



INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE

THE RESULT OF THE MERGER AND INTEGRATION OF IRMA AND IFPMR

NEWS & VIEWS – JULY/AUGUST 2004

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GOOD THINGS ARE HAPPENING - THE 2002-4 TERM

By Haim Ring MD, ISPRM President

As we approach the Board meeting at the end of the 2002-2004 term, I thought that the News & Views bulletin could be an efficient way to let members know about positive things that happen in and to our organization in this period of time. Hope this note, serving as basis of my report to the Board in Antalya, will be of inspiration for those that see the ISPRM as their house and spiritual shelter and as the mother organization for our profession all over the world, now and in the years to come. So what we had?:

- There is a **Central Office** based in Belgium with Werner Van Cleemputte as **Executive Director**, which is the organization's legal address, maintains active communication with members, national organizations and external organizations such as WHO, EU and others at a level never known before.
- A **register** of members and national organizations is maintained indicating paid members in each category since the beginning of the Office activities.
- When orderly requested **information** was provided to officers from the President's Cabinet, Executive Committee, etc. not only to rehab people and members but also to different organizations looking for links, data, etc.
- The **audit process** invited by the Audit Committee and implemented through the Treasurer Mark Lissens, indicated the need to change operational and financial reports but no mismanagement was detected. Changes have been gradually introduced in these items. Senior members of the Board have travelled to have meetings during the last American Academy meeting and also for special meetings in the Central Office with the audit company.
- Although there is a marked financial weakness this year will probably finished with **no deficit** in spite the dramatic drop in paid membership in this "between congresses" year. Unfortunately no innovations were proposed on the membership issue and no sponsors recruited.
- The **by-laws committee** under Jose Jimenez, whose efficient and unconditional contribution is hard to reflect in words, has been active and trying to keep pace with the dynamics of a new and consolidating Society.
- There is a **website** that provides basic information such as the organizations, bodies, structure, links to journal, other organizations and congresses already now with thousands of hits from all over the globe. The website is now undergoing a major restructuring in all parameters under Andrew and Tom Haig and will become operational soon.
- An electronic bulleting, **News & Views**, edited by Werner and Nicolas Christodolou with the active assistance of the President, is published on monthly basis bringing information from places as far as Iraq, Bangladesh, Latin America, China, Israel, Egypt, Cuba etc., and a complete calendar of events from all over the world. This is of genuine benefit for all good standing members and allows people to share information with colleagues all over .



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- The organization has now outstanding *international relationships* with organizations such as the **World Health Organization** (WHO) through the liaison committee under Gerold Stucki and John Melvin, with presence and active participation in the Annual General Assembly in Geneva, the **Pan American Health Organization** (PAHO) based in Washington through the President and Dr. Armando Vasquez that is just about to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with this organization and has signed already a similar document with the Rehabilitation Organizations of countries of Latin America (AMLAR). The President is also in fluent contact with the WHO's DAR Director Dr. Federico Montero on different matters beyond the General Assembly agenda. The organization is also represented by Nicolas Walsh in the **Decade of Bone and Joint**. A special session took place at the Prague meeting and information I provided through the News and Views bulletin.
L. Tesio kept the link to the **SCI International Data Core Set** on their request.
- Various **exchange activities** have taken place under the auspices or initiative of the ISPRM, under Mark Young and the Exchange Committee (P. Disler and L. Tesio), all superbly well described in the **Global Goniometry Program** website run with the help of Michael Young.
- A number of senior ISPRM members have been actively involved in the development **WHO-ICF classification of function** process under Gerold Stucki, with the mediation of the organization's regional vice-presidents, in identifying and recruiting representative members from all the regions.
- The ISPRM has also endorsed several **regional PMR congresses**, around the world, some of them under the initiative of the regional vice-presidents, where senior Board members have also performed as invited lecturers.
- The **Disability and Rehabilitation journal**, published in the UK, is the permanent **official journal** of the organization as linked at the time by the Organization's President and the possibility exists to publish also there. The last June 17 issue was a **Special Issue** dedicated to the Young Scientist Award papers of **2nd ISPRM World Congress held in Prague, May 2003**.
- The congress brought together 1330 participants (95% active!) from 74 countries. Thanks to the support of the **IPSRM Educational Trust Fund** under John Melvin, 27 colleagues from 22 countries (Fiji, Laos, Cambodia, Kosovo, Uruguay, Bosnia, Mongolia Egypt, etc.) participated in the congress.
- The congress also transferred the statutory 30% of the **congress profits** to the ISPRM funds.
- **Educational papers** are in preparation by the Education Committee under William Micheo, the first one – **Rehabilitation of the Lower limb Amputee** by Alberto Esquenazi – to be distributed with the News & Views July issue and another one later on this year. Two papers a year are programmed for the next two years in topics central to the rehabilitation clinical activities.
- As a result of the activities developed, the ISPRM President has received a personal request by Walter Frontera MD, chief of the Harvard PM&R department and editor-in-chief of the **American Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AJPMR)** the journal of American academic physiatrists, to write an **invited editorial** on international rehabilitation medicine to appear in the journal's September issue .

ISPRM has gained beyond any doubt a solid place as the umbrella representative organization of the world rehabilitation by both colleagues, national organizations and by the international organizations such as WHO, PAHO and others.

The activities above detailed are the result of efforts made mainly by individual officials but also by corporate action. Still lacking a general sense of commitment, a better defined membership scheme and massive enrolment of both individual members and national organizations and a solid financial basis coming mainly from sponsors. The solution to the problems must come from officials and members alike. Words of any kind are not a surrogate for getting the work done. **RES NON VERBA!** (action and not words). See you in Antalya.



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SPECIAL ISSUE OF DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION ENTITLED: YOUNG SCIENTIST AWARD, 2ND ISPRM WORLD CONGRESS (PRAGUE, 2003)

Nachum Soroker & Haim Ring

Loewenstein Hospital Rehabilitation Center, Raanana, and Sackler Faculty of Medicine, Tel-Aviv University, Ramat Aviv, Israel (Nachum Soroker served as Chairman of the Scientific Committee, and Haim Ring served as Congress Chairperson and Chairman of the Organizing Committee, 2nd ISPRM World Congress).

Disability and Rehabilitation, the official journal of the ISPRM, published recently (June 17) a special issue entitled "Young Scientist Award, 2nd ISPRM World Congress (Prague, 2003)". The special issue is dedicated to the publication of articles by young P&RM researchers from different countries, who reached the final stage in the Young Scientist Award competition held during the Prague Congress.

The special issue was edited by Nachum Soroker and Haim Ring. The ad-hoc editorial board of the special issue was composed of: Naoichi Chino (Japan), Joel DeLisa (USA), Peter Disler (Australia), Gunnar Grimby (Sweden), John Melvin (USA), Chang-II Park (South Korea), Luigi Tesio (Italy), Jiri Votava (Czech Republic), Nicolas Walsh (USA), Eli Isakov (Israel), Ofer Keren (Israel), Zeev Groswasser (Israel), Avi Ohry (Israel), Alberto Esquenazi (USA). The members of the ad-hoc editorial board took upon themselves to review and comment on earlier versions of the papers of the young scientists. The steps undertaken in the organization of the Young Scientist Award competition are presented in detail in the editorial paper written for the special issue. We hope this documentation can help the organization of similar activities in future scientific meetings, thus encouraging involvement of young P&RM people in high-quality scientific research.

The special issue is a vivid example of current scientific work done by young P&RM scientists around the world. The salient place of biomechanics, kinesiology and mathematical modeling in Selles' work (Dr. Ruud Seles from the Netherlands was the award winner), and the sophisticated measurement of regional cerebral blood flow in Osawa's work, taken as examples (readers of this issue will find that most of the works use methodologies of different basic sciences related to P&RM), attest for the fulfillment of one of the major goals set for the Prague congress: "strengthening the link between clinical practice in P&RM and basic science, through presentation of theory-driven procedures of assessment and treatment."

The works by young P&RM scientists, gathered in the special issue, prove that rehabilitation medicine is steadily and firmly passing from the field of traditional maneuvers towards a scientifically-based, theory-bound set of assessment and treatment procedures, targeting all major aspects of human disability.

The editorial paper for the special issue, entitled "Retrospective analysis of trends in current P&RM research as reflected in the 2nd ISPRM world congress", describes in detail the process of goal setting for the world congress, the categorization of P&RM scientific activity that eventually formed the basis for creation of a comprehensive list of topics and for the organization of sessions during the congress. In addition it provides a quantitative analysis of P&RM research, as reflected in the oral and poster presentations during the congress, as well as in the congress written publications.

The analysis of domains of research activity as reflected in the Prague congress reveals that Diseases and Trauma of the Brain is the nosological entity with the largest P&RM research activity. This fact corresponds to the status of brain damage, mainly from stroke, as a major disabling condition. Research preoccupation with spinal cord, muscle, and peripheral nerve damage is significantly smaller compared to brain damage. The major impact of Diseases and Trauma of the Brain on the clinical practice and research activity in P&RM, points to the emerging role of practices and knowledge derived from Cognitive Neuroscience, forming one of the most important rehabilitation-related basic sciences. Research activity related to Neurological Disorders was greater than that related to Orthopedic and Musculoskeletal Disorders. Within the latter category, research activity related to Limb Trauma, Amputation and Surgery is significantly greater than that related to Rheumatic Conditions and Osteoporosis. Much research activity is dedicated to Back and Neck Pain.



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The analysis revealed that research preoccupation with Pediatric Rehabilitation was significantly greater compared to Geriatric Rehabilitation. As the number of disabled persons in the geriatric population is actually bigger than the number of disabled children, the figures probably reflect greater tendency for geriatric rehabilitation research to be carried out by physicians who specialize in Geriatrics rather than P&RM. Geriatric and pediatric rehabilitation research, as well as rehabilitation research in other specific conditions (patients with heart disease, respiratory failure, cancer, burns, renal failure, vegetative state, etc.) call for increased cooperation between P&RM professionals and specialists from other medical and health professions.

The major category entitled: P&RM Topics of General Interest encompasses various subjects that are relevant and important in most domains of P&RM practice. About 38% of the oral presentations in the Prague congress belonged to this category of subjects. This means that there is still much in common for the rehabilitation physician who specializes in neurological disorders and the rehabilitation physician who treats patients with orthopedic problems. The common denominator is best evidenced by the two principal areas of research activity within this broad category, namely, Educational Needs, Ethical and Legal Considerations in P&RM and Functional Assessment and Outcome Measurement.

It will be interesting to compare the present analysis made for the Prague (2003) congress (for the exact data the reader is referred to the editorial paper for the special issue: Disability and Rehabilitation 2004, 26(12):687-693) with similar analyses on future world congresses of the ISPRM (Sao Paulo 2005, Seoul 2007). Such comparisons will indicate the developments, novel trends and shifts of scientific attention in the specialty of P&RM.

The special issue of Disability and Rehabilitation is now added to the earlier written publications that emerged from the Prague congress - the Book of Abstracts and the two books: (1) Soroker N, Ring H (Editors), Advances in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (chapters based on the invited keynote lectures), Monduzzi Editore, International Proceedings Division, Bologna, 2003; and (2) Ring H, Soroker N (Editors), Proceedings of the 2nd World Congress of the ISPRM (a collection of free papers), same publishing house. This collection of written publications is expected to enhance the educational impact of the oral and poster presentations within the short time of the congress itself and bridge the gap until the forthcoming world congress in Sao Paulo (April 2005).

EDUCATIONAL MONOGRAPHS BY ISPRM

By William Micheo

The Education Commission of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine presents accompanying this issue of news and views the 1st monograph published by the Commission for members of our society. Dr. Alberto Esquenazi, Chair of the Department of PM&R of Moss Rehab Hospital in Philadelphia, PA, USA has written a short review on the Basic Concepts of Rehabilitation of the Lower Limb Amputee. The idea of these monograph is to provide the reader with concise practical information that could be used in the day to day practice of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine.

We plan to publish additional monographs in the future on varied topics that range from musculoskeletal to stroke rehabilitation. The Commission thinks that this project is worthwhile and that the educational products can be of benefit to the members of our society. We would like to hear from you, the members, regarding the format of the monographs and topics of interest for the future.

ISPRM WEBSITE

As ISPRM is growing and wants to offer more information to its members we will rebuild the website completely in the upcoming weeks. This will unfortunately result in the fact that the website will need to go down for approx two weeks at the beginning of August. So when you come back from your summer holidays the ISPRM website will have a complete new look.



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NEWS & VIEWS SUMMER ISSUE

You now receive the Summer Issue of the News & Views covering the months of July and August. We will be back with the next issue by mid September. The Central Office will be closed for holidays in the period July 19 – August 13.

NEWS & VIEWS EDITORIAL BOARD

The ISPRM News & Views Editorial Board consists of:

Editors Nicolas Christodoulou chrisfam@logosnet.cy.net
 Werner Van Cleemputte isprm@medicongress.com

Co-editors John Melvin; Martin Grabois; Chang-il Park; Gulseren Akyuz; Naoichi Chino; Alessandro Giustini;
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 Gerold Stucki; William Peek; Peter Disler; Biering Sorensen; Haim Ring, Joel DeLisa, Mark Young,
 William Micheo

Please feel free to submit articles for the News & Views and to take part in our Editorial Board.

ISPRM BOARD MEETING DURING THE MEDITERRANEAN CONGRESS – PLEASE MARK YOUR AGENDA

First Meeting : September 30, 14.00 hrs
Second Meeting : October 2, 14.00 hrs

**PLEASE NOTE THAT ONLY MEMBERS AND NATIONAL SOCIETIES IN GOOD STANDING WILL HAVE
ACCESS & VOTING RIGHTS FOR THE BOARD MEETINGS**



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UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONGRESSES

- **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 or the congress site: www.szpital2.rzeszow.pl.
- Linking Sciences, Practice and Policy – a joint Congress of the **American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM)** and the **American Society of Neurorehabilitation (ASNR)**, Florida, USA, 9-12 September 2004 www.asnr.com or www.acrm.org



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. www.enablement.nl and h.cornielje@enablement.nl

- 3rd World Congress of the **World Institute of Pain**, 22-25 September 2004, Barcelona, Spain info@clinicadeldolor.com or 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
- 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. visit : sofmerparis2004@rth.ap-hop-paris.fr
- **3rd Joint Congress for Neurorehabilitation & 1st Regional Meeting of the World Forum for Neurological Rehabilitation (WFNR)**, September 30 - October 2, 2004 , Zurich, Switzerland, visit: www.neuroplasticity.ch/wfnr
- **Fourth International Symposium on Spondyloarthropathies**, October 7-9, 2004, Gent, Belgium; visit www.medicongress.com



For information see: www.medicongress.org



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- 18th Congress of the **Mexican Society of PM&R**, 5 – 7 October, 2004 Chihuahua, Mexico – Visit <http://sociedadrehabilitacion.org.mx>
- 65th Annual Assembly of the **American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (AAPM&R)**, 07 – 10 October 2004, Phoenix, Arizona, USA- Visit www.aapmr.org
- 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
- 5th **Interdisciplinary World Congress n Low Back & Pelvic Pain**, 10 – 13 November 2004, Melbourne, Australia – visit www.worldcongresslbp.com
- **National conference of the Costa Rica Society on Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**, 10 – 12 November 2004. Contact: minigenio@costarricense.cr
- **XXI Congress of the Latino-American Association for Rehabilitation Medicine (AMLAR)**, 22 - 27 November 2004, hotel Radisson Plaza, Caracas, Venezuela. Visit www.svmfyr.com - English version soon available.
- **33rd Annual Conference of Indian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation**, 27-30 January 2005, Bangalore, India - visit : <http://nimhans.kar.nic.in/iapmrcon2005>



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
- 11th **World Congress on Pain (IASP)**, 21 – 26 August 2005, Sydney, Australia – www.iasp-pain.org
- 66th Annual Assembly of the AAPMR, 27 – 30 October 2005 Phoenix, USA – www.aapmr.org
- 4th **World Congress of Neurorehabilitation**, Hong Kong, 12-16 February 2006, visit www.wcnr2006.com



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

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