



MINUTES OF THE 1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF WHEELCHAIR PROFESSIONALS, HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2024, AT 12:00 PM GMT, 08:00 AM EDST, 01:00 PM BST

1. Chairman

The meeting was chaired by Alex Kamadu, Executive Director

2. Attendance

66 members were in attendance.

3. Apologies

Paula Rushton, ISWP Founding Board Member

4. Presenters and Secretariat

PRESENTERS	ROLE
David Constantine	ISWP Board Chairman
Eric Wunderlich	ISWP Secretary-Treasurer
Alex Kamadu	ISWP Executive Director
Krithika Kandavel	ISWP Programme Manager
Antony Duttine	WHO Technical Lead for Rehabilitation, Guest Speaker
SECRETARIAT AND SUPPORT	
Liz Botha	ISWP Association Coordinator
Nancy Augustine	Project Management

5. Welcome

Alex Kamadu, the Executive Director of ISWP, introduced himself to the attendees and welcomed everyone to ISWP's inaugural Annual General Meeting (AGM). It was noted that 167 members had registered to attend, representing a global membership. The agenda included guest speaker Antony Duttine, as well as the election results, a report on finances, ISWP accomplishments, the outgoing Board Chairman's remarks, and an open discussion session. The housekeeping rules for the meeting were explained, video and audio capabilities had been

disabled for all attendees and the chat box needed to be used for any comments or questions during the proceedings.

6. Guest: Antony Duttine, WHO Technical Lead for Rehabilitation

Antony Duttine introduced himself to the ISWP members and the topic; 'Updates on Rehabilitation 2030, World Rehabilitation Alliance and opportunities that are available to ISWP'. He joined the World Health Organization, (WHO) approximately one year ago, as the Technical Leader for Rehabilitation and presented updates on Rehabilitation 2030 and the World Rehabilitation Alliance, indicating that there are differences between both. The WHO rehabilitation program focuses on integrating rehabilitation into Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and strengthening rehabilitation services globally. Antony presented the WHO's Guide for Action tool for assessing and planning rehabilitation services which are offered in multiple countries. The tool focuses on areas such as leadership and governance, specifically the Guide for Action Tool which is a 4 phase process to help a country to assess, plan, measure, and implement rehabilitation, and strengthening activity. The assessment component is called a STARS assessment, a situational assessment of rehabilitation. More than 50 countries have used the Guide. The program aims to improve these tools to support more countries in strengthening their rehabilitation systems. Antony presented the WHO's varied focus areas including a brief synopsis of the WHO's 2024-2025 rehabilitation programme priorities, specifically highlighting the importance of measurement for improvement.

7. Election Results

David Constantine, the transitioning Chairman of ISWP and the current President of the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics, addressed the meeting attendees. He thanked the University of Pittsburgh staff for their contribution to ISWP's development and discussed the Board's efforts in establishing an independent Organization to boost the sector's visibility. David gave an overview of the creation of ISWP and additionally explained the recent formation of ISWP's Governance and Nominating Committee, which resulted in a diverse and balanced representation of nominated candidates across the six WHO regions.

He announced the results of the board elections. David led a board ratification process, where sixty-six people were invited to vote on the newly elected board. After an open voting period, twenty-seven out of sixty-six votes were recorded, twenty-five ratifying the results and two (2) abstaining from the vote, there were no objections to the ratification of the result, representing a ninety-three percent (93%) approval and seven percent (7%) abstention rate. The remaining members did not participate in the voting poll. David thanked all participants for their engagement in the process and encouraged feedback for future reference.

8. ISWP Financials

Alex introduced Eric Wunderlich, the Secretary-Treasurer of ISWP. Eric reported on the Organization's financial status, indicating a net revenue of \$269,938 in 2023, with most

expenses going towards staff salaries and a sub-award to the University of Pittsburgh. He indicated that the result reflects that ISWP has financial stability.

9. ISWP Accomplishments

Alex provided an overview of the team's work, mentioning a rebranding exercise, the introduction of new team members, and the completion of various projects and took the opportunity to reflect on his gratitude to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) support which ensures the continuation of ISWP's work.

Krithika Kandavel detailed the website redesign project and the Organization's key achievements in the previous year, which included wheelchair training collaboration with Ibero University in Mexico and the Wheelchair Project in Thailand. ISWP provided bulk certification to participants who completed training with WHO, Ukraine, and Bethany Kids in Kenya. Additionally, Memoranda of Understanding was entered into with the Global Alliance of Assistive Technology Organizations (GAATO) and Flying Disabled. ISWP is part of the World Rehabilitation Alliance (WRA) and engaged in their Workforce workstream. Krithika informed the attendees of a collaborative effort with both WHO and ISPO to launch the wheelchair provision guidelines. Lastly, ISWP's work was presented and actively participated at eight (8) conferences and meetings in six (6) counties.

Krithika will lead a website project during the year, ensuring it is accessible, inclusive, and user-friendly for all members.

Alex informed the meeting participants about the recent launch of a membership campaign by ISWP, which was aimed at introducing a new income stream and providing targeted information to the appropriate people. Alex introduced the updated membership categories. The individual category comprises of, Associate, Individual, and Community members, whilst the Organizational category comprises of Companies, Educational Institutions, International and National or local Non-Governmental Organizations. He highlighted the benefits of being an ISWP member, including participation in Committees, standing for Board elections, training opportunities, and discounts on certifications. Alex also introduced the six (6) ISWP Committees and mentioned plans to launch two (2) that were not yet active.

Alex highlighted a new website registration process on the website, noting that free membership is currently available, but membership fees will apply from January 2025. Members who did not update their details and select a membership option before membership dues were payable would be defaulted as Community members who have limited access to the website and will have no voting rights.

Alex announced a future webinar to delve into the various membership categories, fees, and website features. Alex outlined the future focus areas for ISWP, emphasizing the need to build

integrated and resilient health systems, grow the membership base, promote, and scale up training and certification, and focus on product quality and reliability. Alex also explained the importance of regional capacity building and working with local training partners. Alex will coordinate with the various Committees to launch their activities, including the Workforce, Certification and Recognition, and Product Quality and Reliability Committees.

10. Outgoing Chairman Remarks

David, placed today's meeting in context, stating that it was about an independent ISWP, the membership launch, and a new Board. In his farewell remarks as the outgoing chair, he reflected on his journey from participating in a wheelchair design competition in 1989 to the present day and highlighted the significant impact of ISWP's work in improving the provision of appropriate wheelchairs globally. David announced his decision to step down from his current role, expressing gratitude for the opportunity, which he enjoyed thoroughly and looking forward to working with the newly elected Board.

Alex expressed appreciation for David's contributions and highlighted the progress made by ISWP under David's leadership. David confirmed that he will ensure that both he and the Board will continue to concentrate their efforts to contribute to the membership campaign and launch, focusing on engaging the wider ISWP community and growing the membership base.

11. Open Discussion

Alex opened the floor for other business, with members Lee, Kirby., and Mansoor Golra expressing their gratitude and presenting suggestions. Lee Kirby suggested that the work completed to date by the Committees is not lost as much progress has been made but some of this has not come to fruition. Mansoor enquired whether there are any opportunities for members to engage and participate with ISWP that have been planned for the year. Alex acknowledged the need to further engage members and announced a recruitment drive for Committee positions.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM GMT, 09:15 AM EDST, 02:15 BST.