



UK Bulletin

February 2010



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

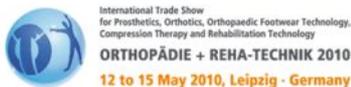
Whilst delegate numbers were disappointing, those in attendance at the 2009 Annual Scientific meeting at Chester enjoyed the event. However, the fact is we are unable to continue putting such an effort in for so few. I believe, certainly amongst my orthotic colleagues, there is little chance of increasing attendance at such a general event as our traditional programme. I believe this has been demonstrated by the considerable attendance at the recent Cerebral Palsy event at Newcastle. I therefore propose we run this year's ASM as two stand-alone days making the programmes as specific and exciting as possible. I am enthusiastic and confident that by changing this format we can not only improve attendance but also encourage increased membership of the society. I suggest that we are unlikely to attract new members purely by advertising but by making our events more appealing: membership will increase by our actions. Having attracted more orthotists to the CP event, there was considerable enthusiasm for ISPO and I am hopeful this will result in new members joining the Society. The bulletin has been well received and I am grateful to Colin Dance for keeping its momentum. Thanks also to Irene Cameron who continues to keep us on track with her excellent organisational skills. I look forward to making this a successful year of growth in my final term as Chairman.

Paul Charlton



ISPO UK NMS BURSARIES TO 13TH WORLD CONGRESS

APPLICATIONS INVITED



ISPO UK NMS is pleased to offer a minimum of three bursaries, worth up to £500, to members seeking to attend the 13th World Congress in Leipzig. The closing date for applications is **20th March 2010**. All applicants must:-

- Be a member of ISPO of three or more years' standing (ie since 1 January 2007)
- Submit a description of your proposal with an agenda and outline budget by 20th March 2010

Members of the ISPO UK NMS National Committee are not eligible to apply.

Applications will be assessed by the ISPO UK NMS National Committee and successful applicants will be informed as quickly as possible after the deadline date. The decision of the Committee is final.

Successful applicants will be expected to provide a paper for publication in the ISPO UK Bulletin (no fewer than 2000 words). The paper should report on the applicant's experience at the ISPO World Congress, how nominated objectives were reached, learning outcomes and proposed impact attend such an event will have on future professional services.

Applications should be forwarded by post or e-mail to:

ISPO UK NMS Secretariat, PO Box 2781, Glasgow, G61 3YL E-mail: info@ispo.org.uk
to arrive no later than **20th March 2010**.

**Whilst ISPO UK NMS is committed to funding advertised bursaries,
it retains the right to withdraw its offer at any time.**



RECENT CONSENSUS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MANAGEMENT OF CEREBRAL PALSY

Centre for Life, Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK
14th and 15th January 2010

Report by Paul Charlton, ISPO UK Chairman

The aim of this meeting was to disseminate the findings of the consensus conference held in Oxford in 2008. The international faculty of presenters in Newcastle were representative of those involved at Oxford and presented the findings of the consensus conference whilst allowing generous time for discussion with delegates. A multi disciplinary audience of 120 delegates attended the event with good representation from orthotists and physiotherapists. The speakers were excellent, resulting in lively discussion which spilled to refreshment breaks and the evening.



Guest Speakers (L to R) : John Fisk, Wayne Stuberg,
Jan Willem Gorter, Jane Chantry, Gordon Ruder

I think the outcome of the conference exceeded any expectation; the fundamental aim was to disseminate the information and this was done very successfully and promoted enthusiastic discussion. The event generated a groundswell of enthusiasm from hands-on clinicians to be more involved in contributing to research and data. The meeting also showcased ISPO for what it is best at and I anticipate a number of new members will join the Society as a result

Thanks are expressed to Irene - the event was regularly praised for the excellent organisation. Thanks should also go to Penny Hewart and Pat Clements, my colleagues at the Northern Regional Gait Laboratory, who contributed considerably to the planning and running of the event. The small exhibition held in the refreshment area was also well received.

In general, I feel the event had a superb feel to it with a great deal of discussion outside formal sessions. The evaluation forms seem to support this. I would hope all future consensus conferences will be followed by such events as a matter of course.

Those interested in research into Cerebral Palsy may wish to visit www.pcmd.ac.uk/cerebra
or contact Chris Morris chris.morris@pms.ac.uk

Copies of the conference compendium and presentations can be downloaded from the ISPO UK NMS website at www.ispo.org.uk

What our delegates thought

'Excellent, very balanced content and relaxed atmosphere for learning.'

'Very good lectures made this conference a high quality seminar on CP.'

'A very informative and useful two days which helped to reinforce current practice but left you thinking about why and also how we can move forward.'

'Fantastic - I really found the conference useful - mostly enjoyed the fact that it was MDT orientated.'





**ISPO UK NMS Annual Scientific Meeting
8 & 9 October 2009 – Crowne Plaza Hotel,
Chester**



The last annual scientific meeting had an excellent range of free paper presentations. Every year ISPO UK is very fortunate and grateful for the continued support of BLESMA who provide two prizes of £150 each and the Limbless Association who provide one prize of £150. All free papers are judged during the meeting by a small panel of ISPO UK members.

The first BLESMA prize winner was Claire Trethowan, the Head Occupational Therapist from Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast. Ms. Trethowan presented a single case study comparing the i-Limb hand and the Otto Bock myoelectric prosthesis. She concluded that the i-Limb gave a slightly higher overall score for function and that psychologically the i-Limb rated similar to the Otto Bock prosthesis.

The second BLESMA winner was Dr. Kate Sansam, Specialist Registrar in Rehabilitation Medicine from the University of Leeds. Dr. Sansam presented a study involving 59 subjects on the dysvascularity and cognition in lower limb amputees. She concluded that there was a trend for the dysvascular group to perform less well in the Addenbrookes Cognitive Examination and Trail Making Test.

The 2009 Limbless Association prize winner was Dr. Lorraine Graham, Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine from Musgrave Park Hospital in Belfast. Dr. Graham presented an audit of the pre, post amputation and primary prosthetic rehabilitation phase for patients attending the Regional Prosthetic Unit in Belfast. The results of 161 referrals were presented. She concluded that the preamputation consultation referrals were fewer than expected from orthopaedic units and all referrals were not being made on the standardised form. Also Dr. Graham found that the speed of first referral was slower for the most peripheral hospitals and the mobility outcomes i.e. SIGAM grades were similar to previous studies in other centres.

Many congratulations to all the prize winners and we look forward to many more high quality free paper presentations at the 2010 meeting of ISPO UK!

Laura Burgess (Vice Chair ISPO UK NMS)



Important news about the administration of ISPO affairs: letter from Dan Blocka, President, ISPO

Dear ISPO Colleagues:

Thanks to your continued support and participation, our Society has grown from a 1970s small group of visionaries into the world's largest and most impactful association dedicated to improving the quality of life for persons who may benefit from prosthetic, orthotic, mobility and assistive devices. We now have over 3000 members in more than 90 countries, with new National Member Societies forming almost every month, and have developed a prioritized list of important strategic Goals to be accomplished. Yet, even with the tremendous efforts of our loyal Secretariat staff in Copenhagen, we have been unable to accelerate the pace of these positive changes.

Simply adding new staff is not an effective solution, because ISPO also needs special expertise in Web site development, membership recruitment, fund raising, marketing, and similar professional organization development skills. Our Society has outgrown the traditional Secretariat model of a small office of dedicated part-time staff, yet we are not large enough to support the cost of an office filled with full-time experts in all these critical areas.

In recent years, the Society has explored outsourcing by employing part-time consultants in Information Technology, web site development, business management, and finance. However, managing a growing number of independent consultants is a challenge in itself, and it is difficult to effectively control costs as the Society's need for expert input changes.

Like many other successful professional groups, ISPO has reached the stage in the development of the Society where consideration of different management models makes sense. Over the past two years, the Board has been conscientiously evaluating the potential value of engaging an experienced and internationally focused Professional Association Management Company, based upon a worldwide Request for Proposals from accredited and experienced firms with proven track records. The multiple respondents were gradually narrowed down to the three groups that best met ISPO's needs.

After a rigorous competitive interview process and careful consideration of all implications, the Executive Board has unanimously recommended the selection of **Interel Association Management** in Brussels, Belgium [www.interel.eu] as the new Secretariat for ISPO. Mr. Thomas Reiser, **Interel's** Director for Healthcare and Life Sciences, will be leading our multinational team of professionals beginning January 1, 2010. [<http://be.linkedin.com/in/thomasreiser>] This new "shared services" administrative structure will provide flexible access to specialized staff as ISPO's changing needs require.

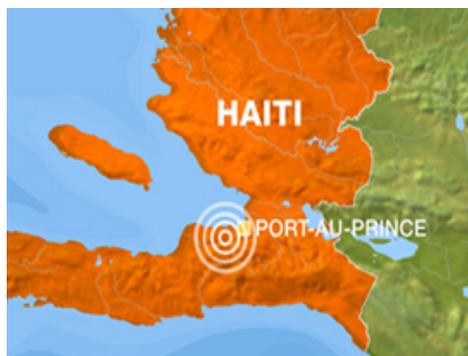
Of course, it is important for the Board to control overhead expenses because that makes more funds available to support our important programs and activities around the world. According to the best comparative data available, obtaining our administrative support within Interel is projected to cost approximately 5% less than continuing with our present Copenhagen structure. I want to make it very clear, however, that the Board did **not** recommend this change simply as a cost-containment measure but also as the most effective way to secure the specialized expertise necessary to achieve the Society's ambitious strategic Goals in a timely manner.

Thanks to the highly effective collaboration between our Copenhagen staff and our new team in Belgium, a seamless transition is already underway. Niels Petersen will remain involved during 2010 to continue his expert management of the Society finances, in collaboration with our Honorary Treasurer, Mads Harbo. ISPO will continue to be a Danish corporation, but the day-to-day administrative tasks will be handled in Belgium from January 2010. All email addresses & the ISPO website address will be unchanged, and mail to the Copenhagen address will be forwarded to Belgium for one year to insure there is no lapse in communication.

ISPO's future accomplishments will be built upon the successful foundation laid over many decades by our Secretariat. Please join me in thanking our departing Copenhagen staff for their loyalty, dedication and exemplary service to the Society. We are very grateful for everything that Birte Nielsen, Rikke Thorup and Karen Schmidt have done on behalf of the Society, and wish them all things good in the future.

Dan Blocka
President, ISPO

Haiti Earthquake Response



Healing Hands for Haiti International is responding to the powerful earthquake which struck Haiti on Jan. 12, 2010. The earthquake has collapsed buildings and caused wide-spread damage, injuries, and fatalities throughout Port-au-Prince and the countryside.

They have been working with partners to make an immediate assessment of the damage and are attempting to make contact with Healing Hands Haitian staff to ensure their safety, as well as the staff and residents of partner organizations and orphanages where so much of their time and efforts are spent. At the time of writing the status of the clinic and guesthouse sites at headquarters in Port-au-Prince are still unclear.

One of the North American medical teams is now on standby to be deployed to Haiti as soon as it is safe and possible. Assessments will be made of the immediate requirements to make a coordinated effort to respond to the specific needs of the Haitian population living with a disability. In the coming days, the number of persons with disabilities will grow dramatically, and the organisation is beginning preparations to respond to this humanitarian effort.

Prosthetic/Orthotic Workshop

Healing Hands for Haiti has been providing Prosthetic and Orthotic (P & O) services to the people of Haiti since 1998; initially they were performed by visiting prosthetists and orthotists from the U.S. and Canada. To be truly successful and sustainable, however, programs have to belong to Haitians, and the keys to success are in Haiti.



So, right from the beginning Healing Hands for Haiti has identified candidates for training. To date, more than 1,000 prostheses and orthoses have been fabricated and fitted to patients in their facility. As of today, six full time Haitian technicians produce nearly all the limbs and braces fabricated in the workshop in Port-au-Prince. North American orthotists and prosthetists now serve as supporters, helping with on-going training and co-ordination, assisted greatly by the international community. The primary care has been handed over to capable Haitian hands.

**You may wish to link to Healing Hands for Haiti to receive ongoing news
or support their rehabilitation efforts on the ground there**

www.healinghandsforhaiti.org



Research and Development

ISPO UK Chair, Paul Charlton is currently involved in two new research programmes. The first, led by Professor Ian Swain at Salisbury is looking at Assistive Technology in The Rehabilitation of Upper Limb following Stroke (ATRAS). More information may be found at www.atrasproject.org.

The following article also describes an ambitious project on developing high tech diagnostics, prescription and manufacture of foot and ankle orthoses.

Kick-off of the European project: *A-FOOTPRINT*

Glasgow Caledonian University, Newcastle University and Peacocks Medical Group are pleased to announce their involvement in *A-FOOTPRINT*, a €3.72M, EC funded project.

The *A-FOOTPRINT* kick-off meeting was held between 21st-23rd October 2009 at the offices of MATERIALISE in Leuven, Belgium. Twenty-four researchers and business people met to discuss the project and set out work plans for the following 48 months.

The overall objective of the project is to develop novel ankle/foot and foot orthoses for common disabling conditions which are cost-effective, high-speed to market, and personalised for *form* and *function*. Disabling foot and ankle conditions affect approximately 200 million European citizens. Over €300M per annum is spent treating many of these people with orthoses and splints, often relying on hand-crafted manufacturing techniques which are slow, costly and difficult to reproduce. The *A-FOOTPRINT* approach will automate processes to speed up the manufacture, delivery and supply of personalised devices exploiting digital scanning, computer-aided design and rapid manufacturing. Novel devices will be developed which are cost-effective, yet personalised to provide better fit and comfort and functional performance. Rapid provision of better orthotic devices with excellent supporting technologies and services should result in quicker recovery times, reduced symptoms and improved functional ability thus increasing the quality of life for European citizens with disabling foot and ankle conditions. Working closely with multiple stakeholders the project will also develop flexible business models sensitive to different health care models across Europe.

Organised as 9 integrating work packages the research will develop new patient information systems to enable more effective intelligent diagnostics and prescribing protocols for personalised orthoses. Computer-aided design software linked to biomechanical/gait optimisation routines will enable clinicians and technicians to design highly personalised orthoses. The capabilities of layer/additive manufacturing techniques will be developed to enable new innovative products to be developed. The research and technology developments within *A-FOOTPRINT* will be combined in a fully integrated system with the production of prototype devices demonstrated within a SME pilot factory.

A-FOOTPRINT is a 4 year project funded under the 7th Framework Programme in the Nanotechnologies, Materials and New Production Technologies Cooperation Work Programme and has an overall budget of €3.72M. The consortium comprises 13 partners across 7 European countries. With a strong focus on research for the direct benefit of SME the consortium partners are Anybody Technology AS from Denmark, Firefly Orthoses Limited from Ireland, Junquera y Diz S.L from Spain, Peacocks Medical Group from the UK, RSScan Limited from Belgium, and UAB Baltic Orthoservice from Lithuania. Academic partners are Newcastle University from the UK, K.H. Kempen University College from Belgium, and Maastricht University Medical Centre and Fontys University from the Netherlands. Industrial partners and research organisations include Materialise NV from Belgium and TNO from the Netherlands. The project will be coordinated from Glasgow Caledonian University in the UK.

PhD Studentship funded by an EPSRC Doctoral Training Award (DTA)

This studentship is available in the University of Bradford School of Engineering of Engineering, Design and Technology, West Yorkshire, UK.

Sensorimotor Control Mechanisms in Amputee Gait

The successful candidates will join the multi-disciplinary Vision and Mobility/ Biomechanics research team currently led by Dr John Buckley (Clinical Biomechanist) and Prof. David Elliott (Clinical Vision Scientist). Ongoing research is aimed primarily at understanding what, where and how different aspects of vision and visual information are used to regulate locomotion, and what biomechanical adaptations or compensatory mechanisms are used for locomotion by individuals with musculo-skeletal disorders, and/or by those with sensory impairment. The successful candidate will register to undertake their PhD within the Division of Medical Engineering, School of Engineering Design and Technology, but there will also be supervisory input from Bradford's School of Optometry and Vision Science.

The PhD will investigate the extent to which control of the prosthetic limb/foot is reliant on vision versus the sense of 'feel' from the prosthetic limb. As the sense-of-feel from the prosthetic limb is thought to be related to the mechanical loads/pressures on the residuum, the proposed study will also explore whether the reliance on using vision to control the prosthetic limb is reduced when using a prosthesis with a self-aligning foot-ankle device that is known to reduce residuum loads when walking over stairs. The studies will be conducted within the Vision and Mobility/Biomechanics lab at the University of Bradford. Research facilities include an 8-camera Vicon motion-analysis system, force plates, and EMG equipment. The project also has project partners from the Disablement Services (NHS) Centre, Manchester and from Chas A Blatchford & Sons Ltd (specialist manufactures of artificial limbs).

Candidates must have a first degree in Human Physiology, Vision Science, Medical or Bioengineering, Motor/Movement Control or a related subject.

For UK students, the studentship will cover all University of Bradford tuition fees and provide a maintenance grant of £13,290 per year, but for (non-UK) EU members it will only cover fees. Non-EU members are not eligible for this award.

Interested candidates can contact Dr John Buckley (at j.buckley@bradford.ac.uk) for informal enquiries.

Applicants should send a CV, a statement of reasons for applying for the position, and a two letters of reference (signed) to Dr Buckley at EDT5, Chesham, Richmond Road, University of Bradford, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD7 1DP

For further information about the Vision and Mobility/Biomechanics Research Group go to <http://www.brad.ac.uk/acad/lifesci/optometry/index.php/Vsarea/VisionAndMobility>

Information about the University of Bradford and its surrounds is at <http://www.brad.ac.uk/internal/index.php>



NIHR / CNO Clinical Academic Training Programme for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals

Invitation to Apply for NIHR / CNO Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowships

Following the launch of a major joint initiative for a Clinical Academic Training Programme for Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and the Chief Nursing Officer for England are pleased to announce round 2 of the NIHR / CNO Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship scheme. This scheme, managed by the NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre, is aimed at developing research capacity to support the NHS.

The NIHR / CNO Clinical Doctoral Research Fellowship (NIHR C-DRF) is aimed at graduate (post-degree) nurses, midwives and allied health professionals sited in England who have at least 1 year's experience of clinical practice since graduating; have had sufficient research experience or research training to prepare them to undertake a PhD; and wish to obtain a PhD by research whilst still developing their clinical skills.

Individuals who can demonstrate a role in, or contribution to, improving health, health care delivery or services are eligible. The fellowships provide funding for salary and research costs appropriate for a research training award.

Application packs and further information are available on the website of the NIHR Trainees Coordinating Centre (NIHR TCC) at <http://www.nihrtcc.nhs.uk/cat>

Closing date for completed applications: **1.00 pm on Tuesday 27th April 2010**