A NEW YEAR’S MESSAGE
By Dr. Nicolas Christodoulou, Editor

Dear members of the I.S.P.R.M.,

Another year has finished and a new one is already running. I wish to all of you health, happiness and prosperity during 2005. The new generation physiatrists, full of ambitions for the future are fighting to promote their position among the older colleagues of our specialty but also in all the other specialties. The middle-aged colleagues do not have time for dreams and plans of long duration; we have to face the every-day problems and be successful to maintain our professional and social positions. The old-age colleagues live with the memories of their past and they offer us their wisdom whenever we ask for it.

If we combine the ambitious fighting of the new generation with the successful and experienced action of the middle-aged, as well as the wisdom and the memories of the older colleagues, we can obtain an excellent electronic journal of our Society: “the News and Views of 2005”.

According to the decisions taken during the last meeting of Board of Governors in Antalya, last October, we will try to publish summaries of selected articles of our official journal of Disability and Rehabilitation, we can start the discussion on selected topics by presenting articles of special interest, we will encourage the members of the Editorial Board and the Regional Vice-presidents to send us news from countries of their region for publication and of course we will continue giving pieces of information for all the scientific meetings globally.

I invite any member of the Society to contribute to our effort of improving the N & V publications by sending any kind of co-operation: news of the professional life and views for our specialty’s future.

THE ISPRM BOARD OFFER THEIR CONDOLENCES TO THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS
By Werner Van Cleemputte

Filled with dismay, we received that horrible news on second Christmas day: a Tsunami took the life of more than two hundred thousand people, leaving many more bereaved of their relatives, with no home to go to, no friends to turn to for comfort.

The ISPRM would like to offer their deepest condolences to all our friends living in the affected areas. Please note that we all are trying to help. Activities within the ISPRM are started up already.

Mark Young, our Chair of the International Exchange Committee and dedicated as always, has already taken action and you will hear more about this in our next issue(s) of News & Views.
Our Society is steadily increasing in number of members and quality of services offered to the scientific family! And it is important to point out that nobody pays membership fees. The only prerequisites to be eligible for being an active member is to practice the PRM specialty in one of the Mediterranean countries or in a country with close vicinity with the Mediterranean Area, and to have an electronic address for communication. We now have members coming from 23 countries. The last 5th biennial Mediterranean Congress held in Antalya from Sept. 30 to Oct. 4, 2004 was a great success both for the scientific program, which covered all the aspects of Physical Medicine and Medical Rehabilitation, and for the organized social events which gave the opportunity to all the participants to strengthen their relationship, reflecting the warm spirit of hospitality of our Area. The members of the organizing committee under the presidency of Pr. Tansu Arasil and of the scientific committee under the presidency of Pr. Gulseren Akyuz in Turkey, offered the best of their abilities to organize one of the best congresses in our field. Our Society is grateful to each one of them. During the Congress the General Assembly of our Society has taken place, where some very important decisions were taken:

A. The next 6th Mediterranean Congress will be organized in Vilamorra in the Algarve region, on the “Mediterranean” coast of Portugal in autumn 2006, under the organizing responsibility of Dr. Jorge Lains and the support of the Portuguese Society of PRM.

B. We have founded the first Mediterranean Summer School of PRM in close co-operation with the Italian Society of PRM (SIMFER) under the presidency of Pr. Alessandro Giustini. The School is going to operate in Sicily and it will cover topics of specific interest with theoretical and practical implementation. It will help mainly the new specialists in PRM who are or will be members of our Society and who they will have to pay their airplane ticket only.

C. It was decided to have a closer and more active co-operation with the new chief manager of the “Europa Medicophysica – Mediterranean Journal of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine”, which is our official journal, with the aim to index the journal.

D. The new Board of the Forum was elected and consists of: Nicolas Christodoulou (president - Cyprus), Jorge Lains (vice-president, Portugal), Gulseren Akyuz (secretary – Turkey), Amparo Martinez Assucena (treasurer – Spain), Franco Cirillo (member – Italy), Crt Marincek (member – Slovenia) and Catherine Dziri (member – Tunisia).

E. It was decided to honor Prof. Haim Ring, who is one of the first pioneers of our movement in the Mediterranean Area. The new Board is entitled to suggest to the next General Assembly how Prof. Haim Ring will continue to participate actively in the meetings of the Board on a permanent basis, offering his experience, and how this will be inaugurated in a special ceremony during the next Mediterranean Congress.

Finally, the organizing committee of the Congress hosted the annual meetings of the International Society of PRM (ISPRM), of both the Executive Committee and the Board of Governors. The presidency of the ISPRM passed from Prof. Haim Ring who organized in 2003 the 2nd World Congress in Prague to Prof. Linamara Battistella who will organize in 2005 the 3rd World Congress in Sao Paolo of Brazil. During those meetings a lot of very significant decisions were taken which will help our specialty worldwide.

THE ISPRM AWARDS – CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – FINAL REMINDER

By Werner Van Cleemputte

The nomination policy of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM) stipulates that the Awards Committee must make recommendations to the Board of Governors for the Herman J. Flax Lifetime Achievement and the Sidney Licht Lectureship Awards.

The Award Committee, chaired by our Past President Haim Ring, herewith would like to make a CALL FOR NOMINATIONS. ISPRM members in good standing can forward their nominees to the Central Office by January 31 at the latest. All nominations must be accompanied by a justification and a short CV of the candidates.

The Awards Committee will announce its decision at the upcoming ISPRM World Congress in Sao Paolo.
THE NEW ISPRM WEBSITE – ON-LINE SINCE JANUARY 1ST
By Werner Van Cleemputte

The new ISPRM website is now on-line. We will have some very attractive new tools on the website and one of them will be the Membership list (available from March onwards). This will enable you all to communicate very easily with all your colleagues - ISPRM Members - over the website. Your address and email address will be published on the site for the benefit of exchange possibilities with your colleagues. However if you do not wish your personal contact details to be published on the website you can inform the Central Office and your privacy will be respected.

Please visit the website www.isprm.org and feel free to send us your comments.

ISPRM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2005
By Werner Van Cleemputte

You will recently all have received an invitation to renew your ISPRM membership for the year 2005 by email or surface mail. Your membership is important for the ISPRM, yes even crucial in order to further develop the ISPRM not only financially but also to consolidate the representation of the ISPRM and its members worldwide. Belonging to this society as a member is therefore essential for each individual PM&R specialist and national society.

2005 members will receive both a Certificate of Payment and a Membership Certificate printed on vellum for display in their cabinets.

If any questions about membership should arise, please feel free to contact the Central Office.

NEW BOOK

Doctor Trilok N. Monga and Martin Grabois, M.D. (treasurer ISPRM) had edited a new book entitled, "Pain Management in Rehabilitation."

We all know pain is a common symptom of many diseases and is often referred from a physical medicine and rehabilitation consultation. "Pain Management in Rehabilitation" synthesizes information about the diagnosis and management of various pain syndromes in patients with primary disabling diseases. It discusses pain as it relates to various disease processes from the perspective of both rehabilitation specialists and primary care providers. It describes pain syndromes, and their assessment of management, in some of the most common impairments seen in a rehabilitation setting.

This is a complete guide to the successful management of pain in persons with a primary disabling disease, with the goal of preventing physiologic and functional decline and the improvement of functional abilities, which in turn lead to enhanced psychosocial functioning and quality of life.

The contents include: Model of Pain and its Management; The Evaluation of Pain Complicating Primary Disabling Disease; Pain-Related Psychosocial and Vocational Issues in Rehabilitation; Pain Syndromes Following Spinal Cord Injury; Post Stroke Pain; Pain Management in Traumatic Brain Injury; Pain in Multiple Sclerosis; Management of Pain Associated with Peripheral Neuropathy; Pain Associated with Poliomyelitis; Pain Management Post Amputation; Arthritis Pain; Pain Management and Cancer; Burn Pain-Evaluation and Treatment; HIV Pain Management.

For order and cost information contact: orderdept@demospub.com.
IRANIAN REHABILITATION JOURNAL
By Martin Grabois

The field of physical medicine and rehabilitation has a new scientific rehabilitation journal the, "Iranian Rehabilitation Journal." The first issue was released April 2004.

The individuals responsible for this endeavor include the Chairman, M.T. Joghataei, Ph.D.; Editor in Chief, M. Mirkhani, M.S.; and Manager, R. Seyednour, M.D. and a seventeen member Editorial Board.

The first edition covered a number of topics including innovative speech reconstructive surgery, speech and language rehabilitation in Iran and performance of community based rehabilitation in Iran.

For further information you can visit their website: www.uswr.ac.ir/irj.htm or contact that editor at: irj@uswr.ac.ir.

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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 are endorsed by the ISPRM and offer reduced fees to ISPRM Members


- Academic Chairpersons Conference, "The Chair's Role in Empowering Change", February 9-11, 2005 The Florida Mall Hotel, Orlando, Florida USA, visit: www.dce.ksu.edu/academicchairpersons

- Meeting of the Biofeedback Foundation of Europe (BFE), February 22-26, 2005 Hasselt, Belgium, visit www.bfe.org

- Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation for Clinicians, March 4-5, 2005, Amelia Island Plantation, Amelia Island, Florida, USA, visit : www.mayo-edu/cme

- International course on Rehabilitation and Prevention of Disability (management module), 7-18 March, INF Green Pastures Training Centre, Kaski, Nepal: info gptc@inf.org.np

- Firth European Congress on Clinical and Economic Aspects of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis, March 17-19, 2005, Rome, Italy, visit: yolande@piettecommunication.com

- International Course on Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), 21 March - 1 April, INF Green Pastures Training Centre, Kaski, Nepal: info gptc@inf.org.np


- 57th Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Neurology, April 09 - April 16, 2005, Miami Beach, FL, USA http://www.aan.com

  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

- Baylor Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine Course, May 5-7, 2005, Lakewood Country Club, Dallas, Texas USA For more information: nabrinad@baylorhealth.edu


Principles and Practice of Pain Medicine, June 22-26, 2005, The Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston Visit: www.med.harvard.edu/conted


4th ISPO Central and Eastern Europe Conference, 22-24 September 2005, Belgrade, Serbia & Montenegro – information at 4.ISPOCEECBELGRADE@eunet.yu


4th International Course on the Hand, 24 to 28 October 2005, Bodrum, Turkey, visit: www.vitalmedbodrum.com


4th World Congress of Neurorehabilitation, Hong Kong, 12-16 February 2006, visit www.wcnr2006.com

World Parkinson Congress, 22-26 February 2006, Washington. USA, Contact: info@worldpdcongress.org


131st Annual Meeting of the American Neurological Association, October 08 - 11, 2006, Chicago, IL, USA, http://www.aneuroa.org/annual.htm


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