

ISPO Education Committee Activity August 2007 – February 2009

Report to the interim International Committee IC16

Report prepared by Sandra Sexton, Chairperson ISPO EC

COMMUNICATIONS: The EC has met on 7 occasions (2 face to face meetings and 5 virtual meetings) and have delivered the following:

Newsletters: 3 issues of the ISPO Education Newsletter were produced and circulated as an easy to save and open pdf file by email in August 2007, February 2008 and October 2008. The newsletter was sent to ISPO NMS presidents and circulation grew to include P & O schools and others interested in education to keep people informed about ISPO Education Committee activity. Two Clinical Focus topics have been included in the newsletters, namely the Diabetic Foot and Stroke. **Next steps:** In February 2009 the education news will be amalgamated into the main ISPO newsletter.



Educational presentations at conferences: ISPO EC members have been invited to present on education and research at a number of events. European requests have grown in the last year with presentations, for example at ISPO NMS meetings in Czech Republic, Slovenia, Slovakia and UK.

Processes and Procedures: A new Self Study process was designed and published. This self-evaluation process is intended to help schools and pathways of prosthetics and orthotics education prepare for an evaluation visit for ISPO Category I standards. It has already been used as part of the evaluation process on four occasions and has helped to streamline the evaluation visits. It will be extended to ISPO category II evaluations. **Next steps:** Quality Procedures are being reviewed on an ongoing basis to try to improve transparency, avoid duplication of effort and uphold quality standards as well as respond promptly to enquiries.

ISPO Category I and II Evaluation visits: 7 evaluations of ISPO Category I and II educational programmes and pathways in different countries have been completed at the request of the programme/pathway. These are normally 3 – 4 day visits involving 2 evaluators appointed by ISPO and funded by the programme/pathway requesting evaluation. In total 46 days of volunteer evaluator time has been taken up for evaluations (not including preparation, travel or report writing). **Next steps:** 12 further evaluations are expected by the end of the triennium.

ISPO Category I and II consultations: 7 consultation visits have been formally recorded and multiple informal consultation discussions have occurred at conferences and other meetings with

specific programmes/pathways seeking advice about ISPO recognition. **Next steps:** a minimum of 6 further programmes are likely to go to consultation by the end of the triennium.

Standards for Orthopaedic Shoe Technology: A new working group was created in response to requests from Orthopaedic Shoe Technologists for ISPO to agree professional/educational standards. This work continues with further discussion planned in 2009.

E-learning: A working group has developed guidance for structuring e-learning resources and the group is planning to deliver two initial on-line learning events. The IC is invited to suggest topics for short seminars.

Continuing Education: A definition and statement describing Continuing Education has been published in the ISPO Education Newsletter. A specific programme of topics and general guidelines on delivering continuing education is to be developed. The IC is invited to suggest topics for continuing (postgraduate) learning events.

The EC asks that ISPO NMS groups apply for continuing professional development credits from their appropriate national or regional professional accrediting bodies.

Wheelchairs & Seating: The EC is represented on a WHO working group. A new request has been received for course evaluation, but ISPO does not yet have an educational standard on wheelchairs and seating against which programmes could be evaluated. The EC now hope to develop such a standard.

Physicians Surgeons & Therapists Education: the EC wish to promote education in prosthetics and orthotics through awareness raising educational resources in prosthetics and orthotics. The EC will expand to include an additional member with a remit for therapist's education to be co-opted from a world region not yet represented on EC (e.g. South America).

Short Courses: The EC has the ISPO Short Course Co-ordinator as a member and there are regular updates about short course activity at meetings. Despite a specific call for short course topics throughout the ISPO network, none have been received. The IC is invited to submit topics for short courses where there is a need.

Educational Research: A working group will in the next part of the triennium scope, review and promote suitable outcome measures used in prosthetics and orthotics education.

ISPO Evaluator Training: More evaluators are needed because of an increase in Category I and II activity and also to reduce travel costs for the future. A call for evaluators resulted in more than 25 applications – a very positive response. All applicants will be trained, but due to limited resources, half the applicants will be trained in June 2009 in Toronto and then this course will be turned into an e-learning resource for the remaining participants.

Regional Updates: The Education Committee is contacted on a daily basis by schools, organisations and people from all over the world requesting and sharing information about educational matters. Furthermore members of the Committee are instrumental in obtaining and keeping contact with organisations and programs globally. Some of this information and especially results from these contacts end up at committee meetings and are discussed under regional updates.

List of Regional Updates appearing on the agendas to date

EC35: Kenya, Nigeria, Haiti, Argentina, USA.

EC36: Sudan, Tanzania, Haiti, Bosnia, India, Philippines, Indonesia

EC37: Togo, Haiti, France, India, USA, Philippines, Indonesia.

EC38: Bogotá, Haiti, Colombia, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Tunisia, USA, Albania, Belgium, Czech Republic.

EC39: Kenya, Rwanda, Australia, Colombia, European region, Middle East.

EC40: Kenya, Rwanda, Europe, Croatia, Slovenia, Iran, Pakistan, Taiwan, India.

EC42: Kenya, Rwanda, Nigeria, Sudan, Colombia, Czech Republic, Jordan, India, Malaysia, China.

CURRENT ISPO RECOGNISED CATEGORY I & II SCHOOLS & PATHWAYS

ISPO CATEGORY I:

Bundesfachschule für Orthopädie Technik pathway, Germany; Hong Kong Polytechnic, Hong Kong; Institut Supérieur Technologique Montplaisir, France; Tumaini University, Tanzania; University of Strathclyde, Scotland; 1 programme to be advised (programme not yet informed); 1 pathway to be advised (partners not yet informed).

ISPO CATEGORY II:

Cambodian School of Prosthetics and Orthotics, Cambodia; Programme de Formation Professionnelle des Ortho-Prothésistes, Togo; International Committee of the Red Cross Modular Courses; Institut de Formationaux Carrières de Santé, Morocco; Mobility India, Single Discipline Courses; Pakistan Institute of Prosthetic and Orthotic Sciences, Pakistan; Sri Lanka School of Prosthetics and Orthotics, Sri Lanka; Tanzania Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists, Tanzania; University of Don Bosco, El Salvador; Vietnamese Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists, Vietnam.

Please note that this list will change as the ISPO Board accept recommendations from the Education Committee for newly recognised programmes and pathways.