

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PROSTHETICS AND ORTHOTICS,  
AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MEMBER SOCIETY**



**SCIENTIFIC AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**STRATEGIC PLAN 2009-2012**



## INTRODUCTION

Among its many aims, the International Society for Prosthetics and Orthotics (ISPO) acts as a vehicle for the exchange of information through publication of its journal and organisation of seminars, courses and conferences. Through these activities ISPO strives to promote, encourage and support research, education and clinical training for professionals in prosthetics and orthotics, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, engineering, rehabilitation medicine and others involved in the rehabilitation of people with neurological or musculoskeletal disabilities. The Australian National Member Society (ISPO Australia) is a National Member Society of ISPO. National Member Societies exist in many countries of the world, serve as the main entry point for membership to ISPO, and provide services at a local or national level.

The Scientific and Education Committee (SEC) of ISPO Australia has primary responsibility for fulfilling educational and scientific goals of ISPO Australia and does so through activities including: organisation of annual scientific meetings or instructional courses; provision of a biannual research grant; and awards that recognise outstanding scientific or educational contributions to advancing knowledge.

The ISPO Australia SEC has a proud history of achievement. To ensure ongoing achievement, the SEC have undertaken a strategic planning exercise. This exercise provides an opportunity to critically appraise these achievements and map out a pathway to focus and guide the work of this committee over the next triennium. This document summarises outcomes from SEC planning undertaken to define activity for the 2009-12 triennium.

Over the next three years, the SEC will:

- Identify the continuing scientific and educational needs of ISPO Australia
- Increase accessibility to scientific and educational activities
- Increase the multidisciplinary nature or, and participation in, scientific and educational activities
- Maintain or improve the quality of existing educational and scientific activities



The following pages describe these objectives in greater detail and map out a plan to focus and guide the work of the committee over the next triennium.

I encourage ISPO Australia and other interested parties to support the strategic direction of the SEC and find ways of participating in and contributing to the continued growth and achievement of the ISPO.

The plan was ratified by the ISPO Australia Executive Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2009.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Dillon".

Michael Dillon,  
Chair, SEC, ISPO Australia



## **1. Identify the continuing scientific and educational needs of ISPO Australia**

In order to plan for the continuing educational and scientific needs of ISPO Australia it is first necessary to identify what are the needs and how best they can be met.

While feedback from conferences and instructional courses provide some insights, these surveys only capture a small proportion of the ISPO Australia community and tend to focus on providing feedback specific to the event. As such, wider considerations about educational need; preferred mode of education (ie. on-line verses face-to-face) or costs are often overlooked despite their profound effect on the uptake and success of scientific and educational activities.

### **To achieve this objective the SEC will:**

- Survey the ISPO Australia community and other interested parties

### **This activity will be completed by:**

- Developed the survey instrument (June, 2009)
- Surveyed the ISPO Australia community (September, 2009)
- Summarise findings and made recommendations (November, 2009)
- Presented outcomes (December, 2009)

### **The resources necessary include:**

- 3 members of the SEC for 3-4 hours per week for 12 months
- Funding of approximately \$3000 - for either web or paper based survey and postage

### **Responsibility for this undertaking lies with:**

- Ms Margaret Hodge, SEC Member



## **2. Increase accessibility to scientific and educational activities**

While many of the activities of the SEC may be considered successful by any number of measures, they are still often only readily accessible to a small proportion of the membership given the distances between Australian cities, cost of transport and accommodation or just finding time away from the office for research and education.

As such, the SEC wishes to explore possibilities to increase access to scientific and educational activities and in doing so, consider the feasibility of providing more material on-line, offering instructional courses on a cyclic basis around Australia or establishing collaborations with other organisations; as illustrative examples.

### **To achieve this objective the SEC will:**

- Survey the ISPO Australia community to gauge interest in offering instructional courses or workshops in multiple Australian cities on a cyclic basis
- Make available, on-line, back copies of the ISPO Australia conference proceedings
- Explore the feasibility of initiatives including: collaborating with other organisations to make existing on-line content available to the ISPO Australia membership; working with international experts to build a suite of keynote addresses or a lecture series; as illustrative examples.

### **This activity will be completed by:**

- December, 2009

### **The resources necessary include:**

- 2 members of the SEC for 3-4 hours per week for 12 months
- Funding of up to \$1000 for scanning back copies of proceedings

### **Responsibility for this undertaking lies with:**

- A/Prof Tim Bach, SEC Member



### **3. Increase the multidisciplinary nature or, and participation in, scientific and educational activities**

As defined in its constitution, ISPO is a multidisciplinary organisation. Unfortunately, the ISPO Australia Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) and instructional courses are increasingly viewed as forums for prosthetists and orthotists despite the early years of ISPO Australia being supported largely by therapists and medics.

In order to strive to fulfill the constitutional mandate and benefit all ISPO Australia members, a balance in the discipline mix needs to be restored.

#### **To achieve this objective the SEC will:**

- Continue to convene multidisciplinary committees to run ISPO Australia ASMs or Instructional Courses
- Survey the membership to find ways to increase participation and the relevance of educational and scientific activities to non prosthetists and orthotists
- Develop awards to recognise meritorious contributions by medics and therapists.
- Explore the feasibility of instructional courses or sessions at conferences targeted to non prosthetists and orthotists
- Raise with the ISPO Australia Executive Committee, initiatives that may increase participation from other disciplines including: offer discounted registration or link registration to other professional societies; as illustrative examples.

#### **This activity will be completed by:**

- July, 2010

#### **The resources necessary include:**

- 1 members of the SEC for 3-4 hours per week for 12 months from July, 2009- July 2010

#### **Responsibility for this undertaking lies with:**

- Dr. Michael Dillon, SEC Chair

#### **4. Maintain or improve the quality of existing educational and scientific activities**

ISPO Australia has established a long history of running scientific meetings and instructional courses as evidenced by the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference in 2006. These events have been increasingly successful and the standard of the meetings has developed markedly over the last 10 years, in part, because of the design of the scientific program and feedback provided to authors which, in the long-term, has improved the quality of abstracts and presentations.

To continue to build on the high standard is a challenge but one that is entirely necessary for the long-term success and viability of ISPO Australia's scientific and educational activities.

##### **To achieve this objective the SEC will:**

- Continue to run an annual scientific meeting or instructional course
- Maintain the high standard of the abstract and grant review processes
- Formalise a mechanism through which the grant and abstract review procedures and standard can be monitored and revised.
- Liaise with the ISPO Australia Executive Committee and ASM liaison officer to improve the support offered to Convening Committees
- Maintain documentation that underpins the conference procedures such as the Conference Convening Guidelines.

##### **This activity will be completed by:**

- Ongoing

##### **The resources necessary include:**

- Nil

##### **Responsibility for this undertaking lies with:**

- Dr. Michael Dillon, SEC Chair