A busy and productive (summer) season at ISPRM

This has been a hard working summer here at ISPRM: meetings, debates, new and old challenges to overcome, and a sense that working hard is a better synonym for “passion” than for “stress”.

While attending the 3rd International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine for Developing Countries Summit 2016 (ISPRMDC2016) (28-31 July) hosted by Prof. Jianan Li with 898 participants and delegates from over a dozen countries, I had the privilege of participating in the award ceremony where Profs. Henry Lew (Chair of the Education Committee) and Jianan Li (ISPRM immediate past-president) were nominated Honorary Professors at Kunming Medical University. During this Summit the China PRM Society formally requested ISPRM endorsement for the establishment of both a China Board of PRM and setting up a formal process of certifying all the existing and new physician practitioners of PRM and other rehabilitation professionals in China. This request for PRM certification is under discussion among the Education Committee and President's Cabinet and we are hoping to have a formal procedure soon.

ISPRM also participated recently in the WHO meeting in Geneva, in order to create WHO’s National Rehabilitation Services Assessment Tool. ISPRM wishes to further strengthen its relation with WHO. The basis of this relationship is a mutually agreed three year plan for collaboration, the results of which are reviewed by the WHO Executive Board once every three years.

Given the importance of the relationship between WHO and ISPRM, the President’s Cabinet decided that the official WHO Focal Point should be the President of ISPRM. This decision will assure a more formal relation, meaning that ISPRM will always be represented at the highest level, demonstrating ISPRM's commitment and engagement towards WHO. The ISPRM-WHO-Liaison Committee Chair will continue its paramount role as ISPRM representative in all official meetings of WHO (e.g. Executive Board, WHA, Professional organisations).
In September we also attended the Cochrane Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine Exploratory Meeting in Brescia. We are eager to work with the Cochrane Rehabilitation Field to help clarify and strengthen the knowledge base of PRM, to enhance the image and credibility of PRM, to compare the knowledge base in PRM with other specialties and to respond to questions that may arise about the practice of PRM by reviewing existing literature. ISPRM will contribute to the Field Advocacy (Methodology, Education, Publication), participating in reviews of PRM interest, suggesting areas of knowledge gaps which need a "Cochrane review" and facilitating Cochrane PRM Executive and Advisory Boards meetings and the presentation of "Cochrane PRM" related topics during our World Congresses.

ISPRM was officially represented the past months at the XXVII AMLAR Congress in San Pedro Sula, Honduras by ISPRM 2017 World Congress President Carolina Schiappacasse, at the 55th ISCoS Annual Scientific Meeting in Vienna by Prof. Tatjana Paternostro-Sluga and at the 16th World Congress on Pain in Yokohama by Prof. Izumi Kondo, important meetings that allow us ideal opportunities to meet and exchange points of view. ISPRM will also be present at the upcoming AAPMR Annual meeting in October and at the XXIV National Mexican Congress in November.

The ISPRM 2017 Scientific Committee, under leadership of Prof. Naomi Lynn Gerber, is working hard to put together an outstanding scientific program. The scientific program this year will include emphasis on 4 themes: 1) Disabilities and Rehabilitation of the Central Nervous System; 2) Disabilities and Rehabilitation of the Musculoskeletal System; 3) Education Surrounding Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine; 4) Innovations in Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine. With the preliminary program about to be announced, I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Lynn Gerber and her team for their work - Make sure you don't miss ISPRM 2017.

Let's keep up the good work for the coming fall/winter. It's time to respond to challenges and support ISPRM!

Prof. Jorge Lains
ISPRM President

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**Education Committee update**

By Henry Lew and Reynaldo R. Rey-Matias

1. Assistance with establishing standardized rehabilitation training in developing countries (Henry Lew)
   The increased recognition of the need for rehabilitation services in China and accompanying rapid growth of health care professionals (physician, therapists, nurses) has necessitated the establishment of a formalized system of accreditation for these professionals. While work is being done to establish a nationwide
system of post-graduate training for rehabilitation professionals, the process will be gradual and may take ten or more years. In the meantime, there are tens and thousands of current health care professionals delivering rehabilitation services in China. An internationally recognized, standardized system of credentialing these practitioners in needed.

The ISPRM Education Committee is seeking permission from the President's Cabinet to assist China's PRM Society for the establishment of a China Board of PRM (CBPRM) and the establishment of a formal process of (a) certifying all existing rehabilitation professionals, and (b) certifying new physician practitioners of PRM in China. The role of ISPRM is to serve as a resource for expert content to assist in the development and delivery of the PRM training modules, PRM review course and PRM certifying examination to optimize the training and standardization of rehabilitation professionals.

2. Educational endorsements (Prof. Reynaldo R. Rey-Matias)
The ISPRM Education Committee reviewed numerous applications since the last meeting in Berlin. They consisted of local courses, workshops and related education materials. It was noted that in addition to the current simplified form, additional information is needed from the applicants (e.g. actual lecture videos, course program/brochure) for better endorsement decisions. A post-event report will be requested to make sure educational goals are achieved.

At the ISPRM World Congress in Kuala Lumpur, it was agreed and a resolution passed on the following: (i) Merging the Endorsement of Local Courses and Workshops Subcommittees into one Education Endorsement Subcommittee, led by Prof Reynaldo R. Rey-Matias. The subcommittee will work to modify the current Endorsement form for PC approval, including relevant documents to be submitted for a more comprehensive review of the applications. (ii) The committee will also work to modify the current Endorsement form for PC approval, including relevant documents to be submitted for a more comprehensive review of applications. (iii) The committee will coordinate with Kenes regarding follow-up of needed requirements with applicants.

The committee agreed and resolution was passed, that if another committee needs educational support, an education liaison from such committee will be identified and he/she will be requested to join specific meetings as called by Education Committee leadership.

The new forms can be downloaded and sent to the Education Committee Chair Henry Lew henrylew@hawaii.edu with the ISPRM Central Office isprmoffice@kenes.com in copy two months before the event you would like ISPRM to endorse.

The revised endorsement process will be as follows (click on the
Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine

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Find out what's been published recently here:
Issue 8, September 2016 >>
Issue 7, July 2016 >>
Issue 6, June 2016 >>
Issue 5, May 2016 >>

If you want to know more about ISPRM membership and the benefits, have a look at our website >>

Upcoming events

Stay up-to-date about PRM events throughout the year
► ISPRM will be present at the marked Congresses

The following events will take place in the next months:
► 31st Annual Congress of the French Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (SOFMER 2016)
13-15 October 2016 Saint-Etienne, France

MENA Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Congress
13-15 October 2016, Dubai, UAE

Asian Prosthetic and Orthotic Scientific Meeting (APOSM) 2016
4-16 November, Seoul, Korea

► AAPM&R Annual Assembly
20-23 October 2016, New Orleans, USA

► XXIV Congreso Mexicano de Medicina Física y Rehabilitación
9-12 November 2016, Acapulco, Mexico

Dutch Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (DRCM) 2016
10-11 November 2016, Maastricht, the Netherlands

International Forum on Disability Management (IFDM) 2016
22-24 November 2016, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

If you want to make sure your upcoming event is listed here as well, contact us through isprmoffice@kenes.com

Upcoming ISPRM World Congresses

11th ISPRM World Congress 2017
30 April-4 May 2017, Buenos Aires, Argentina

12th ISPRM World Congress 2018
8-12 July 2018, Paris, France

13th ISPRM World Congress 2019
9-13 June, Kobe, Japan

Developments in the world of PRM

Our heart speaks
By Keith W.L. Rafal, MD, MPH - Founder and Director of Our Heart Speaks, Inc

Our patients face many challenges when experiencing life with a new disability. We have all seen individuals with a similar diagnosis respond to their circumstances differently. What determines whether someone will thrive and flourish despite these very real challenges is an interesting and critical question.

Gaining insight into this question has implications for those we care for as well as in our role as competent compassionate practitioners.

Taking it one step further there are potential public health and societal implications. Our focus has predominantly been on measuring clinical outcomes in terms of very specific medical metrics of success that includes functional outcome for our rehab community.

What is given less importance is the psychospiritual dimension. This dimension is a critical part of the human experience. Beyond the intrinsic importance this dimension holds for each of us, there is evidence that our psychospiritual wellbeing does impact the other dimensions of health, function and in turn is represented in clinical outcomes.

As health care evolves with a growing focus on technology and the digitalization of medicine, we are offered both a challenge and an opportunity to recognize and integrate this knowledge into our health care system.

Read the full article here >>