



International Society of Wheelchair Professionals | wheelchairnet.ORG  
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## International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) Advisory Board Meeting November 28, 2017

A meeting of the International Society of Wheelchair Professionals (ISWP) was held by conference call on Tuesday, November 28, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time. Participants' list follows. Action items are shown in bold/underline. A copy of the presentation is attached.

ISWP Working Group and Subcommittee chairs were invited to attend the Board meeting in lieu of the regularly-scheduled WG/SC chairs' call on December 1.

**Next meeting:** By conference call, **Thursday, February 22, 2018, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. U.S. Eastern Standard Time, 14:00 UTC/GMT.**

Link to meeting recording: <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/pnd7hmw9bkw6/>

1. **New ISWP Advisory Board member:** Jon welcomed Jess Markt, Disability Sport and Inclusion Advisor, ICRC, as a new Advisory Board member, replacing Marc Zlot.
2. **April 27, 2017 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes:** Advisory Board members to inform ISWP staff of any changes/corrections to minutes.
3. **ISWP Accomplishments:** Jon Pearlman reviewed ISWP accomplishments:
  - a. **Goals Related to JSI/USAID Sub-award:** ISWP met or exceeded 14 of 15 goals established as part of the initial JSI/USAID sub-award. Jon explained that the goal of providing 5,000 wheelchairs was difficult to achieve due to cost, as well as the fact that many ISWP member organizations sell wheelchairs, making it difficult for ISWP to choose which wheelchairs to purchase without negatively impacting members. ISWP appreciates the Board's and Working Groups'/Subcommittees' support in achieving these goals.
  - b. **Sector Meetings:** Activities continue following the February 2017 meeting in Geneva with representatives from ISPO, ISPRM, WCPT, WFOT and WHO including: 1) ISPO has established a wheelchair advisory group, and ISWP is a member; 2) WCPT is promoting more wheelchair training content through an arrangement with Physiopedia, an online learning platform; and c) ISWP is providing input on WFOT's action plan.

Jon Pearlman attended the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/WHO meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil, November 9-10 regarding research in Latin America and other partnership opportunities.



Jon also attended a stakeholder meeting in Kiev, Ukraine, November 16, in conjunction with UCP/Wheels for Humanity to support development of clinical and product standards.

- c. **WIN:** ISWP did a soft launch of the Wheelchair International Network learning management and training platform during the Spanish credential pilot in October and presented to the Training Working Group in November 2017. A webinar and launch to the full ISWP membership are planned in the coming month.
- d. **Affiliate Program:** ISWP affiliates in Philippines and Romania each held three stakeholder meetings. The organizations also completed their wheelchair needs assessment reports and strategic plans. Rosie Gowran, PhD, University of Limerick, served as affiliate coordinator and has provided her report on the initiative.
- e. **USAID Strategic Planning Meeting, January 2018:** USAID/World Learning is sponsoring the January 15-18, 2018 meeting in Bangalore, India; ISWP is co-hosting. The meeting objective is to establish a long-term plan for the global wheelchair sector and funding. Jon will present ISWP's strategic plan in order to determine which activities are aligned with USAID goals and can be funded. (ISWP would fundraise for activities not funded as part of USAID's strategic priorities.) Tamsin Langford suggested the Advisory Board provide input on ISWP activities to advocate for during the meeting. **Jon Pearlman** to provide Board with summary of ISWP strategic plan goals and strategies for input.
- f. **ISWP Special Issue, African Journal of Disability:** The ISWP special issue included 16 papers on wheelchairs in less-resourced environments. The publication is open source; articles can be found here: <http://www.ajod.org/index.php/ajod>; search for "Wheelchair-related topics for less-resourced environments (LREs)."

4. **Wheelchair Service Provider Credential Professional Standards Board (PSB):** The nine-member PSB is comprised of individuals representing education, NGOs/clinicians, industry, policy advocates and end users, as well as ISWP. The Board will hold its first meeting in December. Board responsibilities include: Approving an ISWP Code of Ethics; reviewing Wheelchair Service Trainer (WST) submissions; suggesting modifications to the initial certification requirements and WST recognition process; and providing continued feedback on the program.

Tamsin Langford expressed concern there was not sufficient representation from less-resourced environments. Mary Goldberg explained that representatives may live in a developed country but have worked in less-resourced countries. Seven of nine PSB members work predominantly in LREs. Of the two representatives who do not – Susan Cwiertnia and Paula Rushton – Paula chairs the Integration Subcommittee and currently is deeply involved in LRE integration.

5. **ISWP Financial Report:** ISWP has \$1.2 million in grants/sub-awards approved or pending, with an additional \$276,000 in donor funding. Scholarships for master's degree and Ph.D. students working on ISWP projects total \$72,600. Also noted is \$2.5 million in completed sub-awards and grants. Additional grants are planned to support WIN expansion (Paralyzed Veterans of America Research Foundation and Neilsen Foundation). ISWP is exploring additional funding opportunities including NATO Trust Fund, a National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) training grant, and a National Institutes of Health (NIH) donor conference.
6. **ISWP Communications and Outreach:** ISWP continues to have a strong social media presence with 65,521 Facebook followers, 394 LinkedIn followers and 279 Twitter followers as of November 20, 2017. Social media outlets have continued to see steady increases in followers. Traffic to ISWP's websites, [wheelchairnet.org](http://wheelchairnet.org) and [wheelprogress.org](http://wheelprogress.org), has slowed, yet the number of page views per session -- averaging over 3 pages per session since January 2017 -- indicates visitors are staying on the site longer and engaging with the content. ISWP staff or member representatives spoke at 21 conferences, January –November 2017.
7. **Working Groups' Reports:**
  - a. **Advocacy:** Advocacy Working Group members are providing final input on the advocacy toolkit, which will be turned over to a graphics firm to finalize. ISWP will be launching an [awareness video](#) in conjunction with the December 3 International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The 30-second and 1-minute videos in English and Spanish raise awareness of the need for appropriate wheelchairs and services and promote ISWP membership.
  - b. **Training:** 2,179 individuals have taken the ISWP Basic test, which is available in 14 languages: Albanian, Arabic, English, French, Hindi, Khmer, Lao, Mandarin, Portuguese, Spanish, Romanian, Russian, Urdu and Vietnamese. 297 individuals have taken the ISWP Intermediate knowledge test, with 8 individuals providing case studies for the skills assessment portion.

Phase 1 of the mentoring pilot recently ended, with 12 participants and 3 mentors. Phase 2 is under way, with 12 participants. Phase 3 recruiting also is under way. ISWP is pleased to report there is a waitlist of 40 individuals; ISWP will recruit additional mentors to support the demand, with more sessions taking place in 2018.

The Integration Subcommittee has hosted 6 presentations by integration partners who presented opportunities and challenges with integrating wheelchair service education into their curricula. There are 15 integration partners currently; calls are held bimonthly.

Two pilots of the Wheelchair Service Provider Credential have taken place: English, 39 participants; 24 completed. Spanish, 59 participants; 36 completed. Participants represented 12 countries. Next step is to analyze pilot results.

- c. **Evidence-based Practice:** The country data collection project in Kenya is complete. ISWP will post the wheelchair needs data from Kenya, Romania and Philippines on the ISWP website.

Karen Rispin, LeTourneau University, used the minimum data set questionnaire, questionnaire guide and Excel template with 107 primary and secondary school students in Kenya in May 2017. LeTourneau and Pitt IRBs approved the data transfer. UCP/Wheels for Humanity is using the questionnaire as part of the Google Wheelchair User's Voice project with 150 clients in Indonesia.

The Comparative Effectiveness Research (CER) framework among the 16 articles in the ISWP special issue of African Journal of Disability.

Dalhousie University used the ISWP data center to conduct additional analyses of the Jhpiego study in Kenya and Philippines; the paper will be published soon. ISWP, with Pitt IRB approval, is moving the data center from the University of Pittsburgh Health Sciences Research Data Center to the Archive of Data on Disability to Enable Policy and Research (ADDEP). It is a joint initiative of the Center for Large Data Research & Data Sharing in Rehabilitation (CLDR) and Inter-University Consortium for Political & Social Research (ICPSR), 750+ academic institutions. The move will allow members' studies greater exposure and opportunity for secondary analyses.

- d. **Standards:** Rolling resistance and caster tests continue. ISWP plans to develop a new caster durability testing protocol based on caster failure evidence from the field. To collect evidence on caster failures in a standardized manner, ISWP developed and published a [caster failure checklist](#) and an [information guide](#) for checklist users. The checklist also is available in Spanish: [Spanish Checklist](#) and [Information Guide](#). ISWP invites technicians and clinicians at wheelchair service centers are able to use these resources to inform the ISWP caster testing protocol.

Free Wheelchair Mission continues to make progress on whole chair test track with advice from ISWP and the Standards Working Group.

The ISWP [Design Considerations](#) document has been finalized and is available on the ISWP website Resource Hub. Pitt interns are working on a repository of testing equipment drawings that will be available to members through a Creative Commons license.

## ISWP November 28, 2017 Advisory Board Meeting

### Participants

#### Advisory Board:

Sue Eitel, EITEL Global  
Eliana Ferretti, UNIFESP  
Lee Kirby, Dalhousie University  
Tamsin Langford, Motivation UK  
Jess Markt, ICRC  
Hisaiichi Ohnabe, Niigata University of Health and Welfare (Prof. Emeritus)  
Elsje Scheffler, DARE Consult  
Mark Sullivan, Consultant

#### Working Group/Subcommittee Chairs (guests)

Paula Rushton, University of Montreal

#### ISWP Team:

Jon Pearlman, Director  
Nancy Augustine  
Mary Goldberg

#### Not participating:

Board – David Grunwald, UCP/Wheels for Humanity; Simon Hall, Central Remedial Clinic; Jongbae Kim, Yonsei University; Xavier Lemire, Handicap International; Chris Lewis, American Wheelchair Mission; Arturo Pichardo, Teleton; Tom Rolick, Consultant; Urs Schneider, Fraunhofer; Don Schoendorfer, Free Wheelchair Mission; and Eric Wunderlich, LDS Charities

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