



Revised July 9, 2018

International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) Advisory Board Meeting February 22, 2018

A meeting of the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) was held by conference call on Thursday, February 22, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time. Participants' list follows. ISWP Working Group and Subcommittee chairs were invited guests. Action items are shown in bold/underline. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Next meeting: By conference call, **Thursday, May 24, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. U.S. Eastern Standard Time, 13:00 UTC/GMT.**

Link to meeting recording: <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/p8r0yu2wqmnx/>.

1. **November 28, 2017 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes:** Advisory Board members to inform ISWP staff of any changes/corrections to minutes.
2. **Finance Report:** ISWP received or is anticipating \$1.3 million in funding, including: \$349,800 World Learning/USAID sub-award covering operations (just completed). \$450,000 RERC (Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center) grant, focusing on caster testing and rolling resistance. \$29,145 from UCP on a Google.org project to support analysis and interpretation of pilot program data; ISWP will become a coordinating center for data collection in Indonesia and Nicaragua. Approximately \$418,000 costed extension with JSI/USAID to support operations which could stretch through August 31, 2018. \$50,000 PVA (Paralyzed Veterans of America) grant to expand WIN. Donor funding of over \$270,000 which helped to fund ISWP activities. Scholarships are supporting students at Pitt.

ISWP continues to seek funding, including submitting another RERC five-year, \$1 million rehab strategies grant to support activities including large-scale data collection, WIN expansion and other ISWP initiatives. ISWP submitted a letter of interest to the Neilsen Foundation to expand WIN further. We are anticipating opportunities to request more funding from USAID to support operations, as well as exploring funding from the NATO Trust Fund and an NIH donor conference. Michael Allen indicated NIDLIRR will be coordinating a meeting with organizations involved in assistive technology to discuss the possibility of having a donor conference. Jon and Michael will keep the Board apprised.

3. **USAID Meeting, January 2018, Bangalore:** Jon Pearlman compared how the Bangalore meeting attendees' feedback aligns with ISWP strategic plan. All of the ISWP activities which participants identified as important to help them achieve their goals are included in the

strategic plan. Two items which attendees suggested as additional ISWP activities were not in the strategic plan: 1) alternative testing avenue, no single path (testing too academic, geared towards professionals and not enough practical testing [suggestion: establish regional centers of excellence]; and 2) one united strategy for the sector which links with CLASP, GATE and ISWP.

The Training Working Group has been discussing alternative testing, particularly since it has been a challenge to have people complete the skills portion of the Intermediate test.

There will be an early March 2018 meeting with the Bangalore attendees for each subgroup (Products, Provision, Personnel and Policy) to report on priorities and next steps. Michael Allen anticipates the final report will be issued in mid-March.

ISWP then will compare/contrast the Bangalore meeting recommendations with the ISWP strategic plan to determine additional strategic initiatives for the Advisory Board's consideration. Tamsin Langford commented that it would be good to find time to have a deeper discussion about this; while ISWP core team feels that the issues raised by participants at the Wheelchair Stakeholders meeting in India are, with the exception of two, covered, this does not feel like it is the feeling or understanding of the community. There is clearly work to do on this.

4. **Strategic Plan Comments:** There were several comments from Advisory Board members regarding the strategic plan which had not been addressed and were discussed on the call. Board members focused on these points:
 - a. Item #1: Tamsin Langford commented that people with disabilities and, specifically wheelchair users, are still lacking in the strategic plan and requested the Board to revisit. **Advisory Board members** to provide recommendations on how to articulate or reference better in strategic plan.
 - b. Items #3 and #6: Lee Kirby indicated he still is unclear what role ISWP would play regarding WHO guidelines revisions. He realizes they will take time and funding to accomplish and reiterated the need for evidence-based, current policies on which to base recommendations. Jon said one option would be to allow ISWP to take the lead under a collaborative agreement through a coordinating center with WHO, which ISPO, WCPT and WFOT currently have. (ISWP would apply to be a coordinating center once it is a separate entity.)

Jon explained there are different perspectives on the value of guidelines and packages in different contexts; some feel they are insufficient to train people because they do not include more recent evidence, while having the WHO name on the packages carries significant influence in some regions.

Elsje Scheffler agreed the packages need to be updated, focusing on what is the absolute

minimum that needs to be achieved across less-resourced and developed settings. It is likely not much will need to be changed for packages used in less-resourced settings. More resourced countries have a greater need to adapt and contextualize each session. For example, in South Africa, the training was revised to be in line with WHO guidelines at a completely different level with more recent evidence and newer products. She suggested two focus areas: One for more-resourced and one for less-resourced settings.

A discussion at the Bangalore meeting included a suggestion to establish regional centers of excellence or affiliates which will have contextual awareness and can adapt materials to those regions. The conversation regarding the WHO materials revisions reinforces the need for regional centers.

- c. Item #10: Complicated structure. This will be addressed as ISWP creates the separate entity.

- 5. **ISWP Separate Entity**: Establishing a separate entity is part of the World Learning work plan. ISWP has submitted forms to become a separate entity to receive a U.S. Tax ID and be incorporated in the state of Pennsylvania. ISWP has ongoing support from a pro-bono attorney in Pittsburgh to submit paperwork to become a tax-exempt organization.

While the World Learning (WL) grant ended, WL is supporting a consultant who will work with WL and ISWP in the coming months to identify governance, membership types and fee structures used by other organizations and professional societies and make recommendations to the Advisory Board. The consultant's work will include conversations with stakeholders, including the Advisory Board. **ISWP staff** will follow up with Advisory Board members to arrange the calls. The recommendations, once adopted by the Advisory Board, will lead to developing ISWP bylaws and converting the ISWP Advisory Board to a Board of Directors.

- 6. **Working Groups' Reports**:

- a. **Advocacy**: The Advocacy Working Group (WG) format is shifting to a forum structure, where guest speakers will be invited to discuss activities with a broader sector of stakeholders. The WG receives e-mail updates in the meantime. A local graphic design firm will help to finalize the advocacy toolkit. Feedback from recent stakeholder meeting hosts indicate the toolkit would be helpful in planning those types of meetings.

Social media growth continues. Facebook followers increased 4% in January 2018 versus December 2017; LinkedIn, up 5%, and Twitter, up 1%, in same time period. Website traffic was down slightly down, mostly as a result of not running paid social media campaigns. We anticipate that will increase when the advocacy toolkit is launched, and other campaigns occur.

ISWP staff and representatives spoke at 28 conferences in 2017.

- b. **Training:** 2,298 individuals have taken the ISWP Basic test as of January 31, 2018, which is available in 14 languages: Albanian, Arabic, English, French, Hindi, Khmer, Lao, Mandarin, Portuguese, Spanish, Romanian, Russian, Urdu and Vietnamese. 332 individuals have taken the ISWP Intermediate knowledge test during the same time period – 294 in English, and 38 in Spanish. Nineteen (19) individuals provided case studies for the skills assessment portion.

Phases 1 and 2 of the mentoring pilot recently ended, with 18 participants and 4 mentors. Phase 3 is under way, with 7 participants and 1 mentor. There is a waitlist of 40 individuals; ISWP is recruiting additional mentors to support Phase 4 and to meet ongoing demand. Mentors must pass the Basic test and the Intermediate knowledge and skills tests. They are provided with a modest stipend for time and contributions. The Training Working Group Competency SC discussed mentor recruiting on its February 21 monthly call. **Advisory Board members** are invited to recommend prospective mentors.

University of Pittsburgh PhD student Alex Miles is leading Phase 4 of the mentoring pilot as the basis for her dissertation; 15 trainees and 2 mentors will participate. She is planning additional one-on-one interviews to determine what is in published literature and to identify state-of-the-art practices in mentoring to ensure the intervention is informed by current best practices.

Regarding integration, ISWP completed developing online content for WSTP-Basic modules B1-B14; quizzes and activities are being added. Presentations by integration partners Universidad CES and Federal University of Sao Paulo (UNIFESP) took place in late 2017. Jon Pearlman talked with ISPO Wheelchair Advisory Group representatives in Bangalore in January, as ongoing follow-up to the February 2017 meeting with ISPO, ISPRM, WCPT and WFOT. A manuscript regarding integration interviews with universities and training programs is in development. And, a task force is developing an integration toolkit, which will be launched at the May 2018 WFOT World Congress.

Regarding the Wheelchair Service Provider Credential, a nine-member Professional Standards Board (PSB) was established and met by conference call in December 2017 and February 2018, with the next call on April 17. February call objective: Approve ethical standards of practice and certification process. Next, the PSB will review a marketing and launch plan, which will be submitted to the Advisory Board for approval.

ISWP received donor funding to create online content for WHO WSTP-Training of Trainers materials. The course will be piloted in Los Angeles and Mexico City in early summer 2018.

Advisory Board members are invited to submit nominations for the Training Working Group chair and anyone who would like to be involved the February 28 Training WG call regarding Training of Trainers' online module development.

- c. **Evidence-based Practice:** ISWP is incorporating feedback on the minimum data set from University of Washington, the Google User's Voice project pilot in Indonesia and a University of Pittsburgh biostatistician. The final questionnaires and tools will be posted to the ISWP website in the next two months.

Lee Kirby suggested the Evidence-based Practice Working Group review current evidence in specific areas, such as pressure sores, and publish a review to be updated periodically. The current evidence also could be used to help with updating WHO materials.

Jon Pearlman and Nancy Augustine to discuss with Padmaja Kankipati, Evidence-based Practice Working Group chair.

- d. **Standards:** Mark Sullivan stepped down as the Standards Working Group chair. Jon thanked Mark for his exceptional leadership and accomplishments.

The Design Considerations document has been disseminated and updated ([link](#)). The document will be updated periodically to reflect additional testing and new test methods.

A drawings repository has been created on the ISWP website to freely publish test equipment blueprints, with a goal to lower barriers for other groups worldwide to do testing. Drawings for a testing dummy have been published to date, which one collaborator used recently. Durability and stability testing systems drawings and instructions are in development.

ISWP received outside resources to build a rolling resistance testing system at Pitt. LeTourneau University is making design changes to its rolling resistance system.

Pitt has conducted testing on dozens of casters to date, including corrosion, shock, bearing and tire wear. Technical specifications for caster testing are being drafted to submit to ISO before a May 2018 ISO meeting in Nairobi. ISO is hosting a full day of plenaries regarding wheelchair testing in less-resourced settings. ISWP has two submissions to speak: Challenges of doing testing and challenges of product quality in less-resourced settings.

The online wheelchair product list is part of an internal review of ISWP's IT systems and will be redesigned this year.

Free Wheelchair Mission is developing a test track which can test four chairs at one time. The Standards Working Group has provided advice. Pitt has done some data collection and provided to validate FWM's equipment. If the Standards Working Group thinks it is a good initiative for ISWP to take on, ISWP may consider finding resources for building a test track in Pittsburgh.

ISWP February 22, 2018 Advisory Board Meeting

Participants

Advisory Board:

Lee Kirby, Dalhousie University
Tamsin Langford, Motivation UK
Elsje Scheffler, DARE Consult
Eric Wunderlich, LDS Charities

Working Group/Subcommittee Chairs (guests)

Paula Rushton, University of Montreal
Perth Rosen, UCP/Wheels for Humanity

ISWP Team:

Jon Pearlman, Director
Mary Goldberg
Nancy Augustine
Krithika Kandavel

Ex-Officio:

Michael Allen, USAID

Not participating:

Board – Sue Eitel, EITEL Global; Eliana Ferretti, UNIFESP; David Grunwald, UCP/Wheels for Humanity; Simon Hall, Central Remedial Clinic; Jongbae Kim, Yonsei University; Xavier Lemire, Handicap International; Chris Lewis, American Wheelchair Mission; Jess Markt, ICRC; Hisaichi Ohnabe, Niigata University of Health and Welfare (Prof. Emeritus); Arturo Pichardo, Teleton; Tom Rolick, Consultant; Urs Schneider, Fraunhofer; Don Schoendorfer, Free Wheelchair Mission; and Mark Sullivan, Consultant

Ex officio –Chapal Khasnabis, WHO; Jamie Noon, Consultant; and Cara Thanassi, USAID.