NEW YEAR’S MESSAGE BY THE ISPRM PRESIDENT

Dear Colleagues,

Another year has finished and a new one has commenced.

First, I would like to thank our members, whose support we were grateful for throughout the year. From June 10-14, 2007, we welcomed more than 2,300 attendees to the 4th World Congress of ISPRM in Seoul, Korea. We were especially glad to see so many members from developing countries in attendance. The event was a huge success. We were proud to offer up-to-date educational programs to physiatrists from around the world who look to ISPRM as their premier source of continuing education and networking opportunities. I fully believe that the congress was a significant contribution toward the advancement of rehabilitation medicine.

Throughout 2008, I will try to add value to everything ISPRM does to serve you. Certainly, there will be good times and bad times, but we can accomplish far more collectively than separately. Remember that ISPRM is a resource for us all, so get involved! If there is some way that ISPRM can assist you, let us know. Our committee members are outstanding professionals who work diligently all year to provide the highest level of service to you, our members. I extend my heartfelt appreciation and admiration to them for their excellent work.

I look forward to your participation in the 5th World Congress of ISPRM in Istanbul, Turkey. It will be a great chance to meet colleagues and experts, as well as renew friendships.

May this New Year see all your dreams turn into reality and all your efforts into great achievements!

Chang-il Park, MD, Ph.D.
President, ISPRM
THE 16TH EUROPEAN CONGRESS OF PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE IN BRUGGE IS APPROACHING.
Guy Vanderstraeten, Congress Chair

Thanks to the cooperation of the European Scientific Committee and the members of the European Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine we progressed a lot in the organisation and in the lectures for the main topics.

I would also like to thank the co-working Associations and Societies for their offer to organize supplementary sessions and to stimulate their members to attend this Congress. We will welcome not only European colleagues but also colleagues from the different continents.

Before and during the Congress various practical workshops will be organized. A special pre-congress workshop on Ultrasonography of the locomotor system will be organized during two days, this to meet the request of many colleagues.

A special pre-congress symposium on Vocational Rehabilitation will be held before the Congress especially organized by the European Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine in cooperation with the Federation of European Ergonomists.

This Congress especially focuses on attracting trainees. Various sessions will be organized for them not only during the Congress but also outside. We offer special registration fees to trainees to give them the opportunity to attend the Congress and to make European friends.

A number of Awards will be presented during the Congress and a special competition for trainees will be held during the Trans European Scientific Contest.

The programme is developing every day: for updates on the topics, courses, and workshops, go to www.ecprm2008.org and click on programme.

The Congress is open for abstract submission (Deadline: February 29) for both the main sessions and others sessions. These topics are listed in the programme section and on the abstract form. The abstract team and reviewers are ready to evaluate the abstracts.

Yes, we are on schedule and we are happy to announce this.

We hope to welcome you in the marvellous city of Brugge!!

Submit your abstract online at www.ecprm2008.org – Deadline: February 29
PATHWAYS TO GLOBAL HEALTH

Andrew J. Haig, M.D., Professor, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation The University of Michigan North American Vice President The International Society for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation President The International Rehabilitation Forum

The United States National Institutes of Health's Fogarty International Center prioritizes a large American budget for international health research. It's strategic plan will be completed at the end of January. Physiatrist researchers may want to provide feedback to the Fogarty Center. Below is a response written by Andrew J. Haig, M.D., ISPRM North American Representative. For more information, please go to: [http://www.fic.nih.gov/about/plan/strategicplan_08-12.htm](http://www.fic.nih.gov/about/plan/strategicplan_08-12.htm) to access the electronic version of the draft Strategic Plan and provide comments via the e-mail address FICStratPlan@nih.gov.

The "Pathways to Global Health" draft of December 14, 2007 is an exciting road map for international health by the world's top research organization. It addresses two of the three components of health care quite well---prevention and treatment. However it does not adequately address the third component of health care--rehabilitation. Permit me to provide a brief background and a recommendation.

The WHO estimates that 10% of the world's population suffers from major disability. The fact can be restated in Fogarty terms: 'Despite the combined efforts of the world's research community, 10% of people continue to live with substantial barriers to participation in society without a cure.' This 10% comprises people with neurological, orthopaedic, visual, hearing, cardiac, pulmonary, and other disorders. One must recognize the paradigm error: AIDS does not ruin African economies per se. It is the fact that people with AIDS related disability consume resources without contributing to society that ruins their economies. Diabetes is not an economic burden to society. It is the amputation, blindness, and paralysis related to diabetes that ruin the quality of life for persons with that disorder. It is hard for scientists to not dream of cures. But unless the 5 year plan is based on an expectation of cure for all of these disorders and the disappearance of all of those currently living with disability, the strategic plan must place a very high emphasis on medical rehabilitation of the 10% whose disability is the result of our failure as scientists to deliver a cure.

Disproportionate attention must be given to medical rehabilitation research because the NIH and other global research organizations have failed to emphasize this aspect of medicine. Rehabilitation research has consistently resulted in demonstrable improvements in quality of life and decreases in healthcare cost. Solutions for rural Asia or Subsaharan Africa are not the same as in the United States, and as the Fogarty Strategic Plan eloquently points out, solutions from these regions can improve American healthcare.

Medical rehabilitation research infrastructure is almost non-existent in developing countries. I can illustrate with my academic work in Ghana and Liberia. A Medline search on AIDS and Africa returns almost 5000 articles. However cross reference with a number of terms including rehabilitation or disability or handicap results in 10 articles, 2 of which are pertinent.

Uniformly national health ministries could not confidently tell me the extent or nature of disability in their countries, because methodologies are not trustworthy or validated, or the research just hadn't been done. As a member of the board of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, I participated in a decision to not appoint a Subsaharan Africa representative, because we could not find sufficient academic leadership on the continent. In editing two special editions of the journal Disability and Rehabilitation on rural and developing world rehabilitation, all but one article coming from Africa was authored by non-Africans. Yet there is an infrastructure in Africa--in foreign-supported rehabilitation centers and increasingly in academic allied health programs. However these programs are technical in nature, built out of acute need rather than academic foresight. We desperately need to build leadership and competency in rehabilitation sciences.

In the Fogarty Strategic Plan, Goal 1 admirably speaks of addressing the 'shifting global burden of disease and disability'. However the generalized statement on expanding 'noncommunicable disease research' is inadequate, both because of the disproportionate need for rehabilitation research and because, historically, NIH research approaches to 'noncommunicable disease' have focused on mechanism of disease to the exclusion of rehabilitation. Rehabilitation research is also required for communicable diseases, ranging from polio to AIDS encephalitis. I propose that one of the Strategic Priorities under Goal 1 be: "Build the medical rehabilitation research capacity needed to improve the lives of persons whom medicine has not cured."
On behalf of the 5th World Congress of the ISPRM Organizing Committee, it is my sincere pleasure to share with you the latest updates about the congress. We are working hard to prepare a strong scientific program of excellence and I am proud to inform you that we will be announcing details on the scientific content by the beginning of 2009. We have distributed our announcements during the ISPRM 2007 as you might recall and the official web site of the congress has been available since then. Please follow www.isprm2009.org for further updates. More detailed information about registration will also be available soon.

I would like to stress on the fact that as the Organizing Committee, we are planning an up-to-date content for the congress which we hope that you will find it to your interest, which aims to increase the ever growing success of our congresses.

Let’s Meet at the Timeless City in 2009.

Best Regards,

Gülseren Akyüz
Secretary General
5th World Congress of the ISPRM

ISPRM INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES ADVANTAGES FOR JOURNAL SUBSCRIPTION

JOURNAL OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE
From January 1st onwards, all individual members of the ISPRM will have free access to the electronic version of the Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine (JRM).
The JRM is one of the two official journals of the ISPRM and has the highest impact factor of all PM&R journals published. The paper version of the journal is offered to our ISPRM individual members at a fee of 75 Euro per year.
This free offer of the electronic JRM and special service to our individual members started as of January 1st, 2008 onwards with a try out period of 1 calendar year. Of course this will be evaluated in 2008 and the intention of all parties is to continue with this offer (if financially sustainable for the ISPRM).
A mail has been sent out to all our members with the password and login for the JRM. If you should not have received your password, please contact the Central Office.

DISABILITY AND REHABILITATION
The second official journal of the ISPRM is “Disability and Rehabilitation” and the electronic version of this journal can be ordered at a rate of 100 UK Pounds for ISPRM individual members. This can be requested through Taylor and Francis. Contact person is Kathryn Spiller at Kathryn.Spiller@informa.com
10TH IRANIAN CONGRESS OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE, REHABILITATION & ELECTRODIAGNOSIS
Dr Farzaneh Torkan, MD

There are about 150 Physiatrists practicing in Islamic Republic of Iran. The Annual Congress of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation acts as a meeting for these specialists and also enhances their knowledge and training in chosen topics. The 10th Iranian Congress of Physical medicine, rehabilitation & electrodiagnosis took place at Razi hall, Hemat, Teheran, 12-14 December 2007. Participants were 115 in total. The congress was opened by Dr. Hafezi, chairman of the Iranian society of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. The covered topics were Pain, neurorehabilitation & cardiopulmonary rehabilitation.

First day spent with discussion about pain. Theories of pain, pain assessment, psychological aspects of chronic pain, medical treatment, physical modalities’ role, interventional pain procedures, chronic pain syndrome, and evidence based medicine in LBP and neck pain and manipulation in pelvic disorders were represented by invited lecturers. Two workshops for interventional pain procedures and manipulation were also held in afternoon. Neurorehabilitation was topic on the 2nd day. Lectures about stroke assessment, neuroplasticity, spasticity management, stroke rehabilitation guidelines, cerebral palsy, tissue engineering & SCI, motor retaining in stroke were represented. We had two foreign lecturer guests in 2nd day. Dr Salah Sohbat Alavi from St George's Hospital London, who represent “stroke rehabilitation guidelines” and Dr. Leonard SW Li, professor of Physical medicine from Hong Kong university & Secretary of ISPRM, who presented “motor retaining after stroke, what is the latest approach?” Two workshops were held in afternoon about gait analysis & Dysport injection in spasticity management. Cardiopulmonary rehabilitation was main topic on 3rd day. Aerobic exercise, exercise in COPD and asthma, noninvasive mechanical ventilation, evidence based medicine in cardiac rehabilitation, guidelines of cardiac rehabilitation was discussed and a workshop for noninvasive mechanical ventilation was held in afternoon. The congress had a huge effect on the participants who received new knowledge and skills that will be crucial in their professional development. We hope that their increased training and learning new skills allow them to lend their energy more effectively to improving physical medicine and rehabilitation field in our dear country.

UPCOMING ISPRM BOARD MEETINGS – MARK YOUR AGENDA
The next ISPRM Board Meetings will be organised combined with the European Congress on PM&R, 3-6 June 2008 in Brugge, Belgium.
Please mark your agenda as follows:
- ISPRM President’s Cabinet Meeting: Tuesday, June 3 - 09-11 hrs - (on invitation only)
- ISPRM Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, June 3 - 11.00-13.00 hrs - (on invitation only)
- ISPRM Board of Governors Meeting Part 1: Tuesday, June 3, 13.30 – 17.30 hrs
- ISPRM Board of Governors Meeting Part 2: Friday, June 6, 13.30 – 17.30 hrs
All meetings will take place at the unique Governor’s Residence (1st floor) located at the Grand Place (building with all the flags on the left when you look to the Belfry)

IN MEMORIAL
With deep sadness I have to inform you that our colleague Dr. Andrew Fischer passed away on December 19th, 2007. Andrew A. Fischer, M.D., Ph.D. was Associate Clinical Professor in the Rehabilitation Department at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine (CUNY) and served as Chief of the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Service at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Bronx, New York. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and a Diplomate of the American Academy of Pain Management and the American Board of Electrodiagnostic Medicine. Dr. Fischer is internationally distinguished for his extensive publications on the diagnosis and management of musculoskeletal pain syndromes, particularly myofascial pain and muscle spasm. For details on Dr. Fisher please visit www.newsday.com/services/newspaper/printedition/thursday/longisland/ny-lifisc275515645dec27,0,3000399.story

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PETER DISLER (AUSTRALIA) HONOURED WITH FELLOWSHIP OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS OF LONDON

The Royal College of Physicians of London is the oldest medical institution in England and has been founded by Royal Charter of Henry VIII in 1518. It has licensed medical books, published in 1869 the London pharmacopoeia and published the first “Nomenclature of diseases”, the forerunner for WHO’s present ICD system. Distinguished members are elected to Fellowship by the RCP Council on the basis of their contribution and standing in the field of medicine.

Peter is presently Director of Medicine, Aged Care and rehab at Bendigo Hospital and Monash University in Australia and has already honorary professorships in rehabilitation at the university of Melbourne and Kings College, University of London. We congratulate Peter on the receipt of this high honour.

WHO - UNIVERSITY OF MUNICH LOWER BACK PAIN STUDY

Catherine Glocke, (Project Coordinator)

ICF Research Branch of the WHO CC FIC (DIMDI), The International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) Research Branch, located at the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Munich University (Director: Prof. G. Stucki), Germany, is engaged in the implementation of the ICF (approved by the WHO), for clinical practice. Recently, we have developed Core Sets of ICF categories for twelve diseases, including low back pain.

We've finished collecting data in August 07 already. Please do no longer apply for participation.

AUDIT OF THE ISPRM CENTRAL OFFICE

Werner Van Cleemputte, ISPRM Executive Director

As announced during the last ISPRM Board Meeting in Seoul, an audit has been done. The report of this audit is available for all ISPRM Board Members by a simple reply to the Central Office.

NEWS & VIEWS EDITORIAL BOARD 2007-2008

During the board meeting related to the ISPRM World Congress in Seoul in June 2007, the ISPRM Board of Governors has appointed the following Editorial Board for the ISPRM News & Views

Editors: Nicolas Christodoulou - chrifam@logosnet.cy.net & Werner Van Cleemputte – Werner@medicongress.com

Co-editors: Haim Ring, Leonard Li,
Lynamara Battistella, Chang-il Park, Martin Grabois, Mark Young, Joel A. Delisa, Andrew Haig, Christoph Gutenbrunner, Anton Wicker, Stefano Negrini, Jorge Lains, Jianan Li, Tarek Shafshak, William Micheo

Please feel free to submit articles for the News & Views and to take part in our Editorial Board.
COMBINED NATIONAL SOCIETY/INDIVIDUAL ISPRM MEMBERSHIP
Werner Van Cleemputte, ISPRM Executive Director

In the September issue of the N&V, we have pointed out the advantages of National societies in combining national society with individual membership.

In short these advantages are
- Individual membership of the ISPRM for each member of your national society
- Monthly electronic version of the newsletter called News & Views with announcements on the society, its members, views and info on what is happening in the field of PM&R as well as a congress section. This News & Views is sent monthly by email to each of your members.
- Free electronic version of the Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine with access to all publications of the JRM as of 2001
- Reduced fee on the electronic version of Disability and Rehabilitation.
- Certification of membership through an official ISPRM membership card
- Certification of membership through a wall paper certificate
- Reduced registration fees at a large number of international congresses worldwide - all congresses that are endorsed by the ISPRM
- Individual page for each ISPRM individual member on the ISPRM website
- Full access to the “members only” section of the ISPRM website with discussion forums, reporting etc.
- National society membership like paid before is waived for the society.
- Having the Central Office of the ISPRM as direct spokesperson towards the society and intermediate with all countries members of the ISPRM

Apart from the information given in the September issue of the News & Views, a letter has been sent out to all national societies with the same information
As a result a number of national societies are now discussing this issue within their board in detail.

NATIONAL SOCIETIES THAT ALREADY MADE AN APPLICATION FOR THIS COMBINED MODEL ARE:
- The Italian Society previously already agreed on this combined membership.
- The Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine is pleased to join the ISPRM further under the combined national society/individual membership so that all their members can make profit of the above named advantages.
- The Colombian Association of PM&R has reviewed the new ISPRM dues structure for 2008. After conducting a survey among its members, the Colombian Association of PM&R has chosen a combined national society/individual membership”.

WE ENCOURAGE ALL OTHER NATIONAL SOCIETIES TO EXAMINE THIS COMBINED MODEL IN DETAIL AND CONSIDER THE BENEFITS FOR THEIR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS AS WELL.

ALL INDIVIDUAL ISPRM MEMBERS HAVE FREE ACCESS TO THE ELECTRONIC VERSION OF THE JOURNAL OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE. SO WE ENCOURAGE ALL MEMBERS TO RENEW THEIR MEMBERSHIP DUES ASAP THROUGH THE ISPRM WEBSITE. ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING FOR 2007 HAVE RECEIVED AN EMAIL WITH A PASSWORD AND LOGIN FOR THE JRM. PLEASE CONTACT THE CENTRAL OFFICE IF YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION. NOTE: IF MEMBERSHIP IS NOT RENEWED BY FEBRUARY 28 YOU WILL NOT FURTHER HAVE ACCESS TO THE JRM.
UPCOMING MEETINGS AND CONGRESSES

ISPRM World Congresses

- **5th Congress** June 13 - 17, 2009 Istanbul, Turkey
- **6th Congress** June 12 - 15, 2011 San Juan, Puerto Rico
- **7th Congress** June 2013 Beijing, China

Conferences on:

- Neurology [www.eurostroke.org/esc_main%20links.htm](http://www.eurostroke.org/esc_main%20links.htm)
- Neurorehab [www.wfnr.co.uk/docs/events.htm](http://www.wfnr.co.uk/docs/events.htm)
- Spine [www.spine.org/calendar/nass_future_events.cfm](http://www.spine.org/calendar/nass_future_events.cfm)
- Osteoporosis [www.iofbonehealth.org/meetings-events.html](http://www.iofbonehealth.org/meetings-events.html)

**2008**


- 18th Annual Convention of the Philippine Academy of Rehabilitation Medicine, February 20-22, Lipa City, Batangas, Philippines. Contact: Ms. Lianavida Asuque-Talvo at parm_ph@yahoo.com


- 42nd Comprehensive Review Course in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (81.75 CME credits) of Baylor College of Medicine / The University of Texas Medical School at Houston PM&R Alliance, March 29 – April 6, 2008, Marriott Medical Center Hotel, Houston, Texas. Info: PMandR@bcm.edu.


- 20th Annual Kessler Medical Rehab Research & Education Centre (KMRREC) PM&R Review Course, 24 April – 2 May, West Orange, NJ, USA. Visit [www.kmrrec.org](http://www.kmrrec.org)

**IBIA - 7th World Congress on Brain Injury, April 9-12, Pestana Palace Hotel, Lisbon, Portugal – visit www.internationalbrain.org**

XVII European Stroke Conference, 13-16 May, Nice, France – info to follow

Ier. CONGRESO NACIONAL AVANZADO DE MEDICINA DE ELECTRODIAGNÓSTICO, 14 - 17 May. Hotel Presidente Intercontinental, Guadalajara, Jalisco, México – Info: gwbocca@hotmail.com


European Congress on Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, 3 - 6 June 2008, Brugge, Belgium - visit www.medicongress.com

ISPRM BOARD MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE DURING THIS CONGRESS

7th Combined Congress of the Spine and Paediatric Orthopaedic Sections (APA0), 4-7 June, Jeju Island, Korea. Visit www.spapoa2008.net

3rd Course on Knee Arthroplasty (Lyon Course), 13-15 June, Brugge, Belgium – visit www.medicongress.com

World Congress of Medical Hydrology, 25-28 June 2008, Porto, Portugal visit www.ismh08.org

1st Herzogenaurach Dysphagia Conference, 4-5 July, m&I Fachklinik, Herzogenaurach/Germany. Visit www.dysphagia-conference.org

24th Annual Congress of the Colombian Association of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, August 13-16, Medellin, Colombia – Visit http://congresoascmfr2008.homestead.com or Contact: ascmfr@gmail.com

1st World Congress on Pain, 17-22 August, Glasgow, Scotland – visit www.iasp-pain.org

Two week Training of Trainers in CBR programme in 25 August – 5 September, Alphen aan den Rijn, The Netherlands. Contact Huib Cornelie h.cornielje@Enablement.nl

47th Annual Meeting of ISCos, 29 August-3 September, Durban, South-Africa. Visit www.iscos.org.uk

17th Annual Meeting of European Society of Movement Analysis for Adults and Children (ESMAC) 8-13 September, Antalya Turkey. Contact: Gunes Yavuzer. Visit: www.esmac2008turkey.org
• 4-week International Course in Management of Disability and Rehabilitation. 15 September - 10 October. The Netherlands. Visit: www.enablement.nl

• 7th Mediterranean Congress of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine, 18 - 21 September 2008, Portorose, Slovenia - Contact: Prof. Crt Marinecek marineck.crt@mail.ir-rs.si – visit: http://medcongress.prm08.org/home/


• 5th World Congress on Neurorehabilitation (WFNR). 24-27 September, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, contact traceymole@wfnr.co.uk

• 6th World Stroke Congress, 24-27 September, Vienna, Austria, Visit: www.kenes.com/stroke2008


• 70th Annual Assembly of the AAPMR, 20-23 November 2008, San Diego, USA – www.aapmr.org

• World Congress on Osteoporosis, 3-7 December, Bangkok, Thailand, visit www.iofbonehealth.org

2009

• 20th Anniversary of the International Center of Neurological Restoration (CIREN), March 9-13, Palacio de las Convenciones, La Habana, Cuba. Contact rn2009@neuro.ciren.cu. Visit www.ciren.ws

• First World Congress on Spina Bifida Research and Care Location: Walt Disney World Swan and Dolphin Resort Orlando, Florida Date: March 15-18. Info: rauslin@sbaa.org

• 9th European Congress on Clinical and Economic Aspects of Osteoporosis and Osteoarthritis, 19-21 March, Athens, Greece, visit www.ecceo9.org

2010

• World Congress on Osteoporosis, 5-8 May, Venice, Italy, visit www.iofbonehealth.org

17th European Congress on Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation, 23 - 27 May 2010, Venice, Italy

ISPRM Members can send us an email with their upcoming congresses for publication in this agenda