



## ISWP Membership Working Group

### March 10, 2017 Meeting Recap

The ISWP Membership Working Group met by conference call on Friday, March 10, 2017. Two calls were held: 6:30 a.m. - 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. U.S. Eastern Time. This provides a recap.

#### Link to Meeting Recordings:

- 6:30 a.m.: <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/p12p27vhhbb>
- 9:00 a.m.: <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/p52m01pqtxk>

**Next Meeting:** TBD

**Call Objective:** Discuss ISWP strategic plan sustainability plan (copy attached).

#### Discussion (action items in bold/underline)

1. **Current Funding:** ISWP currently is funded primarily through a USAID grant (90% of income) with some funding through donations and other small grants (10% of income). The current grant ends June 30, 2017; ISWP has requested a no-cost extension through September 30, 2017 and will request additional USAID funding but will be seeking other funding sources, as well. The organization still is in a nascent phase and needs core support while building additional revenue streams.
2. **Memberships:**
  - a. Individual memberships: Will continue to be free, with a la carte paid services for training, testing and credentialing for people in high-resourced settings.
  - b. Organizational memberships: Will be designed so organizations see return on investment for services they will pay for a benefit from; e.g., training, product listing and access to emerging markets.
1. **Role of advocacy:** Rosie Gowran commented it is important for ISWP to encourage and work with in-country stakeholders to adopt a common advocacy message to raise awareness of appropriate wheelchairs and services. A framework is necessary to engage governments, support those working in the field and speak with a united voice. An advocacy initiative could provide income for ISWP which would coordinate efforts and provide in-country solutions. Other Working Group members agreed.

Bart Van der Heyden explained that much of Europe's healthcare provision is conducted by certificate organizations; however, they do not have a strong knowledge of seating. There is a huge gap in training and an opportunity for ISWP to be involved in training curriculum for seating. Other EU countries have limited OT training. ISWP, as a neutral organization, could

provide important services. Bart suggested approaching universities and training programs, as well as local governments to effect change. ISWP also could offer to review current training programs and design courses. Bart thinks European countries would be interested.

Chandra Whetstone commented that based on World Vision's experience with the ACCESS project, governments want people – not manufacturers – to demand change. People include wheelchair users, DPOs and churches working with clients. It would be important for these groups to indicate what they would like to see as the standard, and present that to governments and universities. She acknowledged the approach will vary by location.

Group also discussed importance of ISWP's presence at in-country conferences on assistive technology; for example, there is a neuro-rehab conference, February/March 2018, in India, which will include key stakeholders. **Membership Working Group** members to suggest conferences where ISWP should be present.

2. **Emerging markets:** Prashant commented that many companies are beginning to focus on emerging markets. Prashant and Jon Pearlman spoke with several companies at ESS/Dublin, June 2016 and Rehacare/Dusseldorf, September 2016. Smaller companies, in particular, need assistance to grow market share.
3. **Membership costs:** Rosie Gowran commented that membership costs looked high. ISWP would need to be clear about what members receive in return.
4. **World Congress:** A long-term goal of ISWP is to consider holding an ISWP World Congress, which would enable ISWP to engage stakeholders, showcase work done around the world, promote research and demonstrate outcomes. Rosie Gowran commented that the Congress should aim to have certain goals/objectives completed by the following Congress – not to hold a conference for the sake of having one. Jon Pearlman explained a Congress would need to be self-sustaining, at a minimum. One option is to piggyback on other in-country Congresses to build consensus. Or, consider holding in-country/regional conferences initially before considering a World Congress. While the conference would be held in a specific region, anyone is welcome to attend.

**Rachel Schmidt** will mention ISWP's activities at the next Australian Rehabilitation & Assistive Technology Association (ARATA) Board meeting.

5. **Other funding mechanisms:** Rosie Gowran mentioned two funding opportunities for ISWP's consideration: Horizon 2020 and Marie Curie international partnership building. **Rosie Gowran** to send information to ISWP.

**Participants:**

- ✓ Stephen Crooks, Joni and Friends
- ✓ Rosie Gowran, University of Limerick
- ✓ Ricardo Guzman, Consultant
- Simon Hall, Central Remedial Clinic, Dublin
- ✓ Padmaja Kankipati, SMOI
- Patty Kummick, University of Pittsburgh
- ✓ Maggie Lamiell, MSH
- ✓ Natasha Layton, Natasha Layton & Associates
- Girvan MacCorkell, Moorings Mediquip Group
- Jeffrey Morris, UK Board of ESS
- Gearoid O'Herlihy, MD, MMS Medical
- Alison Porter-Armstrong, University of Ulster
- Manuel Ribeiro, Mobilitec
- Marie Abou Saab, SESOBEL
- ✓ Rachel Elliott Schmidt, Schmidt Consultancy
- Andrew Semple, HSE
- ✓ Prashant Singh, SMOI (*Chair*)
- ✓ Mariana Vale, Mobilitec
- ✓ Bart Van Der Heyden, Super-Seating
- Jamie Walsh, Comfort Company
- ✓ Chandra Whetstine, World Vision
- Rory Cooper, University of Pittsburgh
- Mary Goldberg, University of Pittsburgh
- ✓ Jonathan Pearlman, University of Pittsburgh
- ✓ Krithika Kandavel, University of Pittsburgh
- ✓ Nancy Augustine, University of Pittsburgh

Prepared by: Nancy Augustine