



## International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP)

### Advisory Board Meeting January 26, 2017

A meeting of the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) was held by conference call on Thursday, January 27, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time. Participants' list follows. Action items are shown in bold/underline. A copy of the presentation is attached.

**Next meeting:** By conference call, **Thursday, April 27, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time.**

Link to meeting recording: <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/p2p6l4hpzt5/>.

1. **October 27, 2016 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes:** Advisory Board members to inform ISWP staff of any changes/corrections to minutes.
2. **ISWP Accomplishments:** Jon Pearlman reviewed ISWP staff accomplishments:
  - a. **Funding:** ISWP submitted a no-cost extension request to USAID (through September 30, 2017) to complete work plan activities. Funding would be depleted at that point. The strategic plan will form the basis for a second USAID funding request, along with a strategy to secure additional funding through organization memberships and other sources.
  - b. **Relationships:** ISWP signed MOUs with ISPO and FATO and recently connected with American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) leadership to provide its members with access to the Basic test.
  - c. **Strategic Plan:** Plan is about 85% complete and was discussed later in meeting. The document incorporates feedback from the November 28 and 30, 2016 Advisory Board calls and a December 2016 membership survey.
  - d. **Affiliate Program:** Agreements for the two affiliates – Motivation Romania and Philippine Society of Wheelchair Professionals – are being processed through the University of Pittsburgh Office of Research.
  - e. **Evidence-based Practice:** 15 articles were submitted to the ISWP special issue of *African Journal of Disability*, including 4 from ISWP working groups (Integration, ToT, Standards and Comparative Effectiveness Research). ISWP's data center has

launched, with 2 studies (Teleton and UCP) uploaded and a signed data agreement with Jhpiego, with data to be uploaded soon. ISWP hopes to have 10 studies in the center, which provides the sector good opportunities to collect and evaluate a variety of data.

- f. **Product Standards:** Jon Pearlman will discuss product standards policy development and procurement with the Jojga insurance program in Indonesia as part of the UCP/Wheels for Humanity project.
- g. **Training:** ISWP selected a vendor to develop a new learning management system to house the Hybrid-Basic course and future materials that contribute to blended learning, as well as the ISWP tests. The system also will include a training management system to match organizations which need training with qualified trainers.

Regarding the Basic test, 1,152 individuals have taken the test, up 29% from October 2016. The pass rate is 74%; pass rates vary by country as many individuals, whose first language is not English, took the English version of the test. The Basic test is available in 7 languages: English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Portuguese, Romania and Urdu. Six (6) translations are in progress: Albanian, Khmer, Lao, Mandarin, Russian and Vietnamese.

3. **Working Groups' Reports:** Working Group chairs and ISWP staff presented these progress reports.

- a. **Advocacy:** Regarding the policy toolkit, The Working Group is reviewing a draft of the policy adoption toolkit; the toolkit objective is to provide resources for local stakeholders to advocate for adoption of local policies to support provision of wheelchairs through national health coverage, supplemental insurance or alternative reimbursement methods. The toolkit will include case studies in two countries (Thailand and South Africa), costing methodology for case studies and details on tenders in various countries. The goal is complete the document review in February. The second toolkit, policy implementation, will support government agencies to develop specifications within a policy and formulate an implementation plan to allow for the greatest number of users to receive appropriate wheelchairs and service in the most efficient manner.

Regarding the awareness campaign, The Working Group is reviewing wireframes of two videos – 30 seconds and 2 minutes long – to raise awareness of the need for appropriate wheelchairs and to promote ISWP. Co-branded materials were prepared for 2 organizations (Paraplegic Centre, Peshawar-Pakistan and RICD Wheelchair Project-Thailand) with 3 in development (Hope Haven Guatemala; Centro de Rehabilitacion Infatil Teleton-Mexico; and Asociacion en Defensa del Infante Neurologico-Argentina). Campaign materials have been translated in Spanish, with versions in Japanese in progress and Russian and Thai planned.

ISWP's social media following continues to grow, with over 30,000 Facebook followers (up 63% since December 2016) and 211 Twitter followers. ISWP identified a need to create more posts targeted to Africa and Latin America and translated in the

languages of those regions.

ISWP Working Group/Subcommittee members and staff will present at 2017 conferences including ISS, March, U.S.; ISPRM, April, Argentina; ISPO, May, South Africa; and RESNA, June, U.S.

- b. ***Evidence-based Practice:*** The country data collection project in Romania and Kenya will begin as soon as university contracts with the in-country partners are finalized. The minimum data set questionnaire and Excel template for collecting data are being revised based on subcommittee input, with a goal to pilot in May 2017 in Kenya. An intern has been hired to conduct a literature review for the comparative effectiveness research project; the framework will be discussed at ISS in March 2017, and a draft article will be prepared for submission to journals. Instructions and training for the data repository are being developed, along with loading additional studies and inviting organizations to contribute/access.
- c. ***Standards:*** Rolling resistance, caster and corrosion tests continue. The caster and rolling resistance test protocols are being refined, and a protocol for corrosion is being developed, as there are none known in ISO. The corrosion protocol considers region so that the test can be customized for exposure based on that region's conditions. ISWP staff will attend a May 2017 ISO meeting in Washington, DC, to promote ISWP tests as ISO tests for products in adverse environments. Free Wheelchair Mission is building a whole chair test track, with advice from ISWP and the Standards Working Group. Design guidelines are being revised based on input from Standards Working Group members and subject matter experts who attended a December 2016 meeting.
- d. ***Training:*** Three Hybrid-Basic courses have taken place (India, U.S. and Columbia) with a fourth in progress (Mexico). A five-day in-person Basic course took place in India and Mexico along with the Hybrid course. A follow-up survey has been drafted to send to participants 6-8 months after the course and is awaiting University of Pittsburgh IRB approval to release. The Hybrid Subcommittee has discussed variations of the current Hybrid program (which is 3 days online, 2 in person) to include a fully online version, condensed versions to take place in conjunction with conferences, and a version to include additional wheelchair training materials. A Hybrid one-day course will be offered at RESNA, June 2017. A presentation on the Hybrid development will take place at ISS, March 2017. The Hybrid Subcommittee is considering folding into the Integration Subcommittee as the Hybrid course development is largely complete, and the course ties into the objectives for integrating wheelchair content into university and professional training programs.

The alpha version of the Intermediate test was completed in December 2016, with 64 test takers. Test takers who passed (n=32) were invited to submit skills case studies, with the case study package also recently completed. Case studies will be reviewed as they are submitted. ISWP is recruiting 50 additional test takers for the Intermediate test to complete the beta phase. The Intermediate test will be translated into Spanish, as required by the work plan.

A new Mentoring Subcommittee has been established, with terms of reference drafted, the first call held on January 19 and a work plan to be developed. Additional members are welcome.

The Integration Subcommittee completed one-on-one interviews with 8 schools and programs regarding their experiences with integrating wheelchair training into their curricula. More interviews are planned. A paper regarding an initial survey conducted in 2015 has been submitted to the *African Journal of Disability*, and a presentation is planned for ISS, March 2017. Results of both surveys will be presented during a February 7, 2017 meeting in Geneva which is taking place as a side event to a WHO rehabilitation partners meeting. Senior leadership and education committee members from ISPO, WFOT and WCPT have been invited to discuss strategies for increasing access to education related to wheelchair provision within the curricula of rehabilitation professionals. 14 sites have expressed an interest in integration, and monthly calls are taking place with programs that are currently integrating.

Regarding other training-related activities, working group members provided feedback on the Training of Trainers (ToT) Trainee Competency Assessment (TCA) form, with a final version in development, and a version translated into French with the help of the SUDA project.

Tamsin Langford, who is stepping down as Training Working Group chair, offered her thoughts regarding training and the ISWP strategic plan, including: Importance of realistic timeframes, face-to-face planning, fluid work plans that respond to opportunities and changes in the sector, and more representation from less-resourced settings. ISWP should consider how it ties into GATE, as well as whether the focus is on education or the broader area of wheelchair service development. She suggested three priorities: 1) collaborate with key training bodies to integrate content on wheelchair provision; 2) focus on testing and the system to register those who are trained and certified; and 3) mentoring. The Board thanked Tamsin for her leadership. Mary Goldberg will serve as Training Working Group acting chair until a replacement is named.

4. **ISWP Strategic Plan:** Jon Pearlman presented highlights of an ISWP survey conducted with members in December 2016 which has helped with strategic plan development. Of 990 members contacted, 212 responded (21%), and of 95 Advisory Board and Working Group/Subcommittee (WG/SC) members contacted, 27 responded (28%). Board and WG/SC members suggested improvements in areas of: Collaboration; working groups' involvement; training and broader geographic scope and implementation of products/services. All members recommended additional products and services, including: Training and education; wheelchair products, product standards and tests; credentialing and accreditation; and advocacy campaigns tied to evidence-based practice.

A matrix of major activities in the plan showed how activities fit into the five areas of focus identified by the Strategic Planning Subcommittee: Advocacy, Training, Product Quality Standards, Evidence-based Practice and Global Information Resource. Another key activity is for ISWP to establish itself as an independent organization so it can establish formal

relationships with WHO (GATE), UN and ISO. GATE on the World Health Assembly. Michael Allen explained GATE is in an early stage, currently focusing on the APL list and how to associate training. ISWP is engaging through the ToT. Under the GATE umbrella, ISWP and ISPO would feed into GATE.

Cara Thanassi commented that funding is key to the plan. USAID recognizes the society is in a nascent stage and is committed to funding, but it is critical that ISWP diversify its funding base. Jon explained the funding and sustainability portion of the plan are in development. Jon also commented that the original vision was for ISWP to be a secretariat for less-resourced environments but has evolved to provide products and services both for non-profits and for-profits worldwide. Tamsin commented that current funding to support the sector is very low relative to the need.

The Board will receive a draft of the plan in early February, which also will be shared with the Working Groups. The goal is to incorporate all feedback and present a final plan to the Board by mid-March 2017.

5. **ISWP Board Composition:** Jon is working with UCP/Wheels for Humanity leadership to identify a replacement for Michael Allen, who is with USAID now.

## **ISWP January 26, 2017 Advisory Board Meeting Participants**

### Advisory Board:

Tamsin Langford, Motivation UK  
Tom Rolick, Consultant  
Eric Wunderlich, LDS Charities

### USAID:

Cara Thanassi (ex officio)  
Michael Allen

### Guest:

Amanda Wilkinson, CEO, Motivation

### ISWP Team at University of Pittsburgh:

Jon Pearlman, Director  
Mary Goldberg  
Nancy Augustine  
Krithika Kandavel

*Not participating:* Board -- Sue Eitel, EITEL Global; Eliana Ferretti, UNIFESP; Simon Hall, Central Remedial Clinic; Jongbae Kim, Yonsei University; Lee Kirby, Dalhousie University ; Xavier Lemire, Handicap International; Chris Lewis, American Wheelchair Mission; Hisaichi Ohnabe, Niigata University of Health and Welfare (Prof. Emeritus); Arturo Pichardo, Teleton; Elsje Scheffler, DARE Consult; Urs Schneider, Fraunhofer; Don Schoendorfer, Free Wheelchair Mission; Mark Sullivan, Consultant; and Marc Zlot, ICRC.

Ex officio -- Rob Horvath, USAID; Chapal Khasnabis, WHO and Jamie Noon.