



*An update on activities of the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics. ISPO is
An international society for prosthetics, orthotics and rehabilitation engineering.
A Non-Governmental Organisation*

- in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations*
- in Official Relations with the World Health Organisation*

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Update of ISPO Cerebral Palsy consensus conference

In 2008, ISPO held a consensus conference in order to update information regarding orthotics treatment of Cerebral Palsy by drawing on recent research and evidence. Dr Chris Morris, Principal Orthotist, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre and Research Fellow, Dept of Public Health & Wolfson College, University of Oxford, assisted to organise the conference, wrote this article and can be contacted for further information via Christopher.Morris@dphpc.ox.ac.uk

Recent developments in healthcare for cerebral palsy: implications and opportunities for orthotics

ISPO sponsored a consensus conference held in 1994 that considered the evidence for the lower limb orthotic management of children with cerebral palsy. The resulting report, published the following year, became the best selling publication of the society and was the basis for nine instructional courses held around the world. That report is now out of print, and also out of date.



Multidisciplinary group of international experts who contributed to the consensus conference on orthotics management for people with Cerebral Palsy.





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Last year the ISPO Executive Committee agreed to sponsor a follow-up meeting to take account subsequent research and changes in the health care of people with cerebral palsy. The focus of the follow-up meeting was expanded to also examine the evidence for the management of the spine, hip and upper limb. Text Paste stories into this document and format the style to match this document.

Experts use latest evidence to make recommendations

In September 2008, an international multidisciplinary group of 26 health professionals and research scientists, assembled at Wolfson College in Oxford. Reviewers presented papers on the definition and classification of cerebral palsy and gait disorders, and the current concepts and evidence to support physiotherapy, occupational therapy, medical, orthopaedic and orthotic management.

Following the presentation of the reviews, small group sessions were convened to discuss gaps in the evidence and to consider areas of controversy. Plenary sessions were then used to synthesise the recommendations of each of the groups. The three and half day meeting was rich in content but also intensely hard work for all involved as a huge amount of material was covered.

Reviews, conclusions and recommendations to be freely available

Manuscripts of all the reviews were collated, and the presentations by reviewers were video recorded. The discussion sessions were audio recorded, and these recordings have been analysed to deduce conclusions and recommendations. The reviews, conclusions and recommendations will be made freely available by ISPO through the Internet, and the full report will be available for purchase from the society. As I write, at the beginning of 2009, the video recordings and manuscripts are being edited and agreement is being sought from participants for the resulting conclusions and recommendations. Once these stages are completed, the report will be published later this year.

Foundation for update of future courses

The report will be used by Jules Becher, the ISPO Task Office for CP Orthotics, as educational resource for future courses; and will be disseminated as widely as possible with the aim of improving the health care of people with cerebral palsy worldwide.

Appreciation for conference organisers

The meeting was successful because of the effort and commitment of all involved. I would particularly like to thank my co-organisers David Condie and John Fisk, and Dan Blocka and Becki Petri for their work recording and editing the videos.

News from the President

The ISPO President is elected to the Executive Board and holds the position for the triennium elected. To contact our current President, Dan Blocka, email dan@ispoint.org

Recent Activities and Events

I would first like to wish all of our members, National Member Societies and partners the best of wishes for 2009 and I hope all of you had a festive time bringing in the new year. It is really amazing to think that we are half way through this triennium for ISPO and as my time as President of the Society. The past eighteen months or so has been a very busy, challenging and enjoyable time for myself. I have had the privilege of meeting many of you at





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various events and meetings across the globe. That in itself has been a “real” gift for me and I hope I can continue to keep up my commitment to support and attend as many national and regional meetings as possible for the rest of the triennium.

Since the start of the triennium, all of our Board has been very busy working on many initiatives that will be reported on at our Interim International Committee Meeting (IC16) on Wednesday February 11th in Bangkok, Thailand. This meeting will allow us to give all the National Member Societies an important update and report on a number of issues dealing with constitutional renewal, website re-development, finances, world congress 2010, educational activities and so on.

During this meeting I will give a President’s Report which will summarize the triennium to date. In an attempt to allow the wider membership to access some of this information, I will make this report available over a webpage I have created at the following address: http://homepage.mac.com/eaglesmoon/IC16_PresidentsReport

Please visit this webpage after February 13th and the presentation should be available for viewing via a streaming Quicktime file or similar. I hope that many of you who will not be in Bangkok will get the opportunity to view this and see where we are at this point in the triennium.

On a final note, I wanted to inform the membership of one important event that took place in the past number of months. As many of you are aware, in the past five or so years there has been a significant increase in ISPO activity around the development of Prosthetic and Orthotic education along with the promotion of our international standards. This, of course, is also part of our collaboration with the World Health Organization. Further to this point, there was an important meeting in Wuhan, China this past November 5th and 6th titled, “A National Workshop on the Launching of the Guidelines for Training Personnel in Developing Countries for Prosthetic and Orthotic Services”. During this meeting the official release of our ISPO/WHO Guidelines in the Chinese language took place in the presence of many of the stakeholders and partners involved in the development of Prosthetic and Orthotic education and services in China.

At the moment there is much activity in China around this development and we are very supportive of the directions being taken by our friends and partners in China. On that note I would like to thank my colleagues Chapal Khasnabis, Sepp Heim and Dirk Böcker for all their hard work and support around these initiatives in China and also Otto Bock for their support through the Otto Bock Foundation. The photo below is of all the participants who attended the meeting.



Official release of the Guidelines for Training Personnel in Developing Countries for Prosthetic and Orthotic Services, Wuhan, China - November 5 & 6, 2008





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In the next issue of our Newsletter, I hope to report further on the outcomes of our meetings in Bangkok and the direction ahead as we get closer to our next World Congress in 2010.

ISPO works to reduce Club Feet in Tanzania

In 2007 the ISPO Board approved a proposal for ISPO to help in a sustainable club foot educational venture in Tanzania together with the Ponseti International Association (PIA) and CBM. For more information contact the author of this article and ISPO representative on this project, John R. Fisk MD, via email to: jfisk@siumed.edu or ispo@ispoint.org or sailingfisk@gmail.com

Education in Tanzania to treat Club Foot

Over the past two years, ISPO has contributed to an educational venture in Tanzania, working with the PIA and CBM. Major funding for the project was to come from a PIA/CBM grant partnering with ISPO.

Background for the project

The stimulus for this venture included experience in Uganda, Cambodia, Nepal and a number of other developing nations. Tanzania was selected because of the potential for research and development on the foot abduction orthosis, a key portion of Ponseti management, at the Tanzanian Training Center for Orthopaedic Technologists (TATCOT). The Consensus Conference on Lower Limb Orthotics, Hanoi 2006 concluded that the Ponseti Method was the single best approach for treating infants having club feet, which is the most common congenital cause of ambulatory disability world wide. It affects between two and three children per every thousand live births in all cultures and races.

Ponseti Method summary

The Ponseti Method consists of manipulation and casting for approximately five weeks followed by a minor surgical procedure and bracing. It is successful in 97% of treated children as reported in the scientific literature from all parts of the world. The technique can be taught to any allied health personnel with casting skills and so is especially suitable for regions lacking in orthopaedic surgeons. The heel cord tenotomy is performed as an out patient procedure by any physician. The foot abduction orthosis, a key component of the program, is very specific in what it must accomplish.

Plans created during 2007

Activities began with a fact-finding visit to in November 2007. It was felt that Tanzania was sufficiently large that more than one center should be selected for training. Ultimately three treatment centres have been established.

Courses conducted during 2008

The first course was held at the Muhimbili Institute in Dar es Salaam, May of 2008, the second in Moshi at Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center (KCMC) in October 2008. On going activities are occurring in the Mwanza region in eastern Tanzania. Follow-up visits will take place at the regional hospitals of the majority of course participants to support their newly learned skills and to ensure sustainability. A course about the foot abduction orthosis was conducted in Moshi by Michael Steenbeek in order to establish a central fabrication facility at KCMC to serve the whole region. Nine shoe makers and orthopaedic technologists attended that course.





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Follow-up visits identified some problems

After initial follow-up visits some problems have been identified.

Casting material is not universally available. Future visits to the Minister of Health will be aimed at establishing a country-wide program which will ensure adequate material.

Follow-up visits after the casting period are difficult due to transportation problems. Tanzania does not have a well established Community-Based Rehabilitation program through which follow-up could be provided locally rather than centrally. As a consequence, it is difficult to be confident that the orthosis is consistently worn by all children.

Prediction that 300 children will be cured of deformity

In spite of these observations, it is estimated that 300 children will be cured of their club foot deformities in 2009, based on the number of babies already being seen by the course participants. Additional country programs will be the responsibility of regionally established coordinators.

Further information

This Tanzanian Ponseti Sustainable Club Foot Project is part of similar projects occurring in ten other developing countries under the sponsorship of PIA and CBM. Please contact John Fisk for more information, via the details above.

Update from the ISPO International Secretariat

The ISPO Office in Copenhagen is staffed by three part-time secretaries: Karen Schmidt (Education), Birte Nielsen and Rikke Thorup, and an Office Manager Niels Pedersen. All enquiries should be directed to ispo@ispoint.org

2009 begins for ISPO Secretariat

2008 has come to an end and the new year is already a few weeks old. We can look back at a year full of interesting challenges. The Secretariat has been involved in several projects to improve the effectiveness of the office procedures, and we will make an effort to keep up a high level of service to everyone who needs our help.

National Member Society support

What has meant the most to us this year is the great support from National Member Societies and members all over the world. Thanks to the contribution from all of you, ISPO has maintained the high numbers of members - more than 3000. Furthermore several new National Member Societies were either approved by the Executive Board or have started to function provisionally: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Mexico, Norway (re-established), Cambodia, Spain and South-Africa. We are looking very much forward to the future collaboration with these new National Members Societies.





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Steering Committee of the USAID-grant visit the Secretariat

The Steering Committee of the USAID-grant within ISPO met on Tuesday, January 6th 2009 at the ISPO Head office in Copenhagen. The Secretariat was honoured to host this meeting and enjoyed the company of the group, pictured right.

The new grant - "Facilitating rehabilitation of people with physical disability in developing countries through education and training of prosthetic-orthotic professionals" - runs from September 2009 to September 2013.

Among other projects this grant will fund another 125 scholarships in the profession of prosthetics and orthotics at schools accredited by ISPO in non-industrialized countries. Under the previous grant - running from 2003 to 2008 - 115 P & Os were awarded scholarships and trained at TATCOT in Tanzania, PIPOS in Pakistan, VIETCOT in Vietnam, CSPO in Cambodia and UDB in El Salvador. The schools select the students eligible for funding and submit the proposals to ISPO for further scrutiny and decision by the management of the grant. Information about application at accredited schools can be found at the ISPO website: www.ispo.ws

A significant amount has been allocated for the development of outcome measures that will facilitate the upgrading of education systems and teachers and as such have an impact on P&O education as well as users or physically disabled people.

Contact the Secretariat

You are always welcome to contact the Secretariat. If you have any queries, we will be glad to assist you.

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Steering committee visitors.

Rob Horvath (bottom left) and Mel Stills (top right) from the Leahy War Victims Fund, ISPO President Dan Blocka (top middle), ISPO Vice President Jan Geertzen (top left) and USAID-grant project manager Steen Jensen (bottom right).



USAID-grant steering committee discusses activity during its visit to the ISPO office.





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ISPO Community Based Rehabilitation research project

Claudie Ung is the ISPO Task Officer for Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR), and can be contacted via email to claudieung@yahoo.fr or claudieung@hotmail.org

Facilitating rehabilitation of people with physical disability in developing countries through education and training of prosthetic-orthotics professionals

In September 2008, the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics ISPO began a project called: "Facilitating rehabilitation of people with physical disability in developing countries through education and training of prosthetic-orthotics professionals" which is funded by a USAID grant. Claudie UNG was asked by Mr. Steen Jensen, ISPO USAID grant project manager, to help facilitate the research included in this project and the partnership with the World Health Organization.

Aims to foster integration of P&O with CBR

One of the objectives of this project is to continue partnership in the World Health Organization's global campaign to foster the integration of P&O with Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and enhance prosthetic and orthotics service provision and accessibility. The project will be linked to a later consensus conference on the relationship between prosthetics and orthotics and CBR, with results from the project providing material for the conference.

Call for participants from CBR programs or P&O workshops

You are invited to participate in this project if you work in one of the following settings:

- CBR program including beneficiaries of assistive devices (prosthetics or orthotics) having relationship with a P&O workshop manufacturing the devices
- Workshop program producing prostheses or orthoses and having relationship with CBR program

This questionnaire will **not be relevant** if:

- Your CBR has P&O beneficiaries but you do not have relationship with the workshop producing it
- Your workshop produce assistive device but you do not have any relationship with community program to help you monitor beneficiaries' progress in their community.

Data collection timeframe

The date line for the collection of information is set for May 2009.

Questionnaire in French, English and Spanish languages

Please follow this link to documents that include explanation of questionnaire and the questionnaire itself, in French, English and Spanish languages.





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If relevant to your work, please participate

If the questionnaire is relevant to your work, could you please copy it from the link above and send it to claudieung@yahoo.fr or claudieung@hotmail.org

For further information

Claudie Ung can send you information about how the relationship between CBR and P&O services can be made, or has been made, worldwide.

Education Committee activities in the last quarter

Correspondence to the Education Secretary, Karen Schmidt at education@ispoint.org

With the successful launch of the main ISPO newsletter, The ISPO Education Committee newsletter will be amalgamated into the main ISPO Newsletter from now on.

A number of important evaluations and evaluation reports have been completed in recent months for Category I programmes and pathways and recommendations from these will be submitted to the ISPO Board at their next meeting. Consultations and evaluations remain confidential unless completed or there is specific agreement to promote such activities. Please look out for updates in future newsletters.

Our Call for Category I and II Evaluators to be trained, circulated in October has generated an excellent response beyond our expectations and over 20 applications are currently being assessed.

ISPO Category I consultation in the Czech Republic

Prosthetics and Orthotics Bachelor programme, University of Ostrava

Prosthetists and orthotists have been recognised in law in the Czech Republic as a profession since 2004. The University of Ostrava took the opportunity to launch a new 3 year Bachelor programme in prosthetics and orthotics in 2006 and the faculty team had shared the curriculum for the programme with ISPO on previous occasions. This had been written in line with the ISPO Category I Information package. The University of Ostrava have continued to take new first year students onto the bachelors programme in prosthetics and orthotics. The Faculty team are, therefore, currently delivering their 3 year prosthetics and orthotics degree to programme to three parallel years of students, with the 3rd year content being delivered for the first time.

A great strength of this initiative is a dedicated team from the University of Ostrava, Proteor and ING who collaborate to form an expert team with a real passion for their subject area and who are leading educational developments in prosthetics and orthotics in the country.



ISPO consultation in the Czech Republic.
Jiri Rosicky, ING; Sandra Sexton, ISPO; & Darja Jarosova, Vice Dean, University of Ostrava





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Dr Miroslav Janura and Ms Jarmilla Kristinova are the main Faculty team from the University teaching biomechanics and clinical assessment topics respectively.

A key Associate Faculty member is Mr Petr Krawczyk, an orthopaedic surgeon with a special interest in prosthetics and orthotics. He teaches students with clinical content from a Proteor clinical service base and his teaching includes applied anatomy, applied biomechanics, applied pathology, patient assessment and principles of prosthetic and orthotic prescription. A second key Associate Faculty member is Mr Jiri Rosicky, a mechanical engineer who facilitates student learning in clinical and technical skills in prosthetics and orthotics from the ING facility and Össur Academy in Frydek-Mistek. Both Associate Faculty are contracted to the University of Ostrava on a part time basis, but are dedicated enough to work far beyond their hours for the programme.



Meeting the students.

ISPO Education Committee Chairperson Sandra Sexton meets with students of the University of Ostrava

The Faculty team is keen to realise investment in the University premises clinical and technical teaching laboratories to assist them in delivering what is emerging as a well regarded course in both the field of prosthetics and orthotics and in the University system as a whole. The Czech Republic Government recently assessed the prosthetics and orthotics programme as one of the best in the country.

The consultation included discussion with the Rector of the University of Ostrava and a brief meeting with the Vice President of the Moravian-Silesian region, Mrs Věra Palková.

ISPO is delighted to see the launch and delivery of this excellent teaching initiative and looks forward to further engaging with the Faculty team and students as they approach the first graduation from the programme.

CURRENT ISPO RECOGNISED CATEGORY I & II SCHOOLS & PATHWAYS

ISPO CATEGORY I:

Bundesfachschule für Orthopädie Technik pathway, Germany; Hong Kong Polytechnic, Hong Kong; Institut Supérieur Technologique Montplaisir, France; Tumaini University, Tanzania; University of Strathclyde, Scotland

ISPO CATEGORY II:

Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics, Cambodia; Programme de Formation Professionnelle des Ortho-Prothesistes, Togo; International Committee of the Red Cross Modular Courses; Institut de Formationaux Carrières de Santé, Morocco; Mobility India, Single Discipline Courses; Pakistan Institute of Prosthetic and Orthotic Sciences, Pakistan; Sri Lanka School of Prosthetics and Orthotics, Sri Lanka; Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists, Tanzania; University of Don Bosco, El Salvador; Vietnamese Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists, Vietnam.

Please note that this list will change as the ISPO Board accept recommendations from the Education Committee for newly recognised programmes and pathways.

