

## 2008-2010

### ISPRM Executive Committee 2008-2010

President	Joel DeLisa	Regional Vice Presidents	.
Past President	Chang-il Park	Africa & Middle East	Nachum Soroker
President Elect	Gerold Stucki	Asia & Oceania	Leonard SW Li
Vice President	Marta Imamura	Latin America	Juan Manuel Guzman Gonzalez
Secretary	Jorge Lains	North America	Walter Frontera
Treasurer	Martin Grabois	Europe	Pedro Cantista
Honorary Presidents	.	.	.
Chair	Linamara Battistella	.	.
Past	John Melvin	.	.
Ad hoc Assistants	.	Representatives of the Members	.
Assistant Secretary	Marco Franceschini	Active Individual Members	Alessandro Giustini Gulseren Akyuz
Assistant Treasurer	John Olver	Active National Societies	Mark Young Maria Amparo Martinez Assucena
Representatives of the Forthcoming ISPRM World Congresses			
2009 Istanbul, Turkey - Onder Kayhan			
2011 San Juan, Puerto Rico - Veronica Rodriguez			
2013 Beijing, China - Jianan Li			

**The second meeting of the Board of Governors was held at Bruges on June 6, 2008** under the presidency of Dr. DeLisa who presented of the new officers to the Board of Governors.

Here has to be memorized that Dr. Joel DeLisa is the first ISPRM President whose presidency does not have the double role of being simultaneously the President of the World Congresses, as it was decided in 2001. This change breaks the previous tradition of the International Federation of PMR and of the IRMA. In 2001, in Amsterdam, it was decided to separate these functions after the 4th ISPRM World Congress. Consequently Joel DeLisa was elected as Vice President in 2004 in Antalya and automatically succeeded to President-Elect in 2006 and to be President from 2008 till 2010. The next coming Presidents will be Dr. Gerold Stucki in 2010 and Dr. Marta Imamura in 2012.

In his introductory speech Dr. DeLisa thanked Dr. Chang-il Park for the excellent job he did as President. He indicated that he was honoured to serve as President for the next two years. He made clear his intention to get things moving and done, involving very much the President-Elect and the Vice President in all issues and correspondence, and gave a review of the charges put by him on the Board, the Committees and its chairs. "Our philosophy is to award performance". He announced to have established two additional task forces: the Organization Structure Task Force, chaired by John Melvin, "to provide recommendations to the President and Executive Committee regarding an organizational structure of the ISPRM that best facilitates achieving its mission and goals and results in efficient operations". It also will make recommendations "regarding organizational structure that facilitates efficiency and timeliness of ISPRM activities and communications". The second Task Force, chaired by Christoph Gutenbrunner, concerns the Central Office, with the charge: "how to strengthen this critical support element and to access it more efficiently".

Some interesting points were discussed concerning the role that ISPRM should play internationally:

Gerold Stucki asked once more the attention of the Board for the input of ISPRM in WHO meetings and activities. WHO is not interested in our scientific activities but in our input in the work of WHO.

We need to monitor all current activities. In nearly all issues there is something relevant in the perspective of rehabilitation. We need to work together in the stakeholder groups such as the Professional Organisations, involving ISPRM, ISPO, World Federation of Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, etc. He also said the importance of establishing relationship with patient organizations of which the most important is the DPI (Disabled People International). He added that WHO always wants to work with the umbrella organizations first.

There was some discussion related to the international role of ISPRM: Can ISPRM as an organization help when a major disaster happens somewhere in the world?

Leonard Li explained what happened in China after the earthquake. Different medical groups helped, some have disaster plans. Apart from the high number of dead persons, there were approximately 300,000 persons injured, of which approximately 1,000 had spine and brain injuries. He suggested that ISPRM should also have a role in such a disaster. It can have direct approach to countries through its members and, more systematically, through its Regional Vice Presidents. The help should have three aspects: offering expertise, donations and a long term rehabilitation medicine support. We should be involved from the beginning after the disastrous event. It was decided that the President's Cabinet would send a letter to the Chinese authorities on this matter. And on the web site there should be mentioned the possibility of rehabilitation medicine support in cases of disasters.

Joel DeLisa raised the issue of ISPRM working for a kind of world wide 'disability day', authorized by an organization such as WHO. The Executive Director was asked to ask the Regional Vice Presidents to report whether countries in their region have such a day and how it is called, and whether their region would support such an initiative.

The next meeting of the Board of Governors will take place during the 5th ISPRM World Congress in Istanbul, June 13-17, 2009

For organizational reasons, voting for the venue of the next Interim Board Meeting in 2010 had to be postponed.

In early September 2008 the Board of Governors agreed to hold the election for the site of the Interim meeting of 2010 by e-mail. There were three applications: Cartagena (Colombia), Limassol (Cyprus) and Taipei (Taiwan). The application of each candidate was mailed to every member of the Board of Governors. The vote was eventually done also by e-mail in November 2008 and the Secretary Dr. Lains and the Executive Director Werner Van Cleemputte acted as scrutinizers. The results were Cartagena 13 votes, Limassol, 33 votes and Taipei 17 votes. Therefore Cyprus was the winner and the meeting was scheduled to be held from September 29 to 2, 2010/.

It is with sadness that the untimely death of Professor Haim Ring has to be recorded at this time. He died on September 16, 2008 after a short but severe illness. Haim Ring was during many years very actively involved in the IRMA and the International Federation of PMR as well as in the ISPRM and a well-known participant in nearly all international congresses. From 1994 till 1997 he was the IRMA Regional Vice President for Africa and the Middle East and from 1995 till 1999 the same for the International Federation. In 1997 he became Vice President of IRMA and he kept the same position in the ISPRM Executive Committee in 1999. As President of the Second ISPRM World Congress in Prague in 2003, he was the President of ISPRM from 2002 till 2004, Past President from 2004 till 2006 and thereafter Honorary President. DR. Joel DeLisa asked the Awards Committee to create a memorial to honour Dr. Ring's dedication to improve international interaction and understanding as well as to promote the concept and practice of Rehabilitations Medicine.

## **5th World Congress of the ISPRM held in Istanbul from June 13-17, 2009**

The 5th World Congress of ISPRM was held on June 13-17, 2009 in Istanbul at the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Centre (ICEC). This historic and beautiful city, designated a World Heritage City by UNESCO in 1985, could not have been a better selection to celebrate the 10th anniversary of ISPRM. The Congress was hosted by the Turkish Society of PMR and its President, Dr. Dilsad Sindel,

who, together with the Congress's President, Dr. Onder Kayhan, welcomed all attendees at the Opening Ceremony held at the Auditorium of the Harbiye Culture Centre.

During the Opening Ceremony Dr. Gülseren Akyüz, Secretary of the Congress, called Dr. Joel DeLisa, President of ISPRM, to present commemorative plaques to ISPRM Past- Presidents: Dr. Chang-Il Park, Dr. Linamara Battistella, and Dr. John Melvin. Due to the untimely death of Dr. Haim Ring in the Fall of 2008, his Past-President commemorative plaque was received by his son Edan Ring, on behalf of the family. Dr. DeLisa made a brief eulogy to Dr. Ring and announced the creation of the "Haim Ring Memorial Award" to commemorate his contributions to Rehabilitation Medicine and to ISPRM. This award would be granted biannual to a facility hosting international exchange visitors and to an individual showing strong interest in developing these educational exchanges.

This was followed by the presentation of the following awards: A) "Individual Honour Role Membership Award" to Dr. Martin Grabois, from the USA, who with very emotional words dedicated this award to Dr. Herman J. Flax, his mentor and friend. B) "Herman J. Flax Life Achievement Award" to Dr. Naochi Chino, from Japan, who unfortunately was not present to receive it, and C) "Sidney Licht Lectureship Award for 2009" to Dr. Gülseren Akyüz, from Turkey, who delivered this lecture on June 14, 2009 at 9:30 at the Auditorium of the ICEC.

Finally Dr. Onder Kayhan recognized the help and contributions of Dilsad Sindel, Gülseren Akyüz, Sansin Tüzün, Aydan Oral, Ülkü Akarımak, Hakan Gündüz the other members of the Organizing Committee and Teamcon.

The opening ceremony was completed by the presentation of an excellent selection of Turkish dances and folklore, Horon (Black Sea), Zeybek (Aegean), Halay (Anatolia), Sema (Whirling Dervish), Roman. The opening ceremony finished with a cocktail reception in the Gardens of the Harbiye Cultural Center and that was accompanied by traditional Turkish music.

The number of registrants was 2,800 representing 87 different countries. Prior to the official opening of the Congress there were 10-full-day educational courses. The scientific/educational program of the Congress offered six plenary sessions; 165 lectures delivered by experts from many different countries; 190 oral presentations selected by an international group and delivered at seven daily parallel sessions; 24 workshops; 10 best practice session; 6 satellite symposia and breakfasts with the experts. In addition there were 1,710 poster presentations distributed on six half-day sessions. In summary there were ample opportunities to review and update knowledge in practically all aspects of our specialty including assessment of educational issues affecting under- and post-graduate matters. Finally there were two half-day meetings of the President's Cabinet (PC), Executive Committee (EC) and Board of Governors (BOG) that will be reported below.

There were daily organized visits to the more important sites of the city so that the visitors could enjoy the magnificent Blue Mosque, Hagia Sofia, the Hippodrome of Constantine with its Obelisks and many others beautiful sites. On June 14 the President's Dinner was held on a Bosphorus cruise celebrating the 10th anniversary of ISPRM with a birthday cake. The site for the Gala Dinner was the Esmâ Sultan Mansion, which was the Sultan's Summer house located on the European side of the Bosphorus Strait with a beautiful view of the strait. The dinner and entertainment were superb and everybody was able to enjoy the evening in the gardens of the Esmâ Sultan Mansion.

The Closing Ceremony was held at the Anadolu Auditorium of the Istanbul Convention and Exhibition Centre. First Onder Kayhan, Dilsad Sinde, Gülseren Akyüz and Aydan Oral came to the stage for farewell and to thank all the participants. After these speeches, the 6th and the 7th World Congresses which will be held in San Juan and Beijing was presented. During the Closing Ceremony the best paper and the best poster awards was also presented to the winners. After these awards Sansin Tüzün, the Treasurer of the Congress and Dilsad Sindel presented some awards to the sponsor companies and TeamCon.

The Board of Governors (BOG) Meeting was held on June 13, 2009 at 13:30 hours under the presidency of Dr. J DeLisa who opened the meeting welcoming all members and observers as well as thanking Dr. Kayhan, for the organization of the local arrangements. Dr. DeLisa praised Drs. M. Imamura, N. Soroker and L. Li for their work and accomplishment in their respective committees and

acknowledge that most of the Committees and Task Force had submitted the interim report as initially requested. Dr. DeLisa also mentioned that in the future all Committees and Task Forces should meet prior to the BOG meeting. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and the discussion of the Agenda started.

The first order of business was the motion confirming the appointment of Dr. J. Lains as Secretary, which was unanimously approved.

On behalf of the By-Laws Committee, Dr. Melvin submitted several amendments to the By-Laws and to the Policies and Procedures that they had previously been submitted to the BOG in June 2008. These amendments were presented at this time for final consideration, as follows: 1) adding the Assistant Secretary and Treasurer to the EC; 2) adding one additional member to the EC to represent the National Societies and one additional member to represent Active Individual Members; 3) Clarifying/confirming that all Congress Presidents become ex-officio members of the EC at the time of their appointment; 4) establishing an independent Publications Committee; 5) revising the procedures for appointing committees; 6) clarifying and making consistent with each other, the procedures for submitting amendments to the By-Laws and Policies and Procedures, and 7) allowing electronic voting in the EC and BOG. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED. AN ADDITIONAL AMENDMENT of the By-Law IV paragraph 2 line "c" was also approved stating that "Representatives of Individual Active Members equal in number to the number of paid-up National Societies by December 31 of the previous year". Therefore the last edition of the By-Laws and Policies and Procedures must be modified accordingly.

Dr. Melvin, chairman of the Structural Task Force, submitted the following recommendations that, if approved, will be sent to the By-Laws Committee for language revision and afterwards be brought to the BOG for final approval.

- 1) The ISPRM adopts electronic vote for all three of its governing bodies following specific structure regarding time, number of votes necessary for validity and majority acceptance in all instances.
- 2) Clarification of its governing bodies authority. I) BOG delegates its authority to EC between meetings except for revisions of By-Laws and Policies and Procedures; II) EC will be responsible for all ISPRM operational decisions as delegated by BOG except if a decision has to be made within 30 days and/or the EC fails to have a valid vote; III) PC will be responsible for those ISPRM operational decisions the President refers to it either because the decision has to be made within 30 days or the EC failed to provide a valid vote; IV) the President may make operational decisions without a formal vote of the PC if the ISPRM must make a decision within 15 days or if the PC failed to provide a valid vote; in this situation the President must seek the advice of as many members of PC as possible. If the President must make a decision without the vote of the PC he/she must prepare a report to the governing bodies accordingly.
- 3) Redefine the role and function of the Board of Governors: I) the name to be changed to ASSEMBLY OF DELEGATES; II) The Assembly of Delegates will be limited to strategic issues such as: approving By-Laws, selecting sites for World Congresses, approving strategic plans. Approving collaborative agreements, electing members of the Executive Committee and Nominating Committee.
- 4) The BOG instructs the Organizational Task Force to review the paper "Developing ISPRM" and develop proposals for ISPRM to implement the suggestions of this paper.

All the above mentioned proposals were approved.

Dr. Melvin also submitted a proposal recommending Admission of Regional and Sub-regional as members of ISPRM that was received with some concerns, especially the need to create a new class of membership and all resulting consequence (fees, rights, etc). A MOTION WAS PASSED instructing

the By-Laws committee to prepare a revision of the By-Laws in an attempt to implement this recommendation.

Dr. Lains, Secretary, presented the following issues that all were approved and do not require changes of the By-Laws and/or Policies and Procedures: To register the logo of the society. To clarify that all contracts must have two signatures: the President and other member of the PC, likely the Secretary. To explore the insurance of the signing officers of ISPRM from three competitive offers and authorize signing the contract after approval of the EC; it is estimated that this expenditure would be between 250 and 1000 €. There was an animated discussion regarding the legal status of ISPRM in Belgium: it seems that ISPRM is at present a "factual society" and that the last audit did not recommend becoming a "non-profit organization". Dr. H. Dickson made some interesting remarks about what is the legal status of the ISPRM, not just in Belgium but internationally. Finally, Dr. Lains as a chair of the Sponsorship Committee informed the BOG that this committee is working on a proposal for sponsorship of the Website and News and Views.

Dr. Grabois, Treasurer, informed that the 2009 budget would be presented at the second meeting of the BOG. He indicated that in 2008 there was a loss because as there was not World Congress we missed the income from this event. He also said that I) there would be a significant increase in the cost of the Central Office (from 35,000 € to 55,000€) that would be reflected in the 2010 budget; II) the cost for the website for 2009 is 10,000€ and there is an incompatibility between the two databases; III) it would difficult to maintain two journals and the Publication Committee will work on this issue; IV) the operational guidelines of the Financial Committee are being reviewed. Dr. Grabois stated that the International Educational and Development net Fund has assets of 136,000€ and that the Congresses Organization should be aware that the interest from these assets is available to support Congress participant from developing countries.

The Regional Vice-President (RVP) from Asia-Pacific requested that the Vice-President of the AOSPRM be the RVP for this area; his request/motion was approved. The RPV from North America stated that the American Journal of PMR has continued to exchange papers with the European Journal of PRM and that the American Academy of PMR is offering a reduced registration fee to the members of ISPRM.

The Report of the Executive Director requesting changes in the present agreement was discussed in camera.

The final and minimum curriculum for Spinal Cord Injury and for Acquired Brain Damaged submitted by Dr. Imamura, on behalf of the Education Committee was approved. This Committee is presently working on the minimum curriculum for Stroke and Musculo-skeletal. It was also approved that this Committee undertakes the preparation of The Clinical Research Experience curricula. At the request of this Committee the creation of Special Interest Groups (SIG) East meet the West, Muscular Skeletal, Sports Medicine; Neurology, Pediatric, Electrodiagnostic & Neuromuscular, Medical Rehabilitation, Training Program Directors and Department Chairs, were also approved. All these SIGs were created with no guaranteed budget or meeting time; these SIGs will be re-evaluated in four years. Finally Dr. Imamura announced the creation of the website journal club to stimulate and facilitate educational exchanges.

Dr. G. Stucki, as chairman of the WHO Committee brought to the attention of the BOG that ISPRM should have some mechanism to officially support some of the WHO policies such as the International Classification (ICF) that has been adopted by other organization. This discussion led to the formal approval of ICF as well as a motion requiring that the By-Laws Committee "look into establishing a procedure to endorse and/or adopt guidelines, position statements and standards". Dr. Stucki added that there were two prominent people from WHO attending this meeting and we would like to send a message to WHO about the fact that ISPRM is the only rehabilitation society that takes on the civil society mandate.

Berlin, Germany, was elected by acclamation as the site for the 8th World Congress in 2015. Canada had withdrawn its application prior to the Congress and Mexico and Slovenia also withdrew prior to the vote. The question of having a formal contract between ISPRM and the World Congress after 2013

was discussed and it was agreed that the Congress Committee should prepare a draft of this contract and submit it to the President's Cabinet.

Discussion regarding "publications" concluded by approving the following policies: I) The Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine (JRM) will be the only official journal of ISPRM. II) Abstract of the ISPRM Congress will be published by JRM in either print or electronic version. III) If a book of papers of a World Congress is going to be published it should be at no cost to the authors. In addition the Journal Subcommittee was asked to present definitions for a) Official Journal of ISPRM; b) published in association with ISPRM and c) endorsed by ISPRM.

The meeting adjourned at 17:30 hours to be continued on June 16 at 13:30 hours.

On June 16, 2009 at 13:30 hours the BOG continued the Annual Business Meeting under the presidency of Dr. DeLisa who called the meeting to order reminding/requesting that each individual who proposes a motion that is approved, must write it down to ensure accuracy for inclusion in the minutes.

All liaison officers submitted their reports. Nic Walsh from Bone and Joint moved that "ISPRM supports the WHO' ICO-11 Musculoskeletal Technical Advisors Group" that was APPROVED. Dr. Grabois stated that Rehabilitation International (RI) is focusing on getting countries to pass the United Nations Declaration on People with Disabilities in an attempt to have this Declaration implemented and that RI hold its Congress in Dubai in November 2009. Dr. Christodoulou confirmed that the interim meeting of ISPRM will be held in Limassol on September 29-October 2, 2010. Dr. A. Haig reported on the success of the pre-congress meeting on "Developing Regions" and proposed to write a manuscript entitled 'Potential Contributions of ISPRM in the Enhancement of Rehabilitation Systems in Low Resources Settings' that was APPROVED. It was also APPROVED that Drs. Rathore (Pakistan) and Xi (China) write a manuscript entitled "Acute Rehabilitation after a Disaster". It is expected that these manuscripts be completed prior to the 2010 Interim Meeting.

Dr. Jimenez presented the History Report recognizing the contributions of Dr. W. Peek, previous historian. It was decided that the Official History of the Society shall be kept at the Central Office and the information published on the Web must be in agreement with that of the central archives.

Puerto Rico and China presented a report about the upcoming Congresses in 2011 and 2013. The Congress in Puerto Rico will take place in a new congress center. China stated its desire to incorporate the Central Office in the promotion of the Congress although the administration will go through the Chinese Medical Academy. IT WAS APPROVED that in the future each candidate venue agrees to pay for a site visit in order to be accepted for selection. There was some discussion on the topic of having a yearly World Congress under the scientific and administration leadership of ISPRM together with a host country and possibly in collaboration with a regional society. This issue was referred to committee for further discussion.

Dr. Grabois continued his presentation of the Treasure Report. The 2009 budget was discussed at length, especially the increase of management fee to 55,000 € per annum. This amount is not a salary but the result of a contract that includes office space, use of computers and estimated workload; the latter has considerably increased during the last 3-4 years. The outcome of this discussion was an agreement to develop a position/job description for the Executive Director. In addition, all Officers, Committees and Task Force Chairs were invited to submit suggestions for a job description of this position. Finally, a motion to approve the 2009 Budget was CARRIED.

Additional discussion of finance matters included the following agreements: I) "the 2010 budget be prepared in September and reviewed by the Audit Committee in October and the President's Cabinet and approved by the BOG in December through e-mail"; II) The same kind of scenario should be applied for 2011, so that the budget should be approved in Limassol". There was no conclusion about having a yearly budget.

International Educational and Development Fund. There was discussion regarding the creation of a FOUNDATION that concluded with a motion asking the Trustees of this Fund to review and make

recommendations to expand the Trust Fund into a "Foundation" maintaining the current Fund. The Trustees should make this recommendation to the PC within three to six months, thus it should be ready for approval by the BOG at Limassol.

Dr. C. Gutenbrunner, chair of the Membership Committee, presented the complicated issue of the membership of the regional and sub-regional societies, suggesting the possibility of assigning the Regional Vice President (RVP) the role of coordinating these societies. This option, however, could cause some concern with some countries in the Middle East region, especially with the existing RVP structure. The committee will bring a more concrete recommendation next year at Limassol.

Other issues discussed A) The Committees/Task Force Chairs must ensure that the annual reports are submitted on schedule so that the Central Office can distribute them to the representatives four weeks prior to the meeting. B) The Education Committee was asked to study the concern of Physicians from countries without well-developed training in PMR who would like to have some protocol on this subject. C) The Education Committee was also requested to explore viability of organizing training-workshops in future Congresses for "spinal injections" and other minor "interventions" so that physicians from some countries could be trained and granted a certificate accordingly. D) The matter of Rehabilitation Day, also proposed in Brugge, was mentioned again without submitting a motion.

Before the coffee-break the Italian Society presented Honorary Awards to the President and some other officers and members of ISPRM.

The meeting adjourned AT 17:00 hours for a group photograph.