

## NEWS LETTER NO. 2 – 2007

## International Society of Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (ISPRM)

**PROMOTING GLOBAL PHYSICAL  
& REHABILITATION MEDICINE  
EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE:  
ISPRM FACULTY-STUDENT  
EXCHANGE COMMITTEE**

**Mark A. Young MD, MBA, FACP and  
Bryan J. O' Young, MD**

*“The service we render to others is really the rent we pay for our room on this earth. Mankind is composed of travelers whose purpose is not to “have and hold” but to “give and serve”.*

(Sir William Grenfell-International Diplomat-1867-1945)

#### INTRODUCTION

Inspired by the shining example of pioneering global physiatric leaders including Howard Rusk, Herman Flax, Mathew Lee and numerous others who have contributed to the philanthropic tradition of international rehabilitation, educational and humanitarian “sharing and caring”, the ISPRM Exchange Committee has carried on its mission since 2002.

The committee’s activity began in earnest in 2002 when President John Melvin (USA) and President-elect Haim Ring (Israel) determined the vital importance of creating an ISPRM outreach arm dedicated to promoting international educational exchange. In that year, the Exchange Committee was founded. With the ongoing encouragement and mentorship of the ISPRM Board and leadership including Professor Linamara Batistella and Professor Chang-il Park, the committee has continued to promote international exchange activity among physiatrists internationally. Through its various international humanitarian projects, it has touched the lives of people with disabilities on a global level.

#### BACKGROUND & RAISON D’ÊTRE

The ISPRM Faculty-Student Exchange Committee serves as an information resource, international liaison and active placement service for educational, advocacy, and humanitarian opportunities in Physical & Rehabilitation Medicine across all continents.

The committee facilitates placement of physiatrists in rotations and observerships as well as in rehabilitation related humanitarian projects based on geography and need.

In its role of linking physiatrists to potential mentors and host institutions, the committee can be viewed as a “matchmaker” of sorts.

The committee maintains a web site [www.isprm-edu.org](http://www.isprm-edu.org), which provides an activity overview as well as a photo album highlighting outcomes and successes.

#### SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

The committee continues to perform a variety of tasks consistent with its mission and vision. Some of these activities have included:

1. Handling daily e-mail and postal mail correspondence from rehabilitation physicians interested in additional information about global exchange opportunities.
2. Gathering background information about prospective rotators and visitors (CVs, Resumes, Letters of Reference) and determining areas of interest to assure an appropriate “match” and a meaningful educational experience.
3. Building networks of “exchange partners” and securing participating academic faculty and institutions by sending invitational e-mail queries.
4. Monitoring “day to day” progress and logistics of actively rotating students, residents and faculty, especially when rotators spend time in more than one observership during a particular “Placement”. In this capacity, the chair of the committee can be viewed as a cross between a “camp counselor” and a residency program director.
5. Developing pre-placement administrative infrastructure documents for the support of placements, e.g., waiver forms, liability disclaimer documents, and academic institution sign offs.
6. Interfacing with institutional physicians, administrators as well as governmental officials on matters pertaining to educational and humanitarian exchange opportunities. These activities are conducted in concert with ISPRM executive leadership input and direction.
7. Maintaining and updating an outcome-focused web based photo journal and textual narrative, which reviews particular placements that the committee has made in addition to tracking global exchange activities.
8. Submission of articles and updates pertaining to committee activity to “News & Views” and other academic publications.

9. The activities of the committee are carried out in a team fashion with individual members of the committee providing input, direction and collaborative assistance.
10. Interfacing with other ISPRM members (including past and present leadership) to apprise them of committee activity and to seek their input.
11. Submission of an annual written report to the ISPRM Board as well as meeting regularly with the plenary ISPRM Board to provide a committee report.

#### REPRESENTATIVE OUTCOMES AND ACTIVITY

(Please refer to WWW. ISPRM-EDU.ORG web site for additional information)

Inquiries about committee activity and opportunities= 37

#### *USA (originating) Placements*

1. Brett Gerstman, a University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey medical student (currently PM&R Resident at New York University) placed in month rotation in Uruguay with mentors: Hugo Nunez Bernadett and Professor Juan Luis Lacuague.
2. Drew Morchawer, a Tulane University Medical Student (currently PM&R Resident in Texas) placed in month long rotation in Israel with mentors: Rafi Heruti, Luly Treger and Professor Haim Ring.
3. Nhat Tran, a Boston University Medical Student (currently PM&R Resident at Tufts University) placed in rotation in Vietnam.

According to the medical students, their successful rotations in PM&R abroad have positively influenced their pursuit of PM&R as a medical specialization.

#### *International (originating) Placements*

1. Dr. Marcello Solli and Dr. Davide Sareceni, both residents from Vergatta University in Rome, Italy visit New York, New Jersey, and Baltimore.
2. Dr. Mouli Ghatak, an attending physiatrist from Nopany Institute in Calcutta, India visits Baltimore.
3. Dr. Jeongyi Kwon, an attending pediatric physiatrist from The Catholic University in Seoul, Korea visits Baltimore.
4. Dr. Chen Zhen, an attending physiatrist from Xuan Wu Hospital, Capital Medical University in Beijing, China visits Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine in New York.

#### *Humanitarian Activities*

1. Hurricane Katrina Rehabilitation Relief Effort (Operation Functional Recovery): Dr. Mathew Lee, Dr. Bryan O'Young, Dr. Margaret Giannimi, Dr. Young, and Dr. Cassius.

#### INSTITUTIONAL HOSTS

The following is a list of US based hospitals and institutions that have served as faculty hosts and/or have pledged to offer assistance. The committee is thankful for their support.

New York College of Podiatric Medicine

Mt. Sinai School of Medicine

New York University Medical Center (Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine)

Long Island Jewish-North Shore-Parker Institute

Hospital for Joint Disease

Kessler Neuromuscular Program at UMDNJ Hospital (Newark)  
-Dr. John Bach

Hospital for Special Surgery

Johns Hopkins Hospital

Sinai Hospital of Baltimore

Kennedy Krieger Institute

Mt. Washington Children's Hospital

The Maryland Rehabilitation Center –WTC

University of Maryland-Kernan's Hospital

Jefferson University Hospital

Baylor University Hospital

#### FUTURE PLANNING

The committee remains committed to promoting international placements for traveling physiatrists and welcomes the active help and input of potential host institutions abroad.

The exchange committee proposes the establishment of an ISPRM recognized "global faculty, comprised of physiatrists who have hosted visiting exchange students and physicians.

International institutions and physicians interested in participating may contact the Chair of the Committee, Mark Young: markyoung123@gmail.com or through the web site: www.isprm-edu.org.

#### REFERENCES

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