



International Society of Wheelchair Professionals | wheelchairnet.ORG
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International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) Advisory Board Meeting April 27, 2017

A meeting of the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) was held by conference call on Thursday, April 27, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:35 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, July 27, 2017, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. U.S. Eastern Daylight Time, 13:00 UTC/GMT.**

Link to meeting recording: <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/pkol8I5sts5b/>

1. **February 16 and 17, 2017 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes:** Advisory Board members to inform ISWP staff of any changes/corrections to minutes which were included with the ISWP strategic plan sent to the Board on April 13, 2017.
2. **ISWP Accomplishments:** Jon Pearlman reviewed ISWP accomplishments:
 - a. **Funding:** ISWP is finalizing a no-cost extension request for JSI/USAID to complete work plan activities. The extension may be through August 30 or September 30, 2017, budget permitting. 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. **Affiliate Program:** Contracts are in place with Motivation Romania and Philippine Society of Wheelchair Professionals (PSWP). Rosie Gowran, PhD, University of Limerick, has been contracted to facilitate the project. PSWP provided a preliminary report on wheelchair service provision needs assessment in country.

ISWP requested affiliates complete work by May 31. Project timeline would be extended if no-cost extension is approved. More time would result in a more comprehensive product.

- c. **Evidence-based Practice:** Review of articles for the ISWP special issue of *African Journal of Disability* will be completed in May. The journal will include 4 articles from ISWP working groups (Integration, ToT, Standards and Comparative Effectiveness Research).

ISWP's data center includes 3 studies: Jhpiego (Kenya and Philippines), Teleton (Mexico) and UCP (Indonesia). The World Vision ACCESS project data will be added in July 2017. Lee Kirby and team at Dalhousie University are testing data center access and retrieval. ISWP is preparing an invitation to Working Group members to participate in the center, followed by a general launch.



Karen Rispin, LeTourneau University, is testing the minimum data set questionnaire in Kenya in May 2017. ISWP will post the questionnaire, questionnaire guide and Excel tool on the ISWP website for all members' access.

- d. **Product Standards:** Jon Pearlman will attend an ISO meeting at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in May to present the ISWP tests. ISWP has been working with CLASP on its funding request to develop a products review committee. If CLASP is funded again, ISWP will help to review products for the CLASP product list. ISWP has testing contracts in place with LDS Charities and CITE/MIT.
- e. **Training:** Over 1,400 individuals (1,448) have taken the Basic test, up 25% from December 31, 2016. The test is available in 7 languages: English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Portuguese, Romania and Urdu. Three (3) languages are being validated and finalized by subject matter experts: Khmer, Mandarin and Russian. Three (3) translations are in progress: Albanian, Lao and Vietnamese.

Jon presented prototype wireframes for the Wheelchair International Network (WIN), currently in development. WIN is an online platform which will support coordinated training efforts around the world so wheelchair sector stakeholders (service providers, trainer, trainee) can make informed decisions about where to host, attend or advocate for training in a particular region. WIN also will include a learning management system which will house ISWP tests and training materials – both from ISWP and other organizations. Wireframes were built around smartphones, but the application also will work on computers and tablets. Anticipated launch is June 2017.

- f. **Membership:** The Membership Working Group met on March 10, 2017 to discuss the sustainability section of the strategic plan.

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

- a. **Advocacy:** A draft of the policy toolkit will be presented at ISPO, Cape Town, May 8-11, 2017. The toolkit also will be piloted in Romania and the Philippines as part of the Affiliates project and presented at a stakeholders' meeting in Colombia in June 2017. 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.

Sue Eitel asked whether ISWP is working with GATE, which also is developing a toolkit. Jon and Chapal have discussed both organizations' work. The GATE assessments are across AT; ISWP's toolkit is wheelchair specific and will complement the GATE project.

Awareness campaign videos – 30 seconds and 2 minutes long – are in production. Visuals have been reviewed to ensure wheelchair users have appropriate chairs.

Co-branded marketing materials were prepared for 2 organizations -- Hope Haven Guatemala and Asociacion en Defensa del Infante Neurologico-Argentina. Campaign materials are being translated in Japanese, Portuguese and Brazilian dialect of Portuguese, with Russian and Thai versions planned.

ISWP has a growing social media presence with 52,000 Facebook followers (up 76% since December 2016) and 227 Twitter followers (up 7% since December 2016).

ISWP Working Group/Subcommittee members and staff will present at 2017 conferences including: ISPRM, April, Argentina; ISPO, May, South Africa; Colombian Seating Symposium, June, Colombia; RESNA, June, U.S.; International Health Conference, June, UK; Latin American Seating Symposium, September, Argentina; and OTARG Congress, Ghana, September.

Since ISWP is presenting information about the Hybrid-Basic course at industry conferences, Tamsin Langford requested a presentation be made during an upcoming Board call, and the Board receive a copy of the Hybrid pilot report when it is completed. Tamsin also suggested we clarify when the conference session is a Hybrid workshop to raise awareness of the training or a Hybrid training event, where trainees participate in the Hybrid course.

- b. ***Evidence-based Practice***: The country data collection project in Kenya is under way. Sue Eitel suggested ISWP provide Skillpark (Norah Keitany) access to the Jhpiego study since similar data was collected. Nancy Augustine to arrange. Nancy Augustine to send Board members a copy of the ISWP data collection matrix. Similar data will be collected in the Philippines and Romania as part of the affiliate project.

The minimum data set questionnaire, questionnaire guide and Excel template for collecting data have been finalized and will be posted on the ISWP website, Resources Hub section. Karen Rispin will pilot the questionnaire in May 2017 in Kenya.

The Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) Subcommittee hopes to hire a summer 2017 intern to conduct a literature review and prepare a draft article for submission to journals. Johan Borg, Lund University, Sweden, and CER Subcommittee member, has been contracted by WHO to identify tools to measure outcomes related to assistive devices – products beyond wheelchairs – such as function, participation level and economic impact. The project is expected to be completed in August 2017. Johan feels the WHO and CER Subcommittee projects will complement each other.

Instructions and training for the data repository are being developed. Working Group members will be invited to contribute/access data following completion of the pilot with Dalhousie University.

- c. **Standards:** Rolling resistance, caster and corrosion tests continue. LeTourneau University students, who are working on rolling resistance, provided measurements of resistance of different tires at different wheelchair and user weights. University of Pittsburgh, where caster testing is taking place, is using field data to fine-tune the testing protocol. The salt fog chamber for testing corrosion is up and running; companies are invited to submit products for testing. Jon Pearlman 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.

A design considerations document is being finalized.

- d. **Training:** Hybrid-Basic courses have taken place in India, U.S., Columbia and Mexico. A five-day in-person Basic course took place in India and Mexico along with the Hybrid course. Results of the India pilot were presented at ISS, March 2017. University of Pittsburgh IRB approved a follow-up survey to send to participants 6-8 months after the course. A Hybrid one-day course will be offered at RESNA, June 2017. Workshops to raise awareness of the Hybrid course will take place at ISPO Latin America Uniting Frontiers conference, Mexico, June 2017, and International Health Conference, UK, July 2017. An analysis of Hybrid pilot results is under way and will be distributed to the Training Working Group and Advisory Board. As a next step following completion of the Hybrid pilots, the Hybrid Subcommittee merged into the Integration Subcommittee.

Beta version of the Intermediate test was completed. All questions were reviewed by subject matter experts; revisions were made and uploaded to test.com. Case study materials also were completed by subject matter experts. Intermediate test takers who passed the knowledge test were invited to submit skills case studies. Four individuals have submitted case studies so far. To this point, subject matter experts who developed the test and assessment have reviewed the studies. Volunteers will be recruited to review future submissions. **Krithika Kandavel** to provide Tamsin Langford with criteria used to select case study volunteers. The Intermediate test (both knowledge and skills portions) has been translated into Spanish.

Regarding the Basic test, 1,448 individuals have the test. **Krithika Kandavel** to provide data on number and percentage who passed. A trainee is required to score 70% to pass.

The Mentoring Subcommittee will develop a program to mentor trainees who do not pass the Intermediate skills test. Since the Intermediate test development is largely completed, the Testing Subcommittee recommended merging into the Mentoring Subcommittee.

The Integration Subcommittee completed one-on-one interviews with 11 schools and programs regarding their experiences with integrating wheelchair training into their curricula. A paper regarding an initial survey conducted in 2015 was accepted to the *African Journal of Disability*, and a presentation on integration initiatives took place at ISS, March 2017. ISWP and WHO hosted a meeting with senior representatives from ISPO,

ISPRM, WCPT and WFOT on February 7, 2017 in Geneva to discuss strategies for increasing access to education related to wheelchair provision within the curricula of rehabilitation professionals. An action plan is being finalized. Regular calls are taking place with 14 universities/training programs interested or experienced in integration.

Regarding other training-related activities, the Training of Trainers (ToT) Trainee Competency Assessment (TCA) form has been finalized and posted on the ISWP website in the Resources Hub. The TCA will be translated into French with the help of the SUDA project.

4. **Wheelchair Service Provider Credential:** Three subject matter experts (Tchai Xavier, Eliana Ferretti and Dietlind Gretschel) provided input on the proposed credential. A pilot with 40 participants (20 U.S. and 20 international) will begin on May 8, 2017. ISWP will hold a discussion forum following the pilot to present results and gather feedback. Tamsin expressed concern that the project was added without the Training Working Group's input.
5. **ISWP Strategic Plan:** ISWP Board members received a copy of the strategic plan on April 13, 2017. The plan incorporates most recent feedback from February 2017 Board calls and e-mail correspondence. Major changes based on Board feedback include: Consistent terminology for goals, strategies and objectives; organization chart and description of structure; expanded sustainability plan; areas of focus clarified -- Advocacy and Education; and SWOT analysis added to the Appendix. The following strategies were added: Training on maintenance/repair; training program tailored for volunteers at non-profits who support wheelchair deliveries; and funding strategy to partner with non-profits such as Free Wheelchair Mission and American Wheelchair Mission.

Board members are asked to vote on the plan by Friday, May 5, 2017 using this link:
<https://survey.zohopublic.com/zs/EoB0Zi>.

ISWP April 27, 2017 Advisory Board Meeting

Participants

Advisory Board:

Sue Eitel, EITEL Global
Tamsin Langford, Motivation UK
Tom Rolick, Consultant
Eric Wunderlich, LDS Charities

USAID:

Michael Allen

ISWP Team at University of Pittsburgh:

Jon Pearlman, Director
Nancy Augustine
Krithika Kandavel

Not participating: Board --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 -- Chapal Khasnabis, WHO; Jamie Noon, Consultant; and Cara Thanassi, USAID.