50TH ANNIVERSARY CONGRESS OF THE PORTUGUESE SOCIETY OF PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE

By Pedro Cantista, President of the Portuguese Society

Between the 1st and 4th October 2003 took place in the magnificent Convention Centre “Europarque” of Santa Maria da Feira (a small city near Porto) this International Congress, under the scientific support of the ISPRM. It was a great challenge for the Organizing Committee, whose President Dr. Pedro Cantista, Chairman of the Portuguese Society and Secretary General of the European Federation of PRM, planned all the action three years ago. Dr. Catarina Branco, the Secretary General of the Congress, managed to build an event of considerable dimension, not common in National Society’s meetings. A word of praise also to the Treasurer Dr. Fernando Almeida and to all of the other members of the organizing team.

Around 500 physiatrists were present. Among them some of the most representative names of our speciality: Prof. Nicholas Walsh, Chairman of the American Board of PMR and member of the International Steering Committee of the “Bone and Joint Decade”; Prof. Angela McNamara, President of the European Board of PRM; Prof. Linamara Battistella, Elected President of the ISPRM; Prof. Henk Stam, President of the European Federation of PRM; Prof. Guy Vanderstraeten, Vice President of the European Federation of PRM; Prof. Alain Delarque, Secretary General of the “Union Européenne des Médecins Spécialistes (UEMS) – PRM section”; Dr. Karsten Dreinhofer, Director of the Development of the campaign “Bone and Joint Decade”; Prof. Gerold Stucki, again with the ICF implementation; and many, many other relevant names.

The first day of the Congress was dedicated to the European Year of People with Disability. All the Portuguese Patient Associations were invited. Paralympic Athletes showed some of their skills. Other exhibition activities included new technical devices, “guide dogs”, films and diaporamas concerning disability.

The second and third days included the main scientific activities with keynote lectures, 82 free papers (oral communications and posters) and seven special educational courses.

Themes as spinal cord injury (mainly the latest data concerning the first results in the patients submitted to olfactory cells graft implant in the spinal cord), Amputees, Wound Care, Sports Medicine, Manual Medicine Techniques, Children Rehab., Brain Injury, Cardiac and Respiratory Rehab. or Hydrotherapy were discussed.

Cultural and social events also took place. We mention here the two Classical Music Concerts performed by the Symphonic Youth Orchestra of Feira, the unforgettable boat trip on the river Douro and the dinners (the Gala Dinner and the President’s Dinner at one of the most famous Port Wine Cellars).

During this Congress, Prof. Linamara Battistella and Dr. Pedro Cantista signed a document that creates the “Comité Luso-Brasileiro de Medicina Física e de Reabilitação” (“Portuguese-Brasilian PRM Committee”). This Committee pretends to enlarge the cooperation in the field of Rehabilitation among Portuguese language speakers. Their first meeting is already planned to October 2004 in S. Salvador da Bahia, Brazil. One of the actions already done by the committee was the support of Angola trainees for this congress attendance.

The last day of this important meeting was dedicated to the “Bone and Joint Decade” campaign. Themes as Rehabilitation in Trauma, Arthritis, Osteoporosis and Improvement in Education and Rehabilitation Care were discussed. Also the Health Secretary of State was present.

The construction of a new big Rehabilitation Hospital for the North Region of Portugal was announced during this session. Only for this it was worthwhile organizing this Congress…
9TH IOF WORLD WIDE CONFERENCE OF OSTEOPOROSIS PATIENT SOCIETIES - ISTANBUL, TURKEY, SEPT. 4-7, 2003

Organized by the IOF together with the Osteoporosis Patient Society of Turkey

By Gulseren AKYUZ, The President of OPST

The IOF World Wide Conference of Osteoporosis Patient Societies (IOF-WWC) is the most important event for osteoporosis patient societies from around the world to plan strategies and share their experiences. The skills learned at the conferences help the national societies in their efforts to increase basic awareness on osteoporosis, and lobby activities.

The conference started with a welcome cocktail in the Hilton Hotel, Istanbul in the evening of September 4. The following day, IOF CEO, Daniel NAVID, The President of Osteoporosis Patient Society of Turkey (OPST), Prof. Dr. Gulseren AKYUZ, The Honorary President of OPST, Filiz AKIN had a talk about the importance of osteoporosis and WWC 03 in the opening ceremony.

Some 150 participants shared information and learned valuable skills in the areas of media training, communication, education, management structure, patient support and lobbying during the WWC 03. In addition to the workshops and plenary sessions, nine societies received valuable awards.

The program was also very rich with cultural and historical facilities. The participants had an opportunity to visit some historical places such as Agia Sofia, Blue Mosk, Underground Basilica, and a Boat Tour on the Bosphorus.

The first WWC, hosted by the UK's National Osteoporosis Society, was held in Bath, England in 1995 with 35 attendees. In September 2003, some 150 people from 60 countries attended the 9th WWC held in Istanbul, Turkey.

At the end of the WWC, Daniel NAVID, thanked Gulseren AKYUZ, The President of OPST, for her society's warm hospitality and excellent organization.

REHABILITATION SERVICES IN CYPRUS

By Dr. Nicolas C. Christodoulou, MD, PhD

CYPRUS is a small country, our population is less than 1,000,000, so everything is in the small scale and simpler than in big countries. In Cyprus the Health Service is divided into two sectors, the public and the private, which till now are completely separated. In the PUBLIC sector there are primary care services for Rehabilitation in each District Hospital. In the Nicosia General Hospital there is a “Paraplegic Wing” for the rehabilitation of spinal cord injuries. In the PRIVATE sector there are institutions and private clinics:

The “Cyprus Red Cross Paediatric Rehabilitation Centre” in Limassol is an institution that operates with donations by the Cyprus Red Cross, the Government and people and covers general musculoskeletal paediatric problems.

The “Theotokos Institution Paediatric Rehabilitation Centre”, in Limassol, is for handicapped children who also suffer from mental retardation. The Government covers its expenses to some extent and the rest is covered by private funds and children festivals organised for this purpose. In Nicosia, The “Bank of Cyprus Oncologic Centre” has organised recently a cancer rehabilitation department for patients who need this kind of service.

The “Veterans Stroke Rehabilitation Centre” in Palodhia of Limassol accepts patients with strokes, as well as patients with musculoskeletal disorders. There are 2 “Units of Cardiac Rehabilitation” in Limassol and in Nicosia for patients with cardiac problems. The patients have to pay by themselves. In Limassol, there are 3 private “Clinics of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation” in which patients are treated for all aspects of rehabilitation according to their problems (main problems are: low back pain, cervical syndrome, joint problems, strokes, head injuries, chest rehabilitation, sport injuries etc.). Patients have to pay by themselves or by using their private insurance or medical working funds.

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Funding:
In the public sector the poor patients and the public employees do not pay, except a small co-payment for the drugs and the beds. All the other patients pay 20%, 30% or 40% of the costs of the service needed, according to their income.
In the private sector, the patients do not pay in institutions. Especially for children rehabilitation there is a fund called “Radiomarathon for Children with Special Needs” which covers the biggest percentage of financial needs: every year a great effort is made through the TV and radio to collect this money and give them for children rehabilitation. In private clinics the patients pay themselves, by private insurances or by their medical working funds.

Proposals for a National Health Insurance Scheme (including Rehabilitation Services):
Since 1992 we discuss a reform in the Cyprus Health System, after a study done by Consultants from abroad. The study tries to unify public & private sectors under one body, “The National Health Insurance Fund”. All Cypriots will pay to this Fund a percentage of our monthly earnings. The Objectives of the Scheme are:

- (Equity in the finance and provision of comprehensive health care for all Cypriots)
- (Efficiency in the delivery of health care, in particular high standards of quality at reasonable cost)
- (Containment of cost inflation created by demography, technological advance and perverse incentives).

The Scheme will cover the equitable provision of comprehensive health care, at primary, secondary and tertiary levels, for the whole of the population of Cyprus. Rehabilitation will be covered in all levels. Services provided under the Scheme will be largely free at the point/time of delivery.

Public or private sector physicians, clinics, hospitals or other providers will not be excluded from participation in the Scheme, provided that they meet acceptable standards of quality and costs.
Under such circumstances, if the public sector will not create more rehabilitation services, in the private sector we are ready to create a multidisciplinary rehabilitation centre to cover the increasing needs for rehabilitation in Cyprus and ask physiatrists from EU countries who are interested to come and work in Cyprus.

The “Cyprus Society of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation”, was established in 1987 with the aim of promoting our speciality in Cyprus by meetings, communications, discussions, lectures, congresses and other scientific events as well as to promote agreements of offering services between its members and workers’ or insurance funds.

The specialists in PRM are actively taking part in the Cyprus program of Continuing Medical Education (C.M.E.) according to the European standards. Agreements have been signed between PRM facilities and insurance companies as well as medical working funds. In Cyprus the specialty of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is recognized as a basic one among other 40.

Future of PRM in CYPRUS (Pyramid of Ages):
> 60 years old: 0 %, 50–60 years old: 20%, 40–50 years old: 80%, <40 years old: 0%

Population of Paramedical Professions in Cyprus:

AWARDS RECEIVED BY OUR MEMBERS

MARTIN GRABOIS, Professor and Chairman, Baylor College of Medicine Dept of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, received

- the 2003 Edward W. Lowman, M.D. Award of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine. The award was presented to Doctor Grabois on October 25, 2003 at the 80th Annual Meeting of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine held in Tucson, Arizona. This award was established in honor of Edward Lowman, M.D. who recognized the importance of multidisciplinary teams in rehabilitation. This award is for individuals whose careers reflect an energetic promotion of the spirit of interdisciplinary rehabilitation. He also received the Fellow of American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (FACRM) recognition. The Fellow of ACRM designation recognizes individuals who have made sustained, significant professional service to the ACRM. The American Congress of Rehabilitation is the world’s leading interdisciplinary rehabilitation research organization.
the Frank H. Krusen Award of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The award was presented to Doctor Grabois on October 9, 2003 at the 64th Annual Assembly of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation held in Chicago, Illinois. The Frank H. Krusen Award was established by the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in 1972 to honor a founding father of the Academy who was a leader in the development of the specialty. Recipients of the gold medal are selected on the basis of their outstanding contributions to the field of PM&R in the areas of patient care, research, education, literary contributions, community service, and involvement in the many activities of the Academy. This is the highest honor presented by the Academy.

was recently recognized for 25 years as Chairman of the Baylor College of Medicine Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He was presented with an award for his accomplishments by the faculty, resident, and fellows of the Baylor College of Medicine/University of Texas Health Science Center-Houston Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Alliance. The presentation was done at the 2003 Banquet of the Alliance, held at the Westin Galleria, Houston, Texas.

ISPRM PRESENCE AT INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES

The ISPRM was present with a booth at the 64th Annual Assembly & Technical Exhibition of the American Academy on PM&R (AAPM&R) , October 9 -12, 2003, Chicago Hilton, Chicago, Illinois (USA), Visit: www.aapmr.org

And at the Annual Meeting of the French Society on PM&R – SOFMER, 16 – 18 October 2003, Lille , France http://www.technimediassocervices.fr/sofmerlille/
NEWS & VIEWS – OCTOBER 2003

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

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

• 1st Educational Seminar in Neuropathic Bladder - Neurogenic Detrusor Overactivity, November 22-23, 2003, Athens, Greece. - Contact rapidicha@hotmail.com - under the auspices of the Hellenic PRM Society.

• AMLAR CONGRESS - Asociacion 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

• 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

• 8th Annual Meeting of The Biofeedback Foundation of Europe, February 24-28, 2004, Winterthur, Switzerland, information can be found at www.bfe.org

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- 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

- 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


- 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

- 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@pctourshk.com

- Rehabilitation International Assembly and World Congress, August 9-13, 2004; Oslo, Norway. www.RI-Norway.no
3rd World Congress World Institute of Pain, September 21-25, 2004, Barcelona, Spain, wipcongress@meet2.net

3rd World Congress of the World Institute of Pain, 22-25 September 2004, Barcelona, Spain info@clinicadelldolor.com


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


Reminder: the 3rd ISPRM World Congress will be organised on April 10-14, 2005 in Sao Paolo, 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