

1999-2001

ISPRM First Executive Committee 1999-2001

President	John Melvin	Regional Vice Presidents	.
IFPMR Past President	Robert Oakeshott	Africa & Middle East	Abdulla A.M.Eyadeh
IRMA Past President	Satoshi Ueda	Asia & Pacific	Sae-il Chun
President Elect	William Peek	Central & South America	Linamara Battistella
Vice President	Haim Ring	Europe	Daniel Wever
Secretary	Martin Grabois	North America	Gaetan Tardif
Treasurer	Mark Lissens	.	.

The life of the ISPRM during its first two years was been primarily dedicated to learning “how to walk again” under a different structure. In April 1999 there was a meeting in Amsterdam with attendance of the International Task Force, representatives of the Board of the IRMA and the IFPMR as well as the local Organizing Committee of the First World Congress of the future new Organization, ISPRM, presided over by Dr. W. Peek. The Organizing Committee of the First World Congress presented a report of the projected scientific sessions confirming the great effort and attention required by the organization of this first event and all present had the chance to observe the superb facilities of RAI. Dr. W. Peek and the Organizing Committee very graciously hosted a dinner and a lunch for all attending the meeting. We all should be grateful to Dr. William Peek and his group for their effort in the organization of the First World Congress of the International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine in July 2001.

In the fall of 1999 the last Congress of the IFPMR was held in Washington, as planned and reported on in previous Chapters. The International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine was finally and officially on its way. It was agreed that the Board of the ISPRM will meet in Athens in September 2000, at the time of the III Mediterranean Congress of Physical Medicine, to conduct an Extraordinary Business Meeting, namely to evaluate the proposals and eventually to select the organization responsible for the future administration of the Society.

At the meeting of the ISPRM Board of Governors in Athens, on September 4, 2000,

a motion was passed that a President's Cabinet should be formed, composed of the president, past president, president elect, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, with the executive director acting as the ex officio. This cabinet should be in the position to handle issues in a rapid manner giving the president the authority to act immediately as determined by the cabinet.

There was a discussion as to whether or not the presidency should remain an automatic position evolving from the presidency of the latest world congress, as had been customary in IRMA and IFPMR. The general opinion of the Board was that these positions should be separated in the future. It was decided that this would be further reviewed by the Bylaws Committee.

After presentation of two proposals, MediCongress of Assenede, Belgium was selected by secret vote as the new ISPRM Central Office, with Werner Van Cleemputte as the Executive Director.

The next Board meeting was decided to be held in July 2001 in Amsterdam during the 1st ISPRM World Congress

The 1st World Congress of the ISPRM was held in Amsterdam, July 6-13, 2001.

There were 1192 registrants representing 61 different countries. The Scientific Committee received 912 abstract-submissions, out of which 812 were accepted for presentation. These papers represented all aspects of our specialty from physiopathology of disability, to treatment, to social implications. Each day there were two Plenary Sessions complemented by 8 concurrent specialized Free Paper sessions, Poster sessions and Special Interest Groups. There was also a Symposium on

Osteoporosis sponsored by the National Osteoporosis Foundation. In addition there was a very large Commercial Exhibit where lunch and coffee were available.

The opening Ceremony was a unique and unforgettable experience. After a Classical Music Recital we were transported to a dream world by a fabulous Magician. This Magician was so fabulous that he finished his presentation by bringing all of us to the reality of why we were there: his last trick was a beautiful display of fire works stating that the First World Congress of the ISPRM was open for real business. Additional social activities were the President's Reception in the old Cristofori building and the Municipal Reception in the Old Church. These two events gave ample opportunity for everyone to enjoy the local art, the excellent food and the company of our hosts.

The ISPRM Memorial and Recognition Luncheon for ISPRM members was held on Thursday, 12 July 2001. During this luncheon Herman Flax delivered a eulogy for Dr. Zinn's contributions to Rehabilitation Medicine and to the former IRMA. Satoshi Ueda delivered the Sidney Licht Lecture and was awarded the Sidney Licht Lectureship Award and was also granted Honor Role Membership in the ISPRM. Jose Jimenez was awarded the Herman J. Flax M.D. Lifetime Achievement Award, and Donna Jones was granted Honorary Membership in the Society in recognition of her work and dedication through many years for IRMA as well as ISPRM.

The meetings of the ISPRM Board of Governors were held on July 7 and July 13, 2001.

The most interesting part of the agenda of the first meeting was the acceptance by the Board of the "Proposal for the separation of the positions of President of the ISPRM from President of the ISPRM World Congress", prepared by the Bylaws Committee. It was decided that the presidency of the ISPRM will be separated from the presidency of the ISPRM World Congress, starting from the 4th World Congress in 2007. Albeit that this does not preclude the possibility of a suitable candidate to become president of the ISPRM as well as president of the congress. The candidate for president of the ISPRM should be an experienced and Active Member of good standing with proven involvement in national and international P&RM activities throughout at least the last 3-5 years. The election procedure will be: election as vice-president four years before term, after two years promoted to president elect and two years later to president. To nominate the candidates for the offices of vice-president, secretary, treasurer, regional vice-presidents and members at large there will be a Nominating Committee to be chaired by the past-president and composed of six additional members to be selected by the Board of Governors on recommendation of the Executive Committee. These members will represent each a different country. The term of the committee members is two years.

The Bylaws Committee presented also for approval the ISPRM Policies and Procedures. They were approved as presented, with the provision that the Bylaws Committee would reconcile all documents for presentation at the 2002 meeting.

Unfortunately, for family health reasons, the president of the 1st ISPRM World Congress, William Peek, was unable to accept the Presidency of the Society. Therefore it was agreed that John Melvin will continue with the Presidency for one more year and that Haim Ring, who was scheduled to be the President in 2003, would become President in 2002 at the next meeting of the Board of Governors to be held on June 25, 2002 at time of the IV Mediterranean Congress of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in Syracuse, Italy.

In the meeting on July 13, the new Board of Governors was elected as nominated by the Nominating Committee.
