ISPO Triennium report 2010 - 2013
**ISPO Mission**

ISPO is a global multidisciplinary organization aiming to improve the quality of life for persons who may benefit from prosthetic, orthotic, mobility and assistive devices by:

- Ensuring quality care and education of professionals for the benefit of patients around the world;
- Promoting research and evidence-based practice;
- Facilitating innovative and appropriate technology development;
- Promoting international collaboration and consensus building;
- Fostering exchange, high-quality knowledge and networking.

**ISPO Vision**

ISPO contributes to a world where all persons have equal opportunity for full participation in society.

**www.ispoint.org**

Pictures courtesy of Cambodia Trust and other ISPO partners
President’s Foreword

My term as President of ISPO is coming to an end and I am pleased to see the direction the Society has been taking over the past triennium.

In an effort to continuously improve members’ benefits and in line with ISPO’s mission to increase the quality of patients care worldwide, ISPO has set itself and achieved a number of goals over the last three years including but not limited to:

**Increased transparency and promotion of the Society** by reporting back to its membership and other stakeholders on the Society’s activities through the ISPO electronic newsletter, the “eUpdate”, the new ISPO website, regular email communications to members and Member Societies and this first triennium report.

**Efficient internal processes** by professionalizing operational management including membership management and streamlining ISPO’s internal structure by re-defining the roles and responsibilities of the Executive Board and ISPO Committees, and elaborating internal and external guidelines for a large number of Society areas.

**Strengthened scientific foundation** by revising the role and responsibilities of the ISPO Scientific Committee, successfully transitioning ISPO’s scientific publication *Prosthetics and Orthotics International (POI)* to a new editor and publisher and establishing new guidelines for the organization of the ISPO World Congress.

**Expanded educational commitments around the world** by re-structuring the Education Committee, securing a no-cost extension of the USAID Grant, ensuring successful transition to a new USAID grant manager and adopting new guidelines for applicants and organizers of ISPO Short Courses.

**Increased two-way communication** with Member Societies and members through regular direct communications to Member Societies and members and by seeking feedback from the membership through a membership satisfaction survey.

Of course, these are only some of the many decisions and steps that ISPO has made on a daily basis over the last three years to grow the Society and its main programs. These improvements were made possible thanks to the involvement and hard work of the ISPO Executive Board and Committee members, whom I would like to thank personally. ISPO has now reached a different level and this is down to all those who have invested their time and passion into the Society's activities from leaders to ISPO members. Having said that, there is still much work to do and I count on the upcoming leadership to drive the Society towards increased participation in global initiatives, expanded relationships with partners and overall strengthened voice at policy level both on a national and international scale. This is where the future of ISPO lies!

I would like to thank you all for your support and guidance during this triennium and count on you to use all means at your disposal to relay ISPO’s message and mission in your various environments.

Warmest wishes,

Jan H.B. Geertzen
ISPO President
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Facts and Figures

ISPO activities related to the recognition of P&O programs all over the world are substantially increasing. To date, ISPO has granted recognition to 15 Category I and 11 Category II training programs which require regular follow-up and re-evaluation. As a result, more than 2,500 graduates of ISPO-recognized training programs have received an ISPO Category I or II certificate, evidencing their quality education.

The Education Committee is regularly receiving new requests for recognition. The process from application to final recognition can take several years and may require a number of consultation visits of ISPO experts at the applying institutions prior to conducting the official ISPO evaluation. In order to be able to meet the increasing demand for ISPO recognitions, the Education Committee will develop a formal process for the recruitment and training of new ISPO evaluators.

Background: Recognition of Training Programs in Prosthetics and Orthotics

ISPO helps establishing and developing P&O training programs around the world by providing advice and expertise to governments, universities and other training institutions. In collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Society has developed and promotes guidelines for the training of professionals in the field: ISPO Category I (Prosthetists/Orthotists), ISPO Category II (Orthopaedic Technologists) and ISPO Category III (Orthopaedic Technicians).

Upon request, ISPO, through the Education Committee, evaluates prosthetics and orthotics education programs and associated professional pathways throughout the world against its standards to reach ISPO Category I and II recognition. An ISPO evaluation consists of a detailed revision of the entire program, including student entry requirements, teaching content, clinical training, quality and administrative procedures.
ISPO Recognized Programs in 2010-2013

During the triennium 2010-2013, ISPO has awarded or renewed ISPO recognition to the following training programs:

**ISPO Category I Professional Programs in Prosthetics and Orthotics:**
- Brevet de Technicien Supérieur Prothésiste-Orthésiste, Institut Supérieur Technologique Montplaisir, France
- Bachelor of Prosthetics & Orthotics, Sirindhorn School of Prosthetics & Orthotics at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand
- Bachelor of Orthopaedics, collaborative program of professional education offered by Fontys Paramedische Hogeschool, Netherlands and Katholieke Hogeschool Kempen, Belgium
- Bachelor Degree in Prosthetics and Orthotics, Universidad Don Bosco, in San Salvador, El Salvador
- Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering, Hong Kong Polytechnic University
- Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Therapy with a Specialization in Prosthetics and Orthotics, West China Medical School of Sichuan University in Chengdu, China
- Bachelor of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics Engineering, School of Biomedical Engineering of the Capital Medical University in Beijing, China
- Prosthetics and Orthotics ‘Meister’-Program, Kerschensteiner Schulzentrum, Städtische Meisterschule für Orthopädiertechnik in Munich, Germany

**ISPO Category II Professional Programs in Prosthetics and Orthotics:**
- Orthopaedic Technology Program, University Don Bosco, El Salvador
- Afghan Diploma in Prosthetics and Orthotics, modules I (lower limb prosthetics), II (lower limb orthotics) and III (spinal and upper limb orthotics), implemented by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Sudanese Diploma in Prosthetics and Orthotics, module I (lower limb prosthetics) and II (lower limb orthotics) delivered by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- Distance (Blended) Learning Program, Orthopaedic Technologist, University Don Bosco, El Salvador
- Single Discipline Programs in Lower Limb Prosthetics and Lower Limb Orthotics, Mobility India, Bangalore, India
- Distance learning program “Improving the Quality of Prosthetic and Orthotic Services in South East Europe”, Human Study e.V.
- Certificate Course in Wheelchair Technology, Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (TATCOT) in Moshi, Tanzania
- Blended Learning Certificate Course in Spinal Orthotics, Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (TATCOT) in Moshi, Tanzania
- Bachelor of Sciences in Prosthetics and Orthotics, Pakistan Institute of Prosthetic and Orthotic Sciences (PIPOS) in Peshawar, Pakistan
- Diploma of Orthopaedic Technologists, Sri Lankan School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (SLSPO) in Ragama, Sri Lanka
- P&O Training Program, Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (CSPO) in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
- P&O Training Program, Jakarta School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (JSPO), Jakarta, Indonesia
- Training Program for Orthopaedic Technologists and Course on Lower Limb Orthotics / Lower Limb Prosthetics, Vietnamese Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (VIETCOT), Hanoi, Vietnam

Student - Katholieke Hogeschool Kempen, Belgium
Revision of the ISPO Training Guidelines

Throughout the triennium, the ISPO Education Committee and especially the Standards and Guidelines Subcommittee has been working on revising ISPO’s ‘Guidelines for Training Personnel for Prosthetics and Orthotics Services’ to reflect developments in the field:

In 2010, the ISPO Executive Board agreed that the guidelines need to be adjusted in order to be applicable in any country.

In 2011 and 2012, ISPO invited all professionals in the P&O field to participate in an online survey. The objective of the survey was to assess the education standards in view of the challenges currently faced by P&O professionals in their daily activity, to determine educational needs in the various geographic regions that ISPO works in and to get insights on current trends in the professional practice.

A statistician contracted by ISPO is currently analyzing the answers and will provide a formal report with the findings in 2013. This will form the basis for formally revising the ISPO training guidelines.

Participation in European Union (EU) eLearning Project

In December 2011, ISPO agreed to participate in the eLearning Project “TRAINORTHOT” *, which is financed by the Leonardo Program of the European Union and aims to develop transnational online courses on the orthotic treatment of foot pathologies for professionals and students in the foot orthopaedic sector in selected European countries. By providing consulting and dissemination services, ISPO supports this initiative which looks into mitigating the differences between various European countries in relation to the foot orthopaedic sector, the educational programs, the categorization of the orthopaedic professionals, their competences and skills. In addition, the project will provide professionals in the sector with the educational basis and training that will enable them to adapt to the evolving market and customer requirements.

* Project number: 2011-1-SK1-LEO05-02875.

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Students - Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Students at work - Sirindhorn School of Prosthetics & Orthotics at Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand
USAID Partnership

Since the mid 1990s, ISPO has had the great privilege of partnering with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in a number of projects, which since 2000 have been put under a formal agreement.

ISPO has enjoyed a positive collaboration over the triennium with USAID Leahy War Victims Fund (LWVF). This collaboration focused on two main objectives and has had a profound impact on the lives of persons with disabilities through improved access to appropriate services. This has been achieved through the development of an understanding of appropriate technologies and the creation and promotion of international standards of care and professional practice.

Agreement 1: Appropriate Prosthetic and Orthotic Technologies in Low Income Countries.

In the first year of the triennium ISPO finalised activities under one collaborative agreement and initiatives under a second agreement. The results and impact of the partnership with USAID are outlined in a summary report; Appropriate Prosthetic and Orthotic Technologies in Low Income Countries (2000-2010). Highlights from this report include:

✔ Delivery of 3 ISPO Consensus Conferences: Appropriate Orthopaedic Technology for Low-income Countries held in Moshi, Tanzania (2000); Appropriate Lower Limb Orthotics for Developing Countries, Vietnam (2006); Wheelchairs for Developing Countries, India (2006). Reports available from ISPO.

✔ Prosthetics and orthotics teaching programs were strengthened by the provision of 109 scholarships to educate and train prosthetists/orthotists and orthopaedic technologists primarily from post-conflict areas. The program also emphasized the upgrading of teachers and teaching material;

✔ Mechanical testing of prosthetic feet, clinical field testing of prosthetics in tropical low income countries, amputation stump casting technology, and clinical field testing of transfemoral prosthetic were completed. The results were published and recommendations were made for improvement;

✔ A monitoring and evaluation program and tool was designed and field-tested enabling local and international organizations to better manage and measure the impact of rehabilitation programs;

✔ ‘Training the trainer’ short courses supported upgrading the skills of teachers for programs in prosthetics and orthotics in Cambodia and Tanzania. This upgrading training improved the effectiveness of teaching and learning in the institutions where scholars were educated.

Agreement 2: Rehabilitation of Physically Disabled People in Developing Countries

During this period substantial progress was also made under the current ISPO/USAID agreement; Rehabilitation of physically disabled people in developing countries. This continues until 2015.
Program Goal

The goal of this program is to facilitate the rehabilitation of persons with physical disabilities in developing countries. This will be accomplished through the following objectives:

1. Award **113 Scholarships** for professional training for prosthetists/orthotists and orthopaedic technologists.

2. **Assess the impact** of Category I and II training on the end user of prosthetic and orthotic devices, the quality of prosthetic/orthotic treatment, and service provision systems.

3. In collaboration with WHO publish a **new guideline for prosthetic and orthotic services**.

At the end of 2012 the following outcomes have been achieved:

- **Impact assessment**: Building upon past graduate assessment work and further developing and refining our methodology, ISPO followed up ISPO certified graduates of ISPO recognized training programs delivered by the Vietnamese Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (VIETCOT) and the Tanzania Training Center for Orthopaedic Technologists (TATCOT), and will undertake studies of graduates of the Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (CSPO), the Ecole Nationale des Auxiliaires Médicaux (ENAM), Mobility India (MI), the Pakistan Institute of Prosthetic and Orthotic Sciences (PIPOS) and Universidad Don Bosco (UDB) in 2013. We have demonstrated that ISPO certified graduates have a positive impact on the establishment and appropriateness of prosthetic and orthotic service delivery. Our method also enables us to identify national needs for professional and service development. Most importantly, provision of assistive technologies is shown to have a profound impact on the lives of persons with physical disabilities to achieve better independence, participate in education, work, social activity and contribute to the local economy.

- ISPO and WHO are working towards a new guideline for prosthetic and orthotic services. The **Guidelines on Prosthetics and Orthotics Services** will complement the **WHO Guidelines on Health-Related Rehabilitation** (pending).

- A **new publication**, The **P & O Scholar**, was launched as a twice yearly newsletter connecting prosthetics and orthotics students and graduates around the world attending ISPO programs.

- The USAID Grant Program has been managed by Sandra Sexton since September 2010.
Short Courses

Short Courses are a fundamental part of ISPO educational activities. By conducting Short Courses, ISPO provides teaching and training to professionals in the field of prosthetics and orthotics and related areas. Traditionally held following Consensus Conferences, ISPO Short Courses aim to keep ISPO members and professionals in general abreast of current issues and professional standards related to the care of people with physical disabilities.

During the triennium 2010-2013, ISPO has held and supported the following Short Courses:

**October 2010, RUSSIA, St. Petersburg - Management of Cerebral Palsy**

In conjunction with the XVth Jubilee Russian National Congress “People & Health” organized by the All-Russian Prosthetists-Orthopedists Guild and ISPO Russia, an ISPO Short Course on the Management of Cerebral Palsy took place in Saint-Petersburg on 27-29 October 2010.

The course, first of its kind addressed to Russian specialists, was attended by over 80 delegates coming from different regions in the country as well as abroad. Participants were predominantly trauma and orthopaedic surgeons and prosthetists, but included also other professionals such as rehabilitation doctors, paediatricians, engineers, technicians, physiotherapists, researchers, educators and representatives of orthopaedic enterprises and hospitals.

The ISPO team, composed of Jules Becher, Robert Bowers, Sue Murr and Michael Healy, provided presentations of concrete case studies and demonstration of patients that allowed for hands-on discussions with the audience on the possible treatment of Cerebral Palsy.

**February 2011, INDONESIA, Jakarta - Management of Cerebral Palsy**

The Jakarta School of Prosthetics and Orthotics (JSPO), in collaboration with the Indonesian Ministry of Health, hosted an ISPO Short Course on the Management of Cerebral Palsy in Indonesia from 21-24 February 2011.

The ISPO Task Officer for Cerebral Palsy, Jules Becher led the multidisciplinary team of international experts that included John Fisk, Adrienne Harvey, Rod Lawlor and Nicole Galea. More than 100 physicians, physiotherapists and prosthetist/orthotists from Cambodia, Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia attended the course.

In Indonesia, population-based estimates suggest that nearly 500,000 people are affected by Cerebral Palsy. The course therefore marks an important development in the care of patients with Cerebral Palsy in Indonesia as the first of its kind to demonstrate a multidisciplinary approach to care.
November 2011, IRAN, Tehran - Amputation Surgery and Prosthetics

Jointly organized by ISPO Iran, ISPO International, the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), the Iranian Orthopaedic Association (IOA) and the Undersecretary General of Health, Treatment and Rehabilitation, this Short Course on the Rehabilitation of Lower Limb Amputation took place from 28 November to 1 December 2011 in Teheran.

The international, multidisciplinary ISPO faculty included Harmen van der Linde, Jan Geertzen, Marcel Conradi, Anton Johannesson and Gert-Uno Larsson, who presented a course program consisting of a two day instructional course and a one-day workshop on manufacturing lower limb prostheses.

The first of its kind to be organized in the region, the course gathered about 250 professionals (prosthetists/orthotists, prosthetic and orthotic technicians, orthopaedic surgeons, general physicians, occupational and physiotherapists).

The program was well received and included the following key topics: the state of art methods on amputation surgery, phantom pain and pain management, physiotherapy and occupational therapy, prosthetic fundamentals, psychology on lower limb amputation, biomechanics, and rehabilitation in society.

April 2012, PHILIPPINES, Manila - Management of Stroke

From 17-19 April 2012 the Philippine School of Prosthetics and Orthotics, PSPO (University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, Inc.) hosted an ISPO Short Course on the Orthotic Management of Stroke with the support of the Nippon Foundation.

The international team of renowned speakers was composed of Elizabeth Condie, Roy Bowers, J. Hans Arendzen and Mark Smith, and was supported by local experts in the field of stroke, Rene Punzalan and Betty Mancao.

This first ISPO Short Course in the Philippines offered a unique opportunity for collaboration within the multidisciplinary team and provided participants with a holistic view of stroke rehabilitation. Over 150 participants including doctors, therapists, prosthetists/orthotists, nurses and educators from the Philippines and neighbouring countries (Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Pakistan, Indonesia and Malaysia) participated in two days of lectures. A select group of local and regional educators participated in practical sessions during which the ISPO team demonstrated techniques and participants had the opportunity to practice their own technique, applying the lessons with the help of an engaged group of local volunteers from the Stroke Support Group.

The course not only provided an excellent learning opportunity for the participants, but also raised awareness for the work of ISPO in improving rehabilitation services and prompting requests for similar courses in other areas of rehabilitation and engaging new members to ISPO.
September 2012, LAO PDR, Vientiane - Management of Cerebral Palsy

As part of the Indochina Regional Conference on Cerebral Palsy and Club Foot organized by the Cooperative Orthotic and Prosthetic Enterprise (COPE), an ISPO Short Course on the Orthotic Management of Children with Cerebral Palsy was held from 4-7 September 2012 in Vientiane, Laos.

The course aimed at strengthening the capacity of the multidisciplinary team members in the management of cerebral palsy and promoting the management principles agreed by ISPO. The ISPO faculty, consisting of Jules Becher, Roy Bowers and Karyn Ross addressed issues such as the identification and assessment of cerebral palsy, understanding of the medical, therapeutic and orthotic management of children with cerebral palsy, gait analysis and prescription of orthotics, therapeutic assessment and intervention, and the total management of the non-ambulatory child.

Attended by more than 120 medical doctors, therapists and prosthetists/orthotists from Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam and Bangladesh, the Short Course was divided into two days of instructional courses followed by two days of hands-on workshops.

October 2012, RUSSIA, St. Petersburg - Amputation Surgery and Prosthetics

An ISPO Short Course on Amputation Surgery, Prosthetics, and Rehabilitation took place on 26-27 October 2012 in St. Petersburg, Russia. The course was held in conjunction with the XVII Russian National Congress “People & Health”.

The multidisciplinary ISPO faculty, consisting of Harmen van der Linde, Jan Geertzen, Marcel Conradi, Knut Lechner and Gert-Uno Larsson, gave presentations and conducted practical workshops with over 50 participants.

Key topics included the following: complications after amputations of extremities caused by vascular or diabetic angiopathy; re-amputation as a reconstructive operation in preparation for prosthetics; re-implantation of large segments of upper and lower extremities: issues and complications; reconstructive operations for imbalance of stump tissues growth in children; time and characteristics of primary prosthetics; new constructions of prostheses; medical control at the stages of primary prosthetics.
ISPO World Congress

Through its World Congresses, ISPO aims at stimulating, promoting and disseminating multidisciplinary prosthetic and orthotic science, care and education and building the P&O community.

Since its inception in the early 1970s, ISPO has organized triennial World Congresses around the globe. Hosted by an ISPO Member Society, this premiere global event serves as a forum for presentations and discussions of advances and findings in clinical, technical and basic research. It combines invited and free paper presentations, instructional courses, specialists forums, symposia, and poster sessions with a large trade and scientific exhibition, and permits personal contacts between participants on informal and social occasions.

During the triennium 2010-2013, the ISPO International Executive Board has made the strategic decision to move from the three-year rotation model to a two-year cycle with a view to increasing visibility of the Society on a global scale. On an organizational level, ISPO will continue to work closely with local and regional organizations. However, ISPO International will now offer greater guidance to local Member Societies and streamline activities through greater standardization to avoid unnecessary duplications of processes and procedures and keep tight control on costs.

Increasing the frequency and hence the geographical rotation of ISPO World Congresses goes in line with ISPO’s mission to bring education and information about latest technologies to P&O and related professionals in all parts of the world.
13th ISPO World Congress 2010

Held in Leipzig, Germany from 10 to 15 May 2010, the 13th ISPO World Congress was held jointly with the world’s leading trade show event in the area of prosthetics, orthotics and rehabilitation, the ORTHOPÄDIE + REHATECHNIK.

Under the theme “Research and Innovation for Human Technology”, the ISPO World Congress welcomed 2,500 participants from over 100 countries across the world. 630 speakers from 55 countries presented the latest developments and research results, and 554 exhibitors from 45 countries showcased their product ranges full of cutting-edge innovations for the entire industry.

14th ISPO World Congress 2013

The 14th edition of the ISPO World Congress will be held from 4 to 7 February 2013 in Hyderabad, India. The country has emerged as a medical hub in the region, looking for cost-effective technology and innovations in P&O and striving for adequate high-quality education of professionals in the P&O and related fields.

Under the slogan “Inclusion, Participation and Empowerment” the global P&O community will gather in Hyderabad to learn about the latest advancements, products, facilities and assistance available in prosthetic and orthotic care.

15th ISPO World Congress 2015

The city of Lyon, France has been selected as venue for the 15th ISPO World Congress, which will take place from 22 to 25 June 2015.

‘Rendez-vous’ en France in 2015!
Publications

ISPO’s main publication is *Prosthetics and Orthotics International (POI)*, ISPO’s scientific journal.

POI is an international, multidisciplinary journal targeted at all professionals who are interested in the medical, clinical, rehabilitation, technical, educational and research aspects of prosthetics, orthotics and rehabilitation engineering, as well as related topics.

POI publishes review articles, experimental and clinical research papers, case studies, technical notes, reports on prosthetics, orthotics and rehabilitation engineering practice, and book reviews.

**Prosthetics and Orthotics International (POI): New Editor and Publisher**

In January 2011, *Prosthetics and Orthotics International (POI)* successfully transitioned to a new editor, Dr. Sarah Curran, who was selected by the appointed Selection Committee in view of her personality, background, motivation and vision. Since she started, Sarah has put her heart and soul in actively developing the journal which has gained increased popularity within the professional community to the extent that it will be published 6 times a year as of 2013 (compared to 4 times a year until then).

In parallel, in 2011 POI moved publisher from Informa Healthcare to SAGE Publications Ltd., a leading international publisher of journals, books, and electronic media for academic, educational, and professional markets.

ISPO’s publishing partnership with SAGE offered many advantages to POI, including:

- Publication on the award winning platform “SAGE Journals Online”
- New journal branding and layout
- Early online access feature
- Free eToc alerts service
- Free access to archival issues over the last 5 years.

**Bringing POI Closer to Readers: Editorial Retreat, “Meet the Editor” Session and Authors Survey**

In an effort to continuously improve the journal, the editorial team held a physical editorial meeting in August 2011 in Budapest, Hungary to discuss ways of enhancing the profile of POI and how it can evolve within the fields of prosthetics and orthotics, orthopaedics, medicine and rehabilitation. In particular, the discussion focused on optimising the review process for manuscripts and concepts of how to encourage submissions from developing world regions.

A “Meet the Editor” session was organized in the margins of the ORTHOPÄDIE + REHA-TECHNIK World Congress in Leipzig (15–18 May 2012) to provide a discussion forum to those interested in finding out more about publishing their research in *Prosthetics and Orthotics International*.

Finally, in the course of 2012, POI Editor Sarah Curran and Publisher SAGE Publications Ltd conducted a survey amongst POI authors to gather feedback or suggestions for improvement.
The Impact Factor of ISPO’s Society journal POI has moved from 0.377 to 0.563 in 2009 to 0.634 in 2010 and 0.950 in 2011. The 5-year Impact Factor has increased from 0.730 in 2009 to 0.818 in 2010 and 1.298 in 2011. Formerly ranked 25 of 28 in the rehabilitation short list, POI ranked 25 of 33 in 2009, 33 of 43 in 2010 and 42 of 58 in 2011. In the orthopaedics list, it ranked 40 of 61 in 2010 and 38 of 63 in 2011. This evolution illustrates increased recognition of the ISPO journal from the field and improved relevance and quality of POI articles.

Special Issue on the London 2012 Paralympics – “Preparing The Secrets To Success”

On the occasion of the London 2012 Paralympics, ISPO issued a special edition of POI. Entitled: “London 2012 Paralympics: Preparing the secrets to success”, the issue presented informative research that has clinical relevance from the foundational level of the novice sports person with a disability to the elite Paralympian. Furthermore it aimed to contribute to the scientific literature in terms of progression, performance and rehabilitation of athletes with a disability.

Publishing in Prosthetics and Orthotics International (POI)

Despite all the changes on the journal during this triennium, the editorial team takes to heart to ensure that the journal will continue to publish clinical research in order to maximise the journal’s appeal to clinicians, academics and scientists. By publishing in POI, authors can now expect:

- Rapid (online) publication 7 weeks after acceptance of your manuscript
- Peer reviewed by prestigious editorial faculty
- All articles published online ahead of print on http://poi.sagepub.com/

The Future

With a new editorial leadership, a new publisher, a new layout, and a new online home, POI has significantly strengthened its position as the leading multidisciplinary journal for all professionals who have an interest in the medical, clinical, rehabilitation, technical, educational and research aspects of prosthetics, orthotics and rehabilitation engineering, as well as their related topics.

Together with SAGE Publications and the Editor–in-Chief Dr. Sarah Curran, ISPO is working hard to maximize the reader’s experience and make POI an increased quality tool for all Prosthetics and Orthotics professionals.

To complement POI, ISPO is currently working on conceptualizing an online publication with clinical, hands-on focus.

The ISPO eUpdate

Over the triennium, ISPO has managed to produce and systematize an electronic newsletter, the “ISPO eUpdate” currently being sent to more than 5,000 P&O professionals on a bimonthly basis. This publication includes Society news as well as recent developments in the field worldwide and has recently changed format and look and feel to answer members’ and partners’ needs.

A number of ISPO Member Societies have expressed interest in translating the eUpdate in local language while this is already happening in some places (eUpdates are now made available in Japanese thanks to the support of our colleagues from ISPO Japan).
ISPO Online

ISPO International Website

The Society’s online presence has gradually increased over the last three years and ISPO now possesses a solid website (www.ispoint.org) offering a user-friendly experience and significant benefits to its visitors including especially:

- Direct access to educational materials of past ISPO events such as Short Courses, Consensus Conferences, etc.
- ISPO recognized P&O training programs directory including school profiles;
- ISPO Member Societies map and directory including national ISPO Member Societies profiles;
- Online application form for individual members from countries in which no ISPO Member Society exists;
- Single sign on

The new ISPO website aims to provide an open window to the work that ISPO and its partners undertake in various parts of the world on a day to day basis. As the website continues to be developed, more and more resources and benefits will be offered to members, Member Societies and partners.

Social Media

In addition, ISPO is present in a number of social networks. An ISPO group has been created on LinkedIn, which now groups more than 2,000 P&O professionals. Furthermore, ISPO has a profile on Facebook and possesses its own pictures gallery on Flickr.

ISPO will continue working to leverage social media and further promote ISPO’s messages and work to selected audiences.
Branding and Marketing

At the beginning of the triennium, ISPO adopted a refreshed look & feel, which was then rolled out over ISPO’s various promotional materials (from ads to banners, posters, brochures, etc.) thereby building a consistent image and stronger brand of the Society towards its target audiences. All materials were made available for use to ISPO Member Societies to help them market the ISPO offering to local prospects. ISPO also made sure to guarantee a consistent usage of its logo by monitoring its use by stakeholders.

ISPO worked hard to foster promotion of its activities by Member Societies. This included ensuring that Member Societies reference the ISPO International website (www.ispoint.org) on their websites as well as arranging onsite presence by sending ISPO speakers and/or planning booth presence and material shipments to Member Societies’ and partners’ events.

Under the leadership of the Membership and Marketing Committee and in an effort to adapt ISPO benefits to its Member Societies and members at large, ISPO further conducted a satisfaction survey in 2011, the results of which have been circulated to Member Societies. The outcomes of this survey have provided (and continue to provide) the basis for a number of developments including the revised ISPO website and eUpdates, the planned fee changes and additional publications – amongst many other items.
International Collaboration

ISPO recognizes the importance of collaborations with interested partners to improve the quality of life for persons who may benefit from prosthetic, orthotic, mobility and assistive devices on a worldwide basis.

For this reason, ISPO gathers with partner organizations at ISPO Open Board meetings on a regular basis to take stock on Open Board members’ activities and to discuss areas of potential collaboration. During this triennium, the Open Board held discussions in the fringes of the ORTHOPÄDIE + REHA-TECHNIK in May 2012 in Leipzig, Germany, providing a solid basis for the planned follow-up meeting in February 2013 in Hyderabad, India, which aims to identify joint initiatives and areas of enhanced collaboration.

Over this triennium, ISPO has been reconfirmed as being in “official relations with the World Health Organization (WHO)”. ISPO is delighted to maintain this important partnership and to continue working in close collaboration with the WHO. Through its activities, ISPO contributes to implementing several WHO strategic objectives: prevent and reduce disease and disability, publish knowledge and evidence to support health decision-making, develop international norms and guidelines for the training of healthcare professionals as well as the use of medical products and technologies.

The World Report on Disability, published by the WHO and the World Bank, was released during the triennium. As a follow-on document supporting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD), the report is a call to action and sets out to promote health, rehabilitation and participation for persons with disabilities, making recommendations for concrete provisions to improve their quality of life.

ISPO is proud to have been present at the special launch meeting of the report, which took place on 9 June 2011 at the United Nations headquarters in New York, represented by its Executive Board member Rosie Jované C.
In line with the objective to become a recognized partner in the disability field on the international scene, in 2011, ISPO joined the Global Partnership for Disability and Development (GPDD), an international network of stakeholders in the disability field.

The rationale of the network being an improved coordination and cooperation among government agencies and development partners committed to enhance the rights of people with disabilities and inclusive development, the GPDD works with and for its members and partners to promote the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities and inclusive development by building platforms for multi-stakeholder networking, supporting knowledge sharing and creation, and facilitating capacity building.

ISPO membership in this platform enhances ISPO’s exposure to disability issues and is an additional opportunity for ISPO to build relationships with partners in the disability field.

In 2012, ISPO accepted an invitation to partner with the Global Clubfoot Initiative (GCI) and contribute to the GCI’s mission to improve clubfoot treatment worldwide.

Alongside with other partners, ISPO agreed to support in collecting and sharing information on activities around clubfoot treatment happening around the world and provide GCI with resources (incl. training resources to aid clubfoot work) to be in turn promoted by GCI.

GCI was formed in 2009 as an umbrella structure to bring together organisations involved in clubfoot treatment particularly in resource poor countries. It aims to provide information and training resources to clubfoot treatment organisations particularly in less resourced countries, create links and cooperation between existing clubfoot treatment organisations, and provide global statistics on clubfoot treatment.

Support to Regional Meetings

Throughout this triennium, ISPO further provided support to a number of local and regional events, such as the United Forum of the Americas in February 2011 in Costa Rica, the 6th Central European Regional Congress in August 2011 in Hungary, the 6th FATO International Congress held in September 2011 in Tanzania, the ISPO Africa Congress in September 2011 in South Africa, the Consensus Seminar on the Development of Quality Control Tools for Prosthetics and Orthotics held in December 2011 in India, and the Uniting Frontiers Meeting in December 2012 in Mexico.
Collaboration with the Industry

Throughout the triennium, ISPO International has made various steps to bring its collaboration with the industry to the next level.

An industry meeting was organized in the fringes of the ORTHOPÄDIE + REHA-TECHNIK in May 2012 in Leipzig and a follow up meeting is taking place in Hyderabad in February 2013 to discuss various initiatives including the potential creation of an Industry Council to foster win-win opportunities.

In 2010, ISPO International signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Otto Bock with a view to boosting cooperation and collaboration on Education activities. A follow-up meeting was held in Leipzig in May 2012. In the framework of this collaboration several educational initiatives have been realized in the past triennium or are planned for the future, such as the start of a four-year training program in Orthobionics at the Private University of Applied Sciences in Göttingen, Germany, the international Otto Bock training course which shall follow the ISPO training guidelines and the collaboration in South and Central America with regard to the project funded via the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) for regional development of Prosthetic and Orthotic education in Latin America.

In 2011, ISPO promoted sponsorship packages and secured partnership with TouchBionics who has sponsored the ISPO eUpdate throughout 2011 and 2012.

In 2012, Össur and De Hoogstraat Orthopedietechniek sponsored various ISPO International speakers to deliver speeches at ISPO Short Courses in Iran and Russia.

In 2012, thanks to the support of Proteor, selected participants received financial support for travel and accommodation related to their attendance at the 14th ISPO World Congress 2013 in Hyderabad, India.
Membership

ISPO Member Societies

Throughout the triennium, ISPO revised the guidelines and adopted new application forms for the formation of new ISPO Member Societies. New ISPO Member Societies have been formed in five countries (see map).

All ISPO members in a country or region where no ISPO Member Society exists yet are encouraged to join together to facilitate local ISPO activities, promote the profession and participate in ISPO governance through representation on the International Committee.

It is very encouraging to see the dynamism and commitment of colleagues, who are keen to build and grow the network of P&O and related professionals in their countries. Interest to form ISPO Member Societies has been received from professionals in ten other countries, so the positive developments are continuing.

Membership Developments

ISPO has witnessed a fair growth in membership numbers during this triennium (approximately 14% compared to the end of 2009, and approximately 2% compared to World Congress year 2010). Presence of ISPO members has been expanded to almost 100 countries worldwide. Following the above-mentioned approvals of new Member Societies, ISPO counts 52 Member Societies across the globe at the end of 2012.

With over 3,300 members (individual professionals as well as institutions and organizations) at the end of 2012, ISPO represents a wide international multidisciplinary network and provides an efficient platform for timely scientific exchange, debate and communication.

ISPO has a retention rate of about 75%.

To boost timely renewals, ISPO has undertaken electronic renewal campaigns in 2010, 2011 and 2012.

The Society will undertake continued efforts to retain and further grow its membership in developed countries, while also seeking to strengthen its representation in the emerging world. Also, the balance of the different professions that are represented in the organization shall be further enhanced.
Governance

Member Societies
elect

International Committee
elects

Executive Board
appoints

ISPO Head Office Brussels

Standing Committees
Finance Committee
Protocol Committee
Scientific Committee
Education Committee
Category I
Category II
Standards & Guidelines
eLearning

Ad-Hoc Committees
Membership & Marketing Committee
Publications Committee
USAID Steering Committee
Task Officers
WHO Liaison
Short Courses
Stroke
Amputation & Prothesis
Cerebral Palsy
Neuropathic Foot
At the beginning of the triennium, ISPO adopted a number of measures to improve its processes and thereby giving itself increased means to pursue its goals and objectives. These measures included especially restructuring existing committees, creating new committee, developing roles and responsibilities documents for all committees as well as revising election and World Congress guidelines. Some changes to the Constitution have also been adopted.

**Education Committee: Reorganization to Boost Efficiency**

The first months of the triennium have seen a thorough restructuring of the ISPO Education Committee. In an effort to streamline and to maximize the efficiency of the Committee’s activities, the decision was taken to create various Subcommittees, each of them being responsible for a specific aspect of the ISPO Education Policy: Category I related activities, Category II related activities, Standards & Guidelines, eLearning. All Subcommittees report to the Education Core Committee which takes action on Subcommittee proposals and recommendations.

The main role of the Category I and II Subcommittees is to arrange and facilitate consultations and evaluations of courses and pathways that seek ISPO Category I and II recognition. Furthermore, the two Subcommittees provide suggestions and recommendations to the Standards & Guidelines Subcommittee that is responsible for reviewing and updating the various ISPO publications with regard to the training and education of P&O professionals, such as the WHO-ISPO Guidelines and the Category I and II Information Packages. The e-learning Subcommittee is tasked with developing and driving ISPO’s eLearning offering.

**Scientific Committee: Strengthening ISPO’s Contribution to Creation and Dissemination of Science**

In line with the organization’s mission to enhance the promotion and dissemination of science, research and innovation in prosthetics, orthotics and related fields, ISPO has set up a dedicated Scientific Committee at the beginning of the triennium.

Incorporated as standing committee according to the revised ISPO Constitution, the Committee shall ensure continued efforts essential to many ISPO activities, such as:

- developing the scientific programs for ISPO International events (World Congresses, and Consensus Conferences);
- supporting the POI Editorial Board;
- contributing to education related activities;
- identifying ways to bring industry, researchers and clinicians together to facilitate international collaboration and foster translation of research into clinical practice.

More specifically, the Scientific Committee aims to review and issue recommendations for activities that promote the clinical application of scientific research. A research question inventory is further planned to identify knowledge gaps and address them using the ISPO International website. In addition, the Committee is making recommendations for minimal data sets for research on several topics within the field of prosthetics and orthotics.

The Scientific Committee further looks into stimulating the work of young researchers by bringing them together during international events like the World Congress and Consensus Conferences, providing them with exchange platforms through the ISPO International website and eUpdates and supporting them with ideas. Different groups of research level can be recognized with different needs in guidance.

Consensus Conferences remain an important tool to determine the standard for a particular topic and the ISPO Scientific Committee is responsible for planning and organizing them. Results are disseminated by means of reports, journal publications and reports during World Congresses. Consensus Conferences form also the basis for contents of ISPO Short Courses and provide recommendations for new research.

Finally, the ISPO Scientific Committee has a central role in the organization of the scientific program of future ISPO World Congresses. The development of fixed formats regarding scientific program, abstract procedures, review processes, publication issues and dissemination of new findings is the new responsibility of the Scientific Committee.
Membership and Marketing Committee

A Membership and Marketing Committee was created to strengthen and increase ISPO’s membership worldwide by providing relevant membership benefits, conducting targeted membership campaigns and enhancing the Society’s image by effectively marketing its activities and initiatives. The Membership and Marketing Committee has focused and continues to work on supporting ISPO Member Societies in their effort to be more successful and impactful locally by providing them with promotional materials outlining ISPO membership benefits. The Committee has also worked on increasing the communication between ISPO International and Member Societies by sending email campaigns, offering daily support to MS through the ISPO Head Office and performing a satisfaction survey with Member Societies. A lot of effort has further been put into increasing the visibility of the Society and the recognition of its programs and activities worldwide through the new website and the eUpdate.

Protocol Committee

During the triennium, the Protocol Committee has contributed to ISPO’s efforts of equity and increased transparency vis-à-vis ISPO members and the outside world in general. This was led initially by the amendments in the Constitution, presented and adopted by the International Committee (IC) at its meeting in Leipzig in May 2010, and finalised at the IC meeting in May 2012. The constitutional amendments were proposed in response to changes in the needs of the Society and to accommodate the changes in procedures with time and environmental/circumstantial factors. Acceptance of e-meetings and e-voting are examples of this.

Membership Categories were clarified though further amendments may be required for improved efficiency. Membership of the International Committee was ensured to be more representative of the Member Societies. Membership of the Executive Board and the Committees was streamlined especially in view of the massive support from the new management structure and the Head Office in Brussels. The Scientific Committee was made a Standing Committee. The concept of By-Laws was introduced.

Constitutional amendments also allowed us to make changes to the Election Process to encourage wider participation in an increasing transparent environment. This was confirmed by the recent elections of the ISPO International Executive Board 2013-2015, which have been conducted in a structured, transparent and participative way and overseen by a nominated independent Election Officer. The Protocol Committee received more than 20 nominations from Member Societies and individual members and revised and scored all submitted nominations via an objective scoring method, in which elements such as professional knowledge and record, experience in organizations at national and international level, and anticipated contributions were considered. A high participation in the election - namely 81% of the representatives of the International Committee – was a positive sign and demonstrated a strong interest of Member Societies in ISPO’s governance. The Protocol Committee will continue working to fine-tune and improve the election process in the next biennium.

The organisation identified a need for specific Role and Responsibilities Documents which have been developed and adopted for the Executive Board as well as for each Committee. These documents outline how each group shall contribute to fulfilling ISPO’s mission and lists the various activities, tasks and responsibilities falling on each group over the triennium. The Role and Responsibilities documents are freely available on the ISPO website. They should also help members interested in serving the various Committees of ISPO.

It remains the responsibility of the ISPO Protocol Committee to safeguard the Society’s Constitution and to keep it updated. The Executive Board will be inviting Member Societies to nominate prospective members to serve on the Protocol Committee during the next biennium.
ISPO International Leadership

On behalf of the global P&O community, ISPO extends its thanks to its leaders for their foresight, dedication and commitment to contribute to ISPO’s mission, and also to the ISPO committee members who ensure the success and progress of the Society’s activities and programs. The ISPO leadership and committee members are made up of volunteers selected from the membership by the Member Societies, and charged with the responsibility of leading and directing the Society and overseeing its activities.

John W. Michael, who has served as ISPO Secretary since 2007, had to regrettably step down from his office and resigned from the ISPO International Executive Board on 31 December 2011 following an unanticipated and substantial increase in his professional duties and work schedule. Rajiv S. Hanspal, who had served on the Board since May 2010, kindly accepted to assume the function of the ISPO Secretary for the remainder of the triennium.

Jan H. B Geertzen  
(Netherlands)  
President

Bengt Soderberg  
(Sweden/Thailand)  
President Elect

Dan Blocka  
(Canada)  
Past President

Takaaki Chin  
(Japan)  
Member

Margaret Hodge  
(Australia)  
Member

Rosie Jované C.  
(Panama/USA)  
Member
ISPO Committee Chairs and Task Officers

Education Committee  
Bryan Malas (USA)

Finance Committee  
Mads Harbo (Denmark)

Scientific Committee  
Harmen van der Linde (Netherlands)

Protocol Committee  
Rajiv S. Hanspal (United Kingdom)

Publications Committee  
Dirk Boecker (Germany)

Membership and Marketing Committee  
Bengt Soderberg (Sweden/Thailand)

World Congress Committee  
Jan H. B Geertzen (Netherlands)

USAID Steering Committee  
Dan Blocka (Canada)

Short Course Task Officer  
Takaaki Chin (Japan)

Task Officer for Stroke  
Elizabeth Condie (United Kingdom)

Task Officer Amputation & Prosthetics  
Harmen van der Linde (Netherlands)

Task Officer Cerebral Palsy  
Jules Becher (Netherlands)

Task Officer Neuropathic Foot  
Carolina Schiappacasse (Argentina)

ISPO-WHO Liaison Officer  
Carson Harte (United Kingdom)

Mads Harbo  
(Denmark)  
Treasurer

John W. Michael  
(USA)  
Secretary  
(until end 2011)

Rajiv S. Hanspal  
(United Kingdom)  
Member, then Secretary  
(since 2012)

Hung-Hei Kwan  
(Hong Kong)  
Member

Harmen van der Linde  
(Netherlands)  
Member
Finances

A couple of important decisions have been made over the triennium with a view to improving ISPO’s financial stability.

In the past, expected revenues from upcoming ISPO World Congresses (which were only received after the event), were budgeted over the three years preceding the World Congress. In 2010, the Executive Board decided to revert this process and to spend the World Congresses revenues in years following the event. This change implied that in 2011 and 2012, ISPO had no congress revenue to spend. The total budget for 2011 and 2012 therefore showed a result with a loss of €388,000. Because of incurred/deferred costs the result could be reduced to a loss at €218,000.

ISPO has been able to continue operating over 2011 and 2012 thanks to reserve funds and by operating in a very conservative way.

In addition, this prompted ISPO to start a reflection on diversifying its sources of income, such as securing sponsorships.

Last but not least, it was decided to change the structure of the accounts to provide an increased clarity to the books.

Starting from 2013, following the decision to move the frequency of ISPO World Congresses from every three years to every two years, the revenues of the World Congress 2013 will be split in the budgets of 2013 and 2014. ISPO will continue to keep costs down while working with industry and other partners to continue growing its activities.
Staff

Since January 2010, ISPO International is administered out of a new Head Office in Brussels, Belgium, and run by a multinational team of professional staff allocating part of their time to ISPO, thus totalling the equivalent of 3 Full Time Employees (FTEs).

Executive Director
Milagros Mostaza-Corral

Society and Education Manager
Birgit Krausse

Marketing and Communications Manager
Adeline Prieur

Society Coordinator
Nuno Loureiro

Membership Administrator
Mujahid Zaman

Society Administrator
Patrycja Furgo-Bolhuis

Congress Director
Keren Moses Deront
Outlook 2013-2015

In July 2012, Members of the ISPO Executive Board, representatives from partner organizations, industry and other contributors, together with members of the ISPO Head Office gathered in Brussels for a strategic review meeting. During two intense days, some 15 people reflected on the Society’s current positioning, its mission and activities but also its challenges and the wider associations’ business environment. After performing the Society’s SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats), the group issued a number of recommendations to the ISPO Board on the next strategic steps that the Society should take to be successful in the next two years.

Together with the results of the 2011 Member Societies’ survey, these recommendations form the basis of the ISPO Strategic Plan that the newly elected Executive Board will look to translate into concrete actions in the course of the next two years.

ISPO has made significant progress over the last three years but a lot still needs to be done and it is thanks to the continued support of its members and partners that ISPO will continue growing and improving.

I would like to thank all of you for your support so far and I count on you to continue putting your passion, professionalism and energy at the service of our Society for the upcoming two years, our patients deserve it!

Finally, I would like to stress that ISPO Member Societies are instrumental in fulfilling ISPO’s mission to improve patient care worldwide and use this opportunity to confirm ISPO International’s commitment to support them in doing so.

Warmest wishes,

Bengt Söderberg
ISPO President Elect