

A MAJOR MOVE OF ISPRM IN ACADEMIC PHYSIATRY: AN INTERNATIONAL VIEW

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The academic discussion meeting held during the 4th World Congress of the ISPRM, in Seoul on June 12th, 2007 counted with over 60 participants and the most brilliant minds in the field of Rehabilitation Medicine. Representatives from most ISPRM regions presented a brief overview of the issues on academic Physical and Rehabilitation Medicine (PRM) in the United States (John White), Europe (Alain Delarque) and Asia (Leonard Li). Dr Mark Young presented the work that has been developed by the ISPRM Exchange Committee since the World Congress in Prague in 2003, concerning a survey on Education programs, didactic resources and teaching strategies in PRM.

As an immediate fruitful result of this meeting, Prof. Alain Delarque introduced the "World Action Plan for Initial Education in PRM" (WAPIE.PRM) which has three main objectives:

1. create an undergraduate and postgraduate minimum curricula endorsed by ISPRM that could be used in an international level.
2. facilitate access to the best level of education in PRM for the PRM trainees during their postgraduate teaching and training programs.
3. facilitate access to research and research activities to the PRM trainees.

Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine will publish educational articles, filling the gap between textbooks and scientific papers to provide the best level of education in the various major topics of our specialty. The editors of a recent special issue of the *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine* dedicated to the organization and development of human functioning and rehabilitation research: Gunnar Grimby, John Melvin and Gerold Stucki are asking the readers to contribute to an international discussion by writing letters to the editor. All articles can be downloaded free of charge from the webpage <http://jrm.medicaljournals.se/issue/39/4>.

In order to train leaders in clinical research in PRM, the Education Committee will provide an intensive training course on Clinical Trials in 2008.

The members-only session of the www.isprm.org website will provide an on-line Journal Club to teach ISPRM members to critically appraise scientific publications on diagnostic testing, randomized controlled trials, systematic reviews, meta-analyses and clinical guidelines focused on evidence-based information.

Our goal should be, as stated by Prof Joel de Lisa, that all specialists are so knowledgeable and well trained that they could be eligible to practice the field of PRM in any country.

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