



## Regional Report

### ISPO Panama, ISPO Dominican Republic & Latin American Consultants January 13th, 2009

Report presented by:

- Gisela Nieto, Secretary - ISPO Panama,
- Dr. José Paúl Rodríguez, President - ISPO Dominican Republic
- Filí-Melé Rodríguez, Puerto Rico
- Mónica Castaneda, El Salvador
- Samuel Iván Montero, Chile
- Rosie Jované C., Panamá

Since the last report many important activities have ended well and some others have had a great beginning.

The most important achievement in this last period is the creation of ISPO Costa Rica!

ISPO-COSTA RICA



FUNDADA 2008

After many phone calls and e-mail communications with practitioners and other professionals from Costa Rica and the presenters of this report, we all felt that Costa Rica was ready to hold an open meeting to inform all attendees about ISPO and create their new National Member Society.

From all of us, Samuel Ivan Montero, as a regional ISPO Consultant, was the only one available to travel from Chile to San Jose, Costa Rica. He was present in all meetings before and after the establishment of the Costa Rica NMS of ISPO and reported that all activities exceeded our expectations.

Samuel said that his meeting with O&P practitioners and technicians from Costa Rica the day before of the establishment of their ISPO NMS was very important and really helped these professionals understand the philosophy of ISPO and become more involved in the new association.

On November 25th, 2008 (5:00 pm) the Auditorium of the Medical Sciences of Latina University in San Jose, welcomed 113 local professionals. After the general presentation from the inviting guest panel, 97 people signed, interested to be new members of ISPO. Due to the earthquake last week, the new member registration meeting scheduled for this week was postponed.

The new Board of Directors is as follow:

- |                             |                         |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Dr. José M. Rodriguez L.  | Chairman                |
| • Lic. Alexandra Duran A    | Vice-Chairman           |
| • Lic. Zuleica Zamora R     | Secretary               |
| • Lic. Manrique Garcia S.   | Sub-secretary           |
| • Lic. Mariana Guzman S.    | Treasurer               |
| • Dra. Laura Cordero M.     | Vocal 1                 |
| • Dr. Lic. Marlen Hernández | Vocal 2                 |
| • Tec. Geovany Alvarado     | Vocal 3                 |
| • Dr. Lic. Marco M.Ch       | Vocal 4                 |
| • Lic. Mariamalia Medaglia  | International Represent |

It is currently finalizing the legal process to register this new association in Costa Rica. Dominican Republic's NMS extended a copy of their Bylaws to be adapted under the parameters of Costa Rica association's law to facilitate the local registration.

If the legal registration process in Costa Rica is finalized by the end of this month, all documents will be immediately submitted to the ISPO Int'l Board for final and official recognition. At the present time we are submitting a draft of Costa Rica's Bylaws for your consideration.

The following pictures are from the above mentioned meetings:





ISPO Panama, in collaboration with the International Members Committee of the "Uniting Frontiers Program" (including members of ISPO from Venezuela, Mexico, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and all the Consultants in Central & South America) are joining efforts to continue with the coordination and presentation of the 3rd "Uniting Frontiers Forum" in Panama on May 24th to 27th, 2009.

This next meeting will gather a total of 500 participants representing all countries in Central America (except Belize...so far). There are delegates already registered from Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, England, USA, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic & Spain.

To show you all the enthusiasm from this new NMS in Central America we would like to mention that there are more than 60 registrations from Costa Rica!

As we previously mentioned the economic support from the ISPO Int'l Board is greatly appreciated to help us finance this meeting. ISPO Panama is currently promoting others activities to raise additional funds to cover expenses.

As the Forum's logo expressed... we are **Uniting Frontiers, Efforts and Hearts!**



We would like to recognize the regional collaboration within the ISPO NMS in Latin America not only to assist with planning of the Uniting Frontiers Forum but also with others events. An example of this, Dominican Republic NMS is joining effort to support US ISPO in the presentation of a program named Reaching Beyond our Borders – Partners in Rehabilitation to be held in Juan Dolio, Dominican Republic by the end of this month.

Attached to this report, we are submitting the formal request from ISPO Panama for additional funds for the Uniting Frontiers Forum and the draft of the Bylaws for Costa Rica new NMS.

Thank you very much for your support. We are very proud to be members of ISPO!