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News & Views

SPECIAL EDITION

Official newsletter of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine

Good news from the ISPRM-UN Task Force!

It is with great pleasure that I can announce a major achievement from the ISPRM-UN Task Force. This Task Force, established in 2015, has put in a lot of effort and dedication to work towards the establishment of formal relationships between ISPRM and the UN.

Through the Task Force, consisting of Professors John Melvin (Chair), Bryan O'Young and Sam Wu, with the support of Professor Linamara Batistella as a consultant to the Task Force, ISPRM has now achieved the status of **NGO within the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities** and is well underway to develop deeper relations ships with the UN!

I wish to congratulate Professors Melvin, O'Young, Wu and Batistella on obtaining this status within the UN and we look forward to building a fruitful and long-lasting relationship with the UN and work together to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals relating to people with disabilities.

Prof. Jorge Lains
ISPRM President

ISPRM reaches NGO accredited status with UN COSP UNCRPD

Bryan O'Young, MD, Sam Wu, MD, MA, MPH, MBA, and John Melvin, MD (Chair)

The International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine – United Nations (ISPRM-UN) Task Force is pleased to announce that the ISPRM has been accredited as a **Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) to the UN Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (COSP UNCRPD)**. This accreditation status qualifies ISPRM to participate in the annual COSP UNCRPD meeting.
The following is a historical chronology summarizing the efforts of the ISPRM-UN Task Force that led to this NGO

accreditation with COSP UNCRPD.

ISPRM aims to optimize physical functioning and quality of life for persons with disabilities (PWD). To achieve these aims, a multifaceted approach to address the comprehensive needs of PWD, including education, health, employment, and accessibility is required. The UN is the foremost global organization which advocates for the needs of vulnerable and disadvantaged populations. In 2015, the ISPRM President's Cabinet appointed the members of the ISPRM-UN Task Force. Its terms of reference were to explore the feasibility of expanding the influence of ISPRM in health and non-health related matters for PWD by working with the UN and UN partners. Professor John Melvin (Chair), Professor Bryan O'Young, and Professor Sam Wu were appointed to the ISPRM-UN Task Force.

During the 2016 International Day of Persons with Disabilities celebrations at the UN, Professor Bryan O'Young, Professor Sam Wu, and Professor Linamara Batistella (consultant to the ISPRM-UN Task Force) met with Mr. Eric Zhang (Officer of the UN CRPD) and Ms. Akiko Ito (Chief Secretariat of the UNCRPD) to discuss potential collaboration. Mr. Zhang and Ms. Ito agreed to identify a pathway for collaboration with ISPRM in support of PWD. As UNCRPD works specifically with the Member States on policies that support the UN Sustainable Development Goals [1] regarding PWD, it was suggested that ISPRM apply for NGO consultative status with the COSP UNCRPD. The ISPRM-UN Task Force subsequently submitted this application. Recently, ISPRM has been informed that our NGO consultative status with the COSP UNCRPD has been approved.

The ISPRM-UN Task Force has also applied for ISPRM special consultative status with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN ECOSOC). A response is expected in the latter part of 2018.

The ISPRM-UN Task Force sponsored a session on 'Changing the Mindset of the 21st Century' on May 2, 2017, at the 11th ISPRM World Congress in Buenos Aires. The session, chaired by Professor Bryan O'Young and moderated by Professor John Melvin and Professor Joel Delisa with Professor Linamara Battistella, Professor Marta Imamura, and Professor Sam Wu serving as speakers, addressed how the ISPRM and the UN can collaborate to achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals for PWDs. Presentations were followed by a lively discussion which contributed toward future steps for collaboration.

At the high-level 2017 COSP UNCRPD meeting at UN Headquarters in New York on June 15, 2017, the ISPRM-UN Task Force collaborated with the International Council for Caring Communities (an NGO with special consultative status with UN ECOSOC) on the side event session 'Meeting the Demands of the 21st Century through Innovative Technology'. The session was chaired by Professor Bryan O'Young and moderated by Professor John Melvin and Professor Dianne Davis. Presenters included Dr. Christopher Visco (Columbia/Cornell University PM&R Residency Program Director), Dr. Alfred Gellhorn (Director of Cornell University Sports Medicine), Dr. Preeti Raghavan (Vice Chair of Research at NYU Department of Rehabilitation Medicine), and Dr. JR Rizzo (Director of NYU Visuomotor Integration and Technology and Translation in Medicine Laboratory). ISPRM member Dr. James Gosney assisted Professor Bryan O'Young with event organization.

The ISPRM-UN Task Force looks forward to further collaboration with the UN and UN partners in accomplishing the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development [1] to emphasize the inclusion of PWD [2]. Future ISPRM-UN Task Force activities include participation in the 2018 COSP UNCRPD meeting.

References:
[1] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2017). Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Retrieved fromhttps://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld
[2] 'Imagine the world in 2030, fully inclusive of persons with disabilities'. Retrieved fromhttps://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/envision2030.html

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