



UK BULLETIN

JUNE 2008

Notes from Paul Charlton, ISPO UK Chairman:

THE ethos of ISPO is an exciting one; I enjoy the academic stimulation of bringing together different professions to share views on common themes. We have at this year's conference chosen the theme of "Osteo-arthritis of the medial compartment of the knee" and sought experts in the field of orthotics, bio-engineering, physiotherapy and surgery to share evidence for best practice and promote discussion and debate. For details please see the latest flyer.



The pressures of work have sadly led to the need for two of our committee members to step down. John Howitt has done a fantastic job as treasurer and steered the society through some difficult times. Similarly, Steven Laird has been very active over many years with the scientific committee and has been instrumental in putting together a significant number of past conferences. We are all very grateful to both of them for their contribution to the society.

THE departure of John and Steve means there are now vacancies on the UK Executive committee. Because many of the committee members have been around for a number of years there is a tendency to assume that there is no shortage of the 'usual suspects' to fill the vacancies. This is far from being the case and the society would really like to welcome some new blood onto the committee. The job is not particularly onerous, with just two formal meetings of the committee each year. (Having said that, we do need enthusiastic members, prepared to play a part in organising the scientific meeting for example, as well as attend the meetings.) If you think you might be interested in helping with the running of the society please don't hesitate to contact me, another committee member or Irene, our secretary.



**YOUR
SOCIETY
NEEDS
YOU!**

WE have in our national society two international executive committee members, Sandra Sexton for education and Rajiv Hanspal, who has recently been appointed to the Nominations Committee. They, along with Dan Blocka, the President of ISPO, will be presenting papers in Chester and I very much look forward to their update of ISPO activities.



ALTHOUGH there is a strong orthotic component in this year's meeting, with the session on the osteo-arthritic knee, in general there has been a progressive lack of research activity in orthotics and this has been reflected in the reducing number of free papers submitted for or scientific meetings. If you are aware of any on-going orthotic research and can persuade those doing it to share their work with the society, please encourage them to submit a free paper.



THIS year's Blatchford Lecture has a particularly topical flavour. It will be given by Prof. Peter Brueggemann of Cologne, whose area of expertise is the biomechanics of sport. His measurements of the double amputee athlete Oscar Pistorius running concluded that his two carbon fibre prosthetic feet confer an advantage over a non-amputee, as a result of which it was decided that he was not eligible to participate in the Olympic Games. Prof Brueggemann's findings were disputed and, on appeal, the ban was repealed. It will be fascinating to hear the details of the measurements.

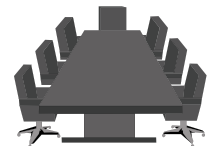
SINCE the latest flyer was printed we are delighted that the orthopaedic surgeon participating in our session on the osteo-arthritic knee has been confirmed as Ronan Banim. Mr Banim is an orthopaedic consultant at The Countess of Chester Hospital and his research interests include the treatment of arthritis by osteotomy and articular cartilage repair techniques.



WHILST ISPO has not traditionally been involved in the political arena, the way our services are delivered has put huge pressures on our members and our ability to function as a society. To that end, I am in close dialogue with Steve Mottram, Chair of BAPO who have similar problems and Karen Middleton who is the lead for AHPs at the department of health. We hope to bring together the main stakeholders in an attempt to bring some stability to our environment. I believe with our broad base of background in our membership we can offer a voice of concern for the service as a whole and its impact on those who access it.



CHRIS Morris is helping to pull together a consensus conference on orthotic management of children with cerebral palsy. A short article by Chris is presented below.



I look forward to seeing you all in Chester.

Paul Charlton

Recent Developments in Health Care for Cerebral Palsy: Implications and Opportunities for Orthotics

An international, multidisciplinary meeting is being held to review the current evidence for the physical management of cerebral palsy. The project is entirely funded by ISPO and being hosted by UK NMS members David Condie and Chris Morris with the assistance of ISPO Executive Board member John Fisk (USA). A key aim of the meeting is to identify the implications and opportunities for orthotic research and clinical practice. The meeting follows the influential and hugely successful ISPO consensus conference on the lower limb orthotic management of cerebral palsy held in 1994; however the scope of the upcoming meeting has been expanded to also include hip subluxation, scoliosis and upper limb.

The meeting is being held at Wolfson College, Oxford from the 8th to the 11th of September 2008. Similar in format to other ISPO consensus conferences, each session will comprise presentation of reviews, followed by plenary and small group discussions, leading to conclusions and recommendations. The first session includes a global health perspective, definitions, epidemiology and natural history, and classification systems for impairments, functioning and gait. The subsequent sessions review the evidence for the most common modes of physical management of cerebral palsy; namely physical and occupational therapy, medical, surgical and orthotic management. The final session will synthesise the consensus points and identify key recommendations. The reviewers are asked to submit a manuscript of their review and these together with the proceedings, consensus points and recommendations will be disseminated widely by ISPO.