

ISPO UK MS E-bulletin: January 2023

Message from Steve Seccombe, Chair, ISPO UK MS

As 2022 drew to an end, for many of us it was a chance to reflect on another passing year of challenges, but also a chance to re-set our focus and determination for the year ahead. We can remain clear that regardless of what is happening in the world around us in 2023, our patients will always need our continued outstanding care and support.



Thank you!

As I now take on the role of ISPO UK MS Chair, I would like to take this opportunity to thank John Sullivan for guiding the UK Membership Society through the difficult challenges posed by the pandemic. Under John's leadership we were able to embrace smaller on-line educational events that culminated in our excellent Annual Scientific Meeting held in Watford in November. The two day event was very well attended, and for many of us it was the first relaxed face to face event we have attended, which in itself created a buzz!

I am also extremely grateful to both the Scientific Chair Dr Imad Sedki, who led a sub group to assist with the conference programme, and also to Irene Cameron for all the behind-the-scenes organisation that ensured our event ran smoothly and achieved all it set out to achieve. The ISPO website has further details of the event, with presentations available for members and photos of our prize winners that were difficult to pick from such an excellent programme.

Congratulations to the winners of this year's awards ...

Blesma The Limbless Veterans Lord Shuttleworth (free paper) award.

Catherine Finlayson - "Covid-19: a cut above the rest. Retrospective analysis of amputation levels pre and post Covid-19"

Chloe Farthing, Poorna Ramamurthy, Carly Scott - "Activity Limb Provision for Paediatric Amputees: Birmingham's story - Our Race 5 years on"

The Limbless Association (poster) Prize:

Sioned Steventon (Prosthetist) and Maggie Walker (Physiotherapist), Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton, London, "The holistic rehabilitation of multiple limb amputees: the Roehampton experience".

ISPO Future

For the year ahead we really need the continued support and involvement from you all.

We have vacancies within the exec committee ranging from committee members to specific roles such as Vice-Chair and Treasurer. These roles are extremely important and you'll be starting at a point of cohesion and influence across services that will underpin our strategy and ASM for next year.

In addition, we are always looking for support with social media, and the running of events such as the workshops, the annual conference and special interest groups. If you have any interest, please contact the secretariat at info@ispo.org.uk

The 2023 ASM venue is yet to be decided upon but will certainly be held at a location in the North in order to ensure we can appeal to everyone. At our next Committee meeting in February 2023 we will decide upon the theme and venue, so all ideas and applications for involvement are welcome via info@ispo.org.uk

What does ISPO do?

To help anyone who is currently considering being more involved with ISPO, here's a reminder of what we do.

Although I am sure you are aware, ISPO is the only MDT organisation in our industry of P&O Rehabilitation and as such it is a great forum for co-ordinating and leading on education and outcomes for our patient cohort. Our purpose is to accomplish the objectives of ISPO International which in brief are:

To enhance the quality of life for everyone who may benefit from prosthetic, orthotic, mobility and assistive devices, by

- Serving as an international impartial and non-political coordinated advisory body
- Fostering scientific exchange among its members and others by collecting and disseminating information
- Promoting and when requested, assisting in efforts to co-ordinate or guide research
- Guiding, and supporting the efforts of all those responsible for the education and training
- Encouraging, guiding, and supporting the efforts of all those responsible for care of patients
- Undertaking, when requested, appropriate projects to encourage and facilitate high-level uniform practice
- To conduct research and surveys when appropriate

We meet at least four times a year, utilising a mixture of face to face and on-line meetings. We have recently supported such initiatives as outcome measuring AMPROM in partnership with Southampton University and throughout the year we facilitate meetings for Special Interest Groups to discuss and agree on holistic approaches achieving the best for our patients.

We are also now being approached to facilitate agreement on how national policies are rolled out and what the base-line outcomes should be, so it is a great forum in which to have a voice.

In closing we are reminded that 2022 marked the 50th anniversary of the ISPO UK Member Society. **Here's to another successful and productive 50 years!** On behalf of the ISPO UK Exec Committee, I hope you have enjoyed a relaxing festive period and wish you every success in 2023.



Steve Seccombe
Chair, ISPO UK MS