

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



2019 ANMS ISPO Executive Board

President: Sally Cavenett

Vice President: Richard Ziegler

Honorary Treasurer: Richard Law

Honorary Secretary:

Ordinary Members:

Beth Sheehan (Chair, Outreach)

Adj Prof Laurent Frossard (Chair, Science & Research)

Dr Nidhi Gupta (Chair, Education & Training)

Dr Greg Bowring – Past President

www.ispo.org.au

1. President Report

Dear ISPO Australia Members and Colleagues,

Thank you for the support and participation from ANMS ISPO members in 2019, including the Executive Committee (EC) Members: Richard Ziegler Vice - President, Richard Law – Hon Treasurer, Adj Prof Laurent Frossard - Chair of Science and Research Committee, Dr Nidhi Gupta - Chair Education Committee, Beth Sheehan - Chair Outreach Committee and Dr Greg Bowring immediate past-President who retains a role as an ordinary member on the EC.

2019 as a host year of ISPO World Congress, provided the opportunity for members of the EC to connect with ISPO Australia members and colleagues who travelled to present and participate in Kobe Japan. Collaborating across State borders and Countries on single projects under the ISPO banner reminds us of the challenges we face in remaining connected when we are geographically apart. This collaboration also highlights the importance of combining our thoughts and experience to deliver best solutions, education and support to developing countries who are grateful for our input and need our engagement, expertise and guidance to positively influence the growth of rehabilitation and O&P in their communities. 2019 marks the commencement of ISPO's 50 Year anniversary, allowing us to reflect on the substantial collaboration and efforts that have come before us, and to guide our efforts and focus moving forward.

The focus of ISPO must always be to serve. We proudly stand as volunteers to ISPO to serve the communities who need us. Australia is not a developing country; we have access to world class education, professional memberships, we are served well by local and global product distributors, and our clients have access to funding to enable orthotic and prosthetic and rehabilitation provision. In this 50th year of ISPO, how can we serve our communities and neighbours who do not have the access, clinics and funding that we do?

Our Committees and Executive have undertaken numerous tasks and projects throughout 2019 that have resulted in achievements and some have resulted in project progression. For all of us in ANMS ISPO the last few years have been a time of significant change. We have worked closely with key stakeholders this year on a broad range of projects designed to position ourselves for member development, end-user advocacy, brand and business success, and a very bright future.

Sharing Achievements and Progress: *details in committee reports*

- Financially sound Member Society through diligent Treasury management.
- Highly regarded and sought-after Research Grant awarded bi-annually, 2019 awarded to AOPA team for Consumer Experience Project.
- Foster and develop partnership working arrangements with like organisations to deliver integrated Pacific area O&P support (Mission Australia and Donations in Kind).
- Delivered workshop 'Transfemoral Amputation Prostheses – State of the Art in 2019' delivered with multi-disciplinary perspective RMSANZ conference, Adelaide Oct 2019.
- Facilitation of donated surplus O&P goods (\$200k+) to Indo-Pacific countries Kiribati and Sri Lanka.
- Participated in collaborative meeting with Pacific Nations, April 2019, Fiji.
- Initiating conversations regarding potential for ISPO 'twinning' program with Indo-Pacific region, March and November 2019 meetings with Sri Lanka ISPO and O&P community.
- Finalising membership review survey for future reference, and commence member engagement initiatives.
- Involvement in Member Society activities and planning with ISPO Intl Kobe, Japan.
- Continuation of sponsorship of La Trobe University School of Prosthetics and Orthotics Student prizes for academic excellence, provided annually.
- Approved funding of an important project, being Open Publication upcoming, for Laura Stuart's paper "*Major Lower Limb Amputation in Central Australia: Incidence, Hospital Stay and Outcomes*".

The vision for ANMS ISPO is to ***strengthen the lives of the prosthetic and orthotic community through a multidisciplinary approach.***

Opportunities for members:

The projects and achievements outlined above are resourced through the members and our investments; whereby combining experience, knowledge, and enthusiasm we collaborate and meet to shape the direction of the ANMS ISPO. Opportunities exist on all of our committees with input sought from members. All skills, abilities and interests can likely be accommodated, as we work together to build an ANMS ISPO platform for the coming years.

Together with the benefits of Prosthetics and Orthotics International journal access, ISPO World Congress and education event discounts, and eligibility for research grants; the greatest benefit an ISPO member can have is contributing to strengthening the lives of people who require prosthetic and orthotic services, through administration, education, and collaboration in a multi-disciplinary context. This is your opportunity to put the skills and energy you have, and give back

to others who need our care.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the significant work that some of our committee members have done very well over a number of years. As these members step aside from formal ISPO committee roles; each has contributed with enthusiasm and endurance to governance documents, planning days, project development, education seminars, instructional courses, and significant work for ISPO in the Pacific Nations – *Andrew Jolly, Phoebe Thompson, Richard Dyson-Holland and Catherine Matthews*. Thank you for volunteering your time and efforts for ISPO, each of you know how you have improved services to the Pacific and supported the projects undertaken there, your experience will be missed.

Every member has the opportunity to make a difference to the landscape of Prosthetic and Orthotic and Rehabilitation service enhancement, please make contact to discuss how your ideas and enthusiasm can help our team with the next projects.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we thank you for your support in 2019 and look forward to a different yet progressive 2020.

Sincerely,

Sally Cavenett; President ANMS ISPO president@ispo.org.au

2. Treasurer's report

Treasurer's report for the year ended December 31st 2019, the audited Annual financial report is attached as an appendix.

Profit for the year was nearly \$27,000 including \$17,000 profit on sale of some of our shares in the four major banks, therefore profit excluding this capital gain was \$10,000. This was after paying the research grant of \$18,000 that was approved in 2018. Our accountancy fees increased by \$2000 to pay for some secretarial work in order to try and lighten the load on our volunteer committee, ultimately this was not a success and the committee are looking at other solutions.

We have invested \$100,000 with Lakehouse capital, who invest on the Australian Stock Exchange in small Cap companies. In the 12 months to the end of Feb 2020 we had a return of 11% however in the light of the global situation since then, it is likely that this gain will have been lost and at current prices our bank shares will also be showing a substantial loss. It was intended to sell more bank shares but this has not happened yet due to some of our original bank shares being registered in an incorrect name. This will take significant time to sort out.

By carefully watching our expenditure our financial position remains sound.

ISPO Australia is a deductible Gift Recipient with the ATO and the Charities Commission and we now have three responsible persons to administer funds that people may donate. At present we do not have the personnel to organise a project that would benefit from donations. The committee still needs to set out a policy concerning donations.

For the future:

We are facing a critical shortage of able committee members to run ISPO Australia if anyone is interested in volunteering for a position on our committee please contact president@ispo.org.au

Richard Law

Hon. Treasurer

ISPO Australia

3. Science & Research committee

The Science and research Committee will report on the two major projects for 2019, membership Survey Results and SAR Research Grant.

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY:

BACKGROUND

In 2018, we invited the membership on behalf of the Executive Committee of the ANMS ISPO to participate in a short survey aiming at collecting new data about the membership. This information was sought to influence planning for our relevant future directions.

The online survey included a total of 26 questions focusing on the membership profile, the membership experience with the service of the ANMS-ISPO, and the membership expectation of the ANMS-ISPO. We have now completed the analysis of this survey and pleased to share the outcomes in our report. You can access the complete report via www.ispo.org.au with summary below.

We would like to thank the respondents for their contribution that is helping to serve the membership as best as possible and, ultimately shape the future direction of ISPO in Australia. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to contact Research_Science@ispo.org.au.

SUMMARY

- **Membership profile.** A total of 24 individuals completed the survey corresponding to approximately 40% of the membership. Approximately, 50% of the respondents works as Prosthetists and/or Orthotists while the other 50% included a broad range of other professionals such as Occupational Therapist, Biomedical Engineer, Medical Practitioner, Physiotherapist,

Scientist and other. The vast majority (80%) of respondents were trained in Australia and had a Master or higher qualification (66%). Approximately, 80% of the respondent's work in New South Wales, Victoria, or Queensland and 60% worked in capital cities.

- **Membership experience.** More than 60% of the respondents were members of the ANMS-ISPO for less than 15 years. Only 50% of the respondents were aware of 7 out of 14 initiatives run by the various subcommittees of the ANMS-ISPO. Most of the respondents (83%) indicated that they preferred to be informed of the ANMS-ISPO achievements by regular newsletters (e.g., quarterly or half-yearly) sent by email (90%), rather than social media. Approximately 60% of the respondents rated their experience with ANMS-ISPO somewhat satisfied or neutral. Out of the 13 suggested ANMS-ISPO initiatives, the respondents rated the **“Australian Indigenous orthotic and prosthetic access”**, **“Rural and remote rehabilitation services”** and **“Short courses with CPD points”** as the top three most important initiatives.

- **Membership expectation.** Nearly 70% of the respondents indicated that were likely to renew their membership but only 33% likely to recommend their colleagues to join the ANMS-ISPO. Finally, nearly half of the respondents declared that would be interested to be involved in the one of the ANMS-ISPO sub-committees.

- **Recommendations.** The outcomes of this survey indicated to the ANMS-ISPO Executive Committee that the demand of the membership will be best addressed by:

1. Continue broadening the range of professionals involved in the organisation including prosthetists and orthotists but also other professional responsible for care of individuals suffering of limb loss,
2. Sharing more regularly the achievements of the ANMS-ISPO sub-committees by means of a newsletter sent by email while continuing posts on social media,
3. Continue to develop initiatives promoting prosthetic and orthotics care for Australian Indigenous and supporting rural and remote rehabilitation services while offering short courses with points for continual professional development.

RESEARCH GRANT:

The Science and Research Committee were pleased to announce that the 2019 ANMS-ISPO Research Grant was awarded to Dr Emily Ridgewell AOPA Research Officer, supported by Leigh Clarke AOPA CEO, Dr Sarah Anderson and Prof Michael Dillon from La Trobe University.

This grant will support stage two of the AOPA Consumer Experience Project – a new national approach to consumer experience benchmarking in orthotic/prosthetic service provision. The ISPO Research Grant is awarded every two years and provides up to AUD\$20,000 for projects of research that will, in the long-term, contribute to improve quality of life of individuals impacted by neuromuscular or musculoskeletal pathologies who might benefit from prostheses or orthoses.

For more information about Science and Research and how you can assist this committee, please contact us at Research_Science@ispo.org.au

Laurent Frossard (Chair)

4. Outreach Committee Report

Committee Members

Beth Sheehan (chair)

Andrew Jolly

Richard Dyson-Holland

Overview

2019 into 2020 has been another observational and consolidation year for the Outreach Committee. Over the last 12 months, the outreach committee has continued to seek potential projects to support in our voluntary capacity both within the Pacific as well as within rural and remote Australia.

As of December 2019, Richard Dyson-Holland and Andrew Jolly have decided to step down from their roles within the Outreach Committee to focus on other work and personal commitments. I want to personally thank their extensive involvement, hard work and dedication to the outreach committee for the last few years during my (Beth's) time with the committee and also their work over the last 10 years. They have both been instrumental in the work the outreach committee has done and have been strong advocates for ISPO and Australia's work in the Pacific.

Achievements for 2019

1. Through the partnership with Motivation Australia, the Outreach Committee has continued to support projects such as the upcoming diabetic foot care clinic in the Solomon Islands. ISPO were pleased to hear that Akoaki Eritane Motee from TRS in Kiribati has been approved for travel to the Solomon Islands. She will join two Australian based podiatrists and a physiotherapist to facilitate the training in the Solomon Islands when the project can commence after the travel ban restrictions have been lifted. The Outreach Committee will continue to support Motivation Australia in upcoming projects through assisting with continuing education projects, regional meetings and assisting in the sourcing of appropriately qualified personnel to support their volunteer projects.
2. Through Andrew Jolly's work in the Northern Territory the Outreach Committee are also proud to have facilitated the funding of an important project, being Open Publication upcoming, for Laura Stuart's paper "Major Lower Limb Amputation in

Central Australia: Incidence, Hospital Stay and Outcomes". Support of this project specifically aligns with ANMS ISPO commitment to undertake efforts to include rural and remote rehabilitation services, and Australian Indigenous orthotic and prosthetic access within the scope of the Outreach Committee.

The key findings in this paper are:

- There is a high incidence rate of LLA for female Aboriginal Australians
- There is a high incidence rate of LLA for Aboriginal Australians with renal impairment
- The majority of amputations performed at a major public hospital in Central Australia were for Aboriginal Australians"

Once costing of publication has been finalised we look forward to seeing Laura and Andrew's work published in the coming months.

3. The Outreach Committee has finalised the Donations Position Statement which is now out for consultation with major organisations and groups across Australia. We look forward to being able to publish this statement and share with the membership later in 2020.

Plan

Following the AGM, further discussions with Motivation Australia, ISPO executive and the outreach committees will determine key priority projects that can be supported by the Outreach Committee in its voluntary capacity.

The Outreach Committee are also looking for other projects that can be supported in a voluntary capacity both within the Pacific and within our region.

Finally, the Outreach Committee would be happy to engage with members who would like to join the committee. The committee is looking for opportunities for both the Outreach Committee and ISPO Australia collectively to be involved with throughout 2020 in a voluntary capacity. Any ideas will be welcomed and explored.

Beth Sheehan

5. Education and Training Committee

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr Nidhi Gupta - Chair

Dr Greg Bowring

Dr Sumitha Gouden

Ms Melissa Leung

The Education and Training Committee was created in 2018 to focus on leading more educational programs / workshops for members under a separate banner to Science and Research. The newly formed committee is exploring running short day workshops on topics relevant to prosthetics and orthotics.

Achievements:

The committee has co-convened with RMS-ANZ P&O special interest group, to run a half day pre conference workshop linked to RMSANZ ASM on 20th Oct 2019 titled “Transfemoral amputation prostheses – State of the Art in 2019”. We had 30 participants mainly rehabilitation medicine physicians but also physiotherapists and prosthetists. The success of this small project can lead to these workshops becoming an annual RMSANZ feature and also likely to diversify to other societies like AUSPAR and AOPA.

Continuation of student prizes awarded to La Trobe University students, annually.

Future proposals and projects:

Future orthotics workshop catering to rehabilitation medicine registrars and specialists, physiotherapists, orthotists. Both smaller and larger workshops to disseminate prosthetics and orthotics knowledge in multidisciplinary format filling an unmet need.

Dr. Nidhi Gupta