meeting and, of course, at the ISPRM 2005 meeting in Sao Paolo. We must all help Linamara and her team in this endeavour.

Haim Ring MD, MSc PM&R
Chairperson, 2nd ISPRM World Congress, Prague 28–05–2003 - President, ISPRM

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THE 2ND ISPRM WORLD CONGRESS – AN ACCOUNT

By Haim Ring MD, Congress Chairperson

In the interim combined meeting of IRMA and IFPMR - on their way to merge into the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM) - at the Mediterranean Congress in Valencia 1998, the Israeli PMR&R Society was appointed to organize the above meeting. The original selected venue was Jerusalem.

Since then the following events took place: the “intifada” in Israel and territories, the September 11th World Trade Center event in New York and the subsequent reactions all over the world, floods in Prague, the war in Afghanistan, the war in Iraq, the SARS epidemic and...a general strike in Israel in the days before the congress.

Notwithstanding all the above, the preparations for the congress went ahead in all aspects. Those present in Amsterdam 2001 learned about the Organizing Committee and the congress layout. Later on, the scientific committee was appointed. The organizing company was “Kenes”, based in Tel Aviv, Geneva and New York.

In March 2002, 14 months before the congress, after an in-depth analysis of the situation and the prospects based on hard-data, the organizing committee decided to relocate the congress venue to Prague (the “Jerusalem of Europe”), more precisely to the Hilton Prague Hotel and Convention Center. Our Czech colleagues, through J. Vacek and J. Votava, reacted promptly and positively and helped throughout the preparations. Thanks are due to them and all the Czech PM&R Society colleagues.

The congress took place, as re-scheduled, between the 18-22nd of May. Over 1300 participants from 73 countries registered. Very significant is the fact that very few of the participants were accompanying persons! It is worthy to note that we welcomed participants from the following countries: Mongolia, Bangladesh, Fiji, Laos, Iran, Croatia, Myanmar, Chile, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Uruguay, most of them funded by the ISPRM Educational Trust Fund under John Melvin, allowing them to expose to and interact with colleagues from different countries and different rehab systems.

The social program entailed an Opening Ceremony with the Czech Vice-Minister of Health Dr. Cevela and the Mayor of Prague Dr. Bem and ISPRM authorities, a wonderful reception cocktail, concerts in old churches, a Gala Dinner where the Young Scientist Award and ISPRM 2005 in Sao Paulo – Brazil were presented and the Closing Ceremony where the European Academy Award and books were presented, as well as the ISPRM 2005 congress (again).

The scientific program was rich and varied (see separate information in this issue). An Internet Corner, with 10 computer stations enabled the participants to surf to the present and future congresses. 22 exhibitors showed participants the latest in rehabilitation-related technologies.

Various organizations, besides the ISPRM President’s Cabinet, Executive Board, Board of Governors and committees (see separate note), had meetings or activities during the congress: the American PM&R Academy, the Decade of Bone and Joint, the Rehabilitation International Medical Committee, the Mediterranean Forum of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, the EU SPASM project (with the presence of Kevin McCarthy of the EU Research Authority), the SCI International Core Data Set, etc.

Many reactions were received in the aftermath, all indicating high satisfaction with the organization, the scientific and the social activities. Even exhibitors expressed their satisfaction and willingness to be invited to exhibit again! The financial balance, still to be finalized, seems to be positive.

The Organizing and Scientific Committees thank all participants for coming and hope they enjoyed it!

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MEETINGS DURING THE PRAGUE CONGRESS



ISPRM President's Cabinet



ISPRM Executive Committee

SECOND ISPRM WORLD CONGRESS: THE SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

By Dr. Nachum Soroker, Chairman, Scientific Committee

I was asked by Prof. Ring to summarize the scientific events of the Prague meeting for the June 2003 issue of News and Views. The first thing that came to mind going through all the documents gathered in my Congress files during the last two years is: "how could this work be done?" To keep things in proportion, my father, who dedicates much time to reading chapters in the history of medicine since his retirement - after career of forty years as an anaesthesiologist - told me recently about the medical congress organized by the Belgian surgeon Andreas Vesalius in 1561 in Spain, under the patronage of King Phillip II. In the absence of power-point presentations they performed their autopsies in front of the audience, but otherwise it was much like our Prague congress, with keynote lectures, panel discussions, workshops, cocktail parties and other social events. Truly, the number of countries represented in Vesalius' congress was much smaller.

Actually all the participants came from European countries, but with the transportation means in existence in those days travelling to attend a scientific meeting of one week was certainly something in need of serious consideration and complex preparation. There is a lot of thinking to with regard to the fact that Vesalius organized his meeting without telephone, fax and e-mail, and also without a dedicated internet site. Actually, it is hard to believe that scientific congresses were organized until quite recently without e-mail. I think of the 50-80 new e-mail messages I used to find in my inbox every morning during the last months, and the innumerable changes we had to make in the scientific program during these months as a consequence of the messages received.

The principal aims of the scientific program in the Prague congress were set as follows: a. Presentation of recent advances and future challenges in rehabilitation science; b. Linking clinical practice in PM&R to basic science through presentation of theory-driven procedures of assessment & intervention; c. Emphasis on outcome measurement and evidence-based PM&R. These indications were salient in many of the keynote lectures as well as in regular oral and poster presentations.

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During the five days of the congress we operated 5-6 halls in parallel to accommodate the 64 oral sessions covering all major aspects of PM&R, along with 13 Special Educational Activities (workshops, mini-courses and a satellite symposium). In addition poster sessions were held in each day. The sessions were divided in 4 major parts: a. PM&R in Neurological Disorders (17 oral sessions); b. PM&R in Orthopedic and Musculoskeletal Disorders (15 oral sessions); c. PM&R in Other Specific Conditions (6 oral sessions); d. Topics of General Interest in PM&R (26 oral sessions). Two special sessions were dedicated to PM&R educational needs in different countries. The session dedicated to presentation of the 10 works that reached the final stage in the young scientist award competition raised much interest. The winner, Dr Selles from The Netherlands, received the maximal score both from the jury members and the audience. The 10 best works will be published soon in a special issue of *Disability and Rehabilitation*, the official journal of the ISPRM.

The congress represented a unique opportunity to see each other's work, to exchange ideas, to present new approaches to old problems and to discuss possible solutions to emerging new problems. With some 1,100 submissions for either oral or poster presentation encompassing all possible topics of PM&R activity, and the presence of participant members of the international PM&R community of diverse nationalities, all willing to learn from each other and striving to improve clinical practice through dedicated research efforts, the congress was a memorable event of significant importance.

The Proceedings of the congress (editors: Haim Ring and Nachum Soroker) published by Monduzzi Editore (International Proceedings Division) condense 160 of the most representative examples of the papers presented during the meeting, in 784 pages. In addition, there is the Book of Abstracts where the abstracts of all oral and poster presentations in the congress are listed.

Another Congress publication is a special volume made by the keynote lecturers in the congress. This book (editors: Nachum Soroker and Haim Ring), encompassing all major aspects of the specialty in 65 chapters (542 pages) is entitled: *Advances in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine*. The chapters in the book are divided in four parts corresponding to the construction of the scientific program of the Prague congress: a. P&RM in Neurological Disorders (19 chapters); b. P&RM in Orthopaedic and Musculoskeletal Disorders (10 chapters); c. P&RM in Other Specific Conditions (7 chapters); d. Topics of General Interest in P&RM (29 chapters). Being a "reflection on advances in rehabilitation and future challenges" (the congress motto), the authors, each one a leader in her/his field, had the assignment to review the addressed issues with a futuristic approach. Readers will find stimulating novel ideas in various chapters of the book that will be of help in introducing new approaches for assessment and treatment into their own PM&R practice.

These publications will last as a testimony of the research efforts rehabilitation physicians and members of allied medical professions are doing at the beginning of the 21st century. Both the Proceedings and *Advances in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine* can be obtained through links to the publisher site posted in the ISPRM home page.

As I started this account with the story of the first medical congress organized by Vesalius in 1561, I wish to add one point which is of special interest to the Israelis who organized the Prague congress in 2003. About three years after the above congress, Andreas Vesalius, the genius founder of modern human anatomy, traveled to Jerusalem in a pilgrimage mission. Unfortunately he was attacked by disease on his way back, while in Greece, and died by the age of fifty.

I wish to thank Drs. Azaria, Catz, Groswasser, Keren, Krobot and Ohry, members of the Scientific Committee of the 2nd ISPRM World Congress, for the efforts they invested in the preparation of the scientific program. Special thanks are due to our friend Dr. Mario Cohen who was involved in the organization of the pediatric sessions until one or two days before his untimely death. Many thanks to Prof. Haim Ring who contributed enormously to the quality of the scientific program, in addition to his innumerable contributions to the Congress in general, as Chairperson of the Organizing Committee. I wish the greatest success to Prof. Linamara Battistella and her team in the preparation of the 3rd ISPRM World Congress in Sao Paolo, 2005.

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ANNUAL HOLIDAYS

The Central Office will be closed for annual summer holidays from July 21 - August 5.

ENDORSEMENT OF YOUR CONGRESS BY THE ISPRM

International congresses can be endorsed by the ISPRM if they meet the international standards of quality and if they are directly related to the field of PM&R.

An application for endorsement of your congress can be submitted to the ISPRM Central Office and the President's Cabinet will decide on the endorsement.

If positively evaluated, the Congress can use the ISPRM patronage and the ISPRM logo in its congress announcements and on the congress poster.

ISPRM members participating in the congress will receive the same reduced fees as the members of the organising society.

The congress will also be announced in the ISPRM monthly News & Views confirming the ISPRM endorsement.

NEWS FROM NATIONAL SOCIETIES, MEMBERS OF THE ISPRM

Please feel free to communicate news from your National Society to the ISPRM Central office for publication in this section of the News & Views.

Also information on PM&R awards, university activities, rehab projects etc ... will be greatly appreciated.

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

- **Principles and Practice of Pain Medicine** by Harvard Medical School, Dept of Anesthesia and Critical Care, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, June 25-29, 2003, The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston, www.med.harvard.edu/conted
- **Physical Disabilities Through the Lifespan Conference**, July 21–22, 2003, Natcher Conference Center National Institutes of Health Building 45, Center Drive, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, MD 20815. Phone 301-496-9966 - visit <http://physicaldisabilities.iqsolutions.com>
- 2nd Interdisciplinary Congress on **Spine Care**, 10-13 August 2003, Chicago, USA: www.worldspine.org
- 12th Annual **UDSMR Conference** - Connecting the Pieces for Success, August 21-23, 2003, Buffalo, New York. - Sponsoring Organization: Uniform Data System for Medical Rehabilitation
Visit: www.udsmr.org or info@udsmr.org - Contact Beth Christiansen at bchristiansen@udsmr.org

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- 4th Congress of the **European Federation of IASP Chapters**, September 2-6, 2003, Prague, Czech Republic
Visit www.pain2003.cz
- 14th Annual Clinical Meeting of the **American Academy of Pain Management**, September 3-7, 2003
Denver, Colorado. Visit www.aapainmanage.org
- XI Congress of the **International Headache Society**, September 13-16, 2003; Rome, Italy www.i-h-s.org
- **Rehabilitation International Assembly and Regional Conference**, September 29-October 4, 2003, Durban, South Africa.
- **EuroSpine 2003**, Annual Congress of the Spine Society of Europe, Sept. 30-Oct 4, 2003, Prague
www.eurospine.org
- **International Congress** to the occasion of the **50th anniversary** of the **Portuguese Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine**. 1-4 October 2003, Porto, Portugal – visit www.spmfr.com
- 19th National Congress of the **Turkish Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**, October 4 - 8, 2003, Atlantis Hotel, Belek, Antalya. www.ftr.kongresi.org
- Annual conference of the **Chinese Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**, October 10, 2003 in Jinan city, Shangdong province. Theme: Rehabilitation in Spine Diseases and Injury. Contact: Dr Wu Zongyao, wuznyao@online.cq.cn or www.capmr.org/meeting/2003/index.htm
- American Academy on PM&R - **AAPM&R - 64th Annual Assembly & Technical Exhibition**, October 9–12, 2003, Chicago Hilton, Chicago, Illinois (USA), Visit: www.aapmr.org
- **2nd European Course on Rehabilitation of the Hand**, 26-30 October 2003, Bodrum, Turkey – visit www.vitalmedbodrum.com or email Prof. Henk Stam at h.j.stam@erasmusmc.nl
- **Annual Scientific Meeting of the Southern Pain Society**, October 17-19, 2003; 2003, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- **The Southern Pain Society 2003 Annual Scientific Meeting** in Conjunction with the **Puerto Rico Pain Society: Pain Topics in the Tropics**, October 17-20, 2003 - **3-Night Bahamas Cruise** on Royal Caribbean's Sovereign of the Seas. E-mail: southernpain@continuingeducation.net, Visit: www.continuingeducation.net
- **AMLAR CONGRESS** - Asociacio Medica Latinoamericana de Rehabilitacion, will meet in Panama city, November 24 - 28, 2003. Contact; Dra Maricela Landires Iglesias, apdo 402 zona 15 Las Cumbres, Panama City. – Contact Prof. Marta Roa, President at impakt@sinfo.net
- During 2003 Enablement will offer again the **International Course in Management of Disability and Rehabilitation**. This 4-week course usually attracts rehabilitation professionals from a wide variety of countries Contact: Huib Cornielje : h.cornielje@enablement.nl website: www.enablement.nl
- **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



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- **32nd Annual National Conference of the Indian Association of PMR**, 6-8 February, Calcutta, India, visit www.iapmrcon2004.org/
-  **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
- **SCI ASIA Meeting**, Denver USA, May 14.-16, www.asia-spinalinjury.org
- **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
- The 14th **European Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**, May 12-15, 2004, in Vienna, www.ecprm2004.org or Dr. Michael Quittan, michael.quittan@univie.ac.at
-  **8th Congress of the European Federation for Research in Rehabilitation (EFRR)** June 13-17, 2004, Ljubljana, Slovenia. Visit www.cd-cc.si/EFRR2004/ or contact: crt.marincek@mail.ir-rs.si
- 11th World Congress of the **International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO)**, 1-6 August 2004 Hong Kong: ispo@pctourshk.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
- 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
-  **5th Mediterranean Congress on PM&R**, September 30 –October 03, 2004, Antalya, Turkey, visit www.medicongress.org or contact Pr. Tansu Arasil, tansu@surf.net.tr

Reminder: the 3rd ISPRM World Congress will be organised on April 10-14, 2005 in Sao Paulo, Brazil and the 4th ISPRM World Congress will take place on October 8-12, 2007 in Seoul, Korea.

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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