

The International Federation of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (IFPMR)

Compiled by Dr. Jose Jimenez, Secretary of IFPMR 1988-1995

In February 1948 Dr. J. Michez wrote to Dr. P. Bauwens: "My aim is to recreate a nucleus of specialists in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and I hope that we shall be able to launch an association as strong as that which we had before the war".

In June 1948, Dr. P. Bauwens answered Dr. J. Michez: "I am in favour of holding the International Congress of Physical Medicine in London in 1950 directly after the Congress on Radiology. I will communicate directly with the leaders of Physical Medicine and propose a meeting in London, May 1950".

On May 10, 1950, the Royal Society of Medicine (London) held a meeting chaired by Dr. P. Bauwens - Chairman of the Committee for International Relations of the British Association of Physical Medicine - with the attendance of Dr. Frank Krusen (USA), Dr. Sven Clemmenson (Denmark) and Drs. Hugh Burt and Will Fegner from Great Britain. An Interim Committee was formed as follows:

Dr. Frank Krusen (USA) President
Dr. Philippe Bauwens (G.B.) Hon. Secretary
Dr. Hugh Burt (G.B.) Hon. Treasurer
Dr. Sven Clemmenson (Denmark) Member at Large
Dr. Will Fegner (G.B.) Member at Large

This Committee published the 'Objectives of the International Federation' as follows:

"The objectives of the International Federation of Physical Medicine (hereinafter called "The Federation") is the advancement of all aspects of Physical Medicine for the benefit of mankind by:

- (a) the linking on an international level of existing local (national and regional) societies of Physical Medicine;
- (b) the organization of International Congresses of Physical Medicine at regular intervals;
- (c) the collection and exchange of information on matters appertaining to Physical Medicine between members of the Federation;
- (d) any other means which, in the opinion of the International Committee of Physical Medicine (or the Executive Committee of Physical Medicine, for the time being), shall tend to further the objectives of the Federation
- (e) the organization of symposia and seminars on subjects proper and related to Physical Medicine.

1952 - 1st International Congress, London, July 13-18. Theme: "The importance of Clinical Practice".

At this first meeting the International Committee with representatives of 15 National Societies signed the Act of Constitution. Dr. F. Krusen was elected President; Dr. Bauwens, Honorary

Secretary; and Dr. Burt, Honorary Treasurer. Lord Horder was nominated President and assumed office after the Congress.

1956 - 2nd International Congress, Copenhagen, August 19-26. Theme: "Scientific Research in Rehabilitation".

As Lord Horder died in 1955, Dr. F. Krusen was re-elected as President; also re-elected were Dr. Bauwens and Dr. Burt as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

Dr. S. Clemmenson was elected as President-Elect. The Danish Association was assigned the task of collecting information regarding education in physical medicine to be presented at the next meeting.

1960 - 3rd International Congress. Washington, August 21-26. Theme: "The Concern for Humanitarian, Social and Economic Factors in Physical Medicine".

Dr. Clemmenson chaired the meeting. The report of the Danish Association was received and further promotion for Physical Medicine as a medical specialty and exploration of possibilities for regional post-graduate education was initiated.

Dr. P. Bauwens was succeeded by Dr. A. Boyle as Hon. Secretary but remained on the Executive Committee as Deputy Hon. Secretary. Dr. Burt was re-elected as Hon. Treasurer and Dr. F. Krusen was elected as President.

1964 - 4th International Congress. Paris, September 6-11. Theme: "Recent Advances in Physical Medicine".

Dr. Krusen chaired the meeting; Dr. Boyle was succeeded by Dr. Wynn Parry as Hon. Secretary; and Dr. Burt and Dr. Bauwens were re-elected. Dr. A Grossiord was elected as President.

IT WAS DECIDED THAT INTERNATIONAL CONTACTS SHOULD BE STIMULATED BY APPLYING FOR AFFILIATION WITH THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. THE APPLICATION WAS APPROVED AND THE FEDERATION BECAME OFFICIALLY AFFILIATED WITH THE WHO.

1968 - 5th International Congress. Montreal, August 25-31. Theme: "Appraisal of Current Concepts and Practices".

With Dr. Grossiord in the chair, Dr. Parry announced that he, Dr. Burt and Dr. Bauwens had tendered their resignations. He pointed out that Great Britain had the privilege of housing the Secretariat from the inception of the Federation and that it was time that other countries be granted this honour. Dr. A. van Gestel and Dr. F. Venema (Netherlands) were elected Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, respectively. Dr. G. Gingras was elected President. New activities between Congresses were initiated by the formation of two committees, one on Education and Training and one on Interprofessional Relations, which would meet and report at the next Congress.

Addendum to the History of the IFPMR World Congress in Montreal (added by Dr Jose Jimenes, ISPRM Historian, in September 2010):

It is important to document that a group of Asian Physicians attending this convention got together and after two days of dialogue and meetings, with the help of Dr. S. Licht, founded the Asian Pacific League of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (APLPM&R) and approved its constitution. The first elected officers were as follows: Dr. J. E. F. Perera, President (Ceylon); Dr. Sanat K. Sarkar, First Vice-President (India); Dr. Yoshio Oshima, Second Vice-President (Japan); Dr. L. Koadlow, Third Vice-President (Australia); Dr. S. R. Kermani, Secretary-Editor (Pakistan). The other members of the Executive Committee were: Dr. Nan Lein (Taiwan), Dr. A. Noptanya (Thailand), Dr. Pham-Van-Hoang (Vietnam), Dr. B. Tait (New Zealand) and Dr. J Wong (Hong Kong). It was also decided to hold the first Congress of the APFLPM&R in Colombo (Ceylan) during the week of November 26, 1970.

1972 - 6th International Congress. Barcelona, July 2-6. Theme: "Under the Sign of Rehabilitation".

Dr. Gingras chaired the meeting and received the reports of the committees. The outlines were accepted and the publication of these guide-lines for the member societies was proposed and approved. Dr. Barnosell was elected President and Drs. van Gestel and Venema re-elected as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, respectively.

The name of the Federation was officially changed to **“INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PHYSICAL MEDICINE AND REHABILITATION”** in recognition of the activities in Rehabilitation done by the National Societies.

1976 - 7th International Congress. Rio de Janeiro, August 1-6. Theme: "Rehabilitation, a Medical Responsibility".

Dr. Barnosell chaired the meeting. The reports of the Committees on Interprofessional Relations and the Committee on Education and Training were received. The latter was presented as a “White Book on Education and Training”, published in 1974 and received with great enthusiasm. The team concept was emphasized. A Committee on “Disability and Society” was given the task to begin work on a "White Book on Community Resources in Rehabilitation". Dr. Lima de Castro was elected President and Drs. van Gestel and Venema re-elected. Dr. G. de Almeida was elected as Deputy Hon. Secretary. Because of the untimely death of Dr. Lima de Castro, shortly after the termination of the Congress, Dr. Carl Granger was appointed President for the remaining of the term until 1980.

1980 - 8th International Congress. Stockholm, August 24-29. Theme: "Disability Prevention and Management by Rehabilitation Medicine".

Dr. Carl Granger chaired the meeting and received reports of the committees. The Committee on Disability and Society proposed to review the definitions of disability being developed in conjunction with WHO. The Committee on Education and Training recommended

discontinuing efforts to produce an undergraduate "Handbook on Education" as satisfactory ones were already published. Dr. Brodin was elected President. Drs. J. Melvin and W. Erdman were elected Hon Secretary and Treasurer. Dr. van Gestel was elected Deputy Hon Secretary.

1984 - 9th International Congress. Jerusalem, August 13-18. Theme: "Rehabilitation and Medicine: The Bridge between Medical Science and Society".

Dr. Brodin chaired the meeting and received the reports of the committees. The Committee on Education and Training presented a revised version of the "White Book on Education and Training". Dr. J. Chaco was elected President and Drs. Melvin, Erdman and van Gestel were re-elected to their respective positions. Nomination of a President-Elect was deferred until the site of the next Congress was decided. At a second meeting Toronto was chosen to hold the 10th International Congress and Dr. C.M. Godfrey was elected as President-Elect.

1988 - 10th International Congress. Toronto April 10-15. Theme: "Quality Control in Rehabilitation".

Dr. C.M. Godfrey acting on behalf of Dr. Chaco chaired the meetings. The Committee on Education and Training presented a new draft of a proposed third edition of the "White Book on Education and Training". The Committee received proposed comments and suggestions and agreed to have a final third edition published and available for the 11th International Congress in 1992. Dr. C.M. Godfrey was elected President; Dr. J. Jimenez Hon. Secretary and Drs. W. Erdman and van Gestel were re-elected to their respective positions. Dr. D. Reinhold was nominated President-Elect. Because of an agreement made with IRMA (see integration process), the meeting of the Federation to be held in 1996 was advanced to 1995 and its site was to be decided at a meeting of the Executive Committee to be held in Madrid in 1990 coincidental with the IRMA Congress. At this meeting Sydney, Australia, was chosen and Dr. R. Oakeshott elected President-Elect.

1992 - 11th International Congress. Dresden, September 16-20. Theme: "Trends and New Approaches in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation"

Dr. C.M. Godfrey chaired the meeting and received the reports of the Committees. The third edition of the "White Book on Education" was presented and distributed to all members. Dr. Juan Parreño also presented a Spanish translation of this book. It was agreed that efforts should be made to find a sponsor to publish 1,500-2,000 additional copies to be distributed world-wide to Faculties of Medicine and Health Agencies. Dr. R. Christopher, from USA, accepted and carried out this task during the following year. For personal health reasons Dr. Reinhold, President of the Congress, had to resign from the position of President-Elect. Dr. Conradi was elected President and Dr. J. Jimenez re-elected as Hon. Secretary. Following the death of Dr. Erdman in 1989, Dr. M. Grabois had been appointed acting Treasurer and he was re-elected as such. Dr. van Gestel resigned as Deputy Secretary and it was felt unnecessary to nominate and, therefore, elect anybody for this position. At a combined meeting with IRMA it was agreed to create an International Task Force to explore the possibility of merging or integrating the two organizations and Dr. J. Melvin was unanimously elected its President (please see process of integration for more details).

1995 - 12th International Congress. Sydney, March 27-31. Theme: "Quest for Quality".

Dr. Conradi chaired the sessions and received the reports from different committees. This 12th International Congress was organized in conjunction with the Annual Scientific Meetings of the Australasian Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Australian Pain Society and the New Zealand Pain Society. There were more than 1,200 registrants representing 50 countries. Dr. R. Oakeshott was elected President. Dr. J. Jimenez resigned as Secretary and Dr. Peter Disler was elected to this position. Dr. M. Grabois was re-elected as Treasurer and Dr. John Melvin was elected as President-Elect. The board of Governors approved the activities of the International Task Force and gave unanimous support for the continuation of the negotiations with IRMA in an attempt to integrate or merge the two organizations. It was confirmed that Amsterdam will be the site for the first World Congress of the proposed new Organization in 2001.

1999 - 13th International Congress, Washington, D.C., November 11-14, 1999. Theme: "Celebrate the Past, Recognize the Present and Anticipate the Future".

Because this was the last Congress of the IFPMR, its President, Dr. R. Oakeshott, shared the chair with Dr. S. Ueda, past President of IRMA in the session where Dr. J. Melvin, President of the Congress, was elected first President of the new Organization, International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine. Dr. Ueda and Dr. Oakeshott were automatically elected Past-Presidents. Dr. W. Peek was elected President-elect, Dr. H. Ring Vice-President. Dr. M. Grabois and Dr. M. Lissens were elected Secretary and Treasurer respectively. After evaluating several proposals for the establishment of a central administrative Office, it was decided to postpone this selection until the next meeting of the Executive Committee in Athens in September 2000. Drs Disler, Grabois, Jimenez and Oakeshott under the chairmanship of Dr Ueda were given the task of drafting the operational guidelines of the International Education and Development Fund. Jerusalem was confirmed as the site for the 2nd World Congress of ISPRM and Brazil was elected as the site for the 3rd World Congress of the ISPRM. It was agreed the Executive Committee will meet in Athens in September 2000 and that any member of the Board of Governors will be welcome to this first meeting.