

FOCUS – ISPO Italy

History

The ISPO Member Society (MS) in Italy was founded in June 2011. ISPO Italy opened its procedures for membership in 2012. The MS was initially formed by a Steering Committee and a Scientific Committee, and, at the end of 2012, it was decided to merge the two committees into a single National Committee represented by Physiatrists, Engineers, Orthopaedic Technicians, Physiotherapists. The Secretariat Office is located at the Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institute, in Bologna (Italy).

Governance

The structure of ISPO Italy is as follows:

- Marco Cavallaro - President, Engineer
- Maria Grazia Benedetti - Vice President, Psychiatrist
- Carlo Frigo - Secretary, Bioengineer
- Fanny Gatti - Treasurer, Manager
- Adriano Ferrari - Member, Psychiatrist
- Francesco Fochi - Member, Physiotherapist
- Moreno Marchesini - Member, Orthopaedic Technician
- Lorenzo Michelotti - Member, Orthopaedic Technician
- Roberto Pellegrini - Member, Orthopaedic Technician
- Marco Traballesi - Member, Psychiatrist

The board was elected by ISPO Italy's members during the first National Congress held at the beginning of 2014.

*ISPO Italy Board of Directors that organized the ISPO Italy I National Congress
& ISPO International President Elect, Rajiv Hanspal (4th from the left)*





Membership

The number of ISPO Italy members went from about 25-35 members during 2012/2013 to about 160 in 2014. The majority of members are Medical Doctors (35%), Orthopaedic Technicians (43%), with further representation of Physiotherapists, Engineers and Podiatrists. Students represent about 20% of the current members.

National Congress

ISPO Italy aims to hold a National Congress once every three years, and to support and organize other Local Congresses in the off years. During the year and beside the congresses, the MS aims to sponsor other events and organize Advanced Instructional Courses.

The first National Congress was held between January 31 and February 1, 2014 in Bologna (Italy), at the Rizzoli Orthopaedic Institute.

The Congress programme featured :

- ✓ Educational sessions presenting degree theses of Physical Therapists, Orthopaedic Technicians, Podiatrists, Occupational Therapists (*Best presentation Award = membership to ISPO Italy*)
- ✓ Four main sessions dedicated to *Amputees , Diabetic foot, Knee OA, Cerebral palsy*
- ✓ Two Invited Lecturers:
 - *Rajiv S. Hanspal, President-Elect of ISPO International giving a lecture on" ISPO in the world,"*
 - *Marco Cavallaro, Vice-President ISPO Italy giving a lecture on *Advanced technologies for the design and manufacture of prostheses and orthosis.**

Education & Standards:

Health professionals such as Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Orthopaedic Technicians and Podiatrists are educated to bachelor level, while a general master is optionally offered to common disciplines (i.e. rehabilitation and technical-assistance).

The above professions are guaranteed by national university courses. There are currently 40 courses for Physiotherapists, 6 for Occupational Therapists, 10 for Orthopaedic Technicians and 6 courses for Podiatrists in Italy.

The Italian Healthcare Ministry (along with the health professionals associations), is responsible for competency standards and continued education.



Facts and Figures

Disabled people (older than 6 years) in Italy account for about 2.600.000, approximately 4,8% of the entire population. Among them 700.000 suffer exclusively from physical disabilities.

P&O devices for people in need of those devices and for minors affected by evolutive pathologies are paid by the National Social Health System. P&O devices can only be fitted by authorized Orthopaedic Technicians and Podiatrists.