



## ISWP Professional Standards Board (PSB) May 15, 2019 Meeting Recap

The ISWP Professional Standards Board (PSB) met by conference call on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. U. S. Eastern Daylight Savings Time. This provides a recap.

**Link to Meeting Recording:** <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/p5in0doskq93/>

**Next Meeting:** Please select your preferred timing for the July 2019 meeting here:  
<https://doodle.com/poll/4cpgc2bi9fexezxz>

**Discussion:** Action items are shown in bold/underline.

1. **New ISWP Team Member:** Maria Toro Hernandez has joined ISWP as the technical program manager. Maria is a biomedical engineer with a master's degree in rehab science and technology and PhD in Rehab science, both from the University of Pittsburgh. Maria has worked in academia, with NGOs and in research. She recently became WSP certified. Her role with the PSB will be to support recruitment for the certification and support development of a recertification rubric and new marketing ideas to recruit more certificants. She will request PSB input and approval on each activity.
2. **Certification Update:** Krithika sent an e-mail to 1,247 English Basic test takers who are eligible to participate in the certification. ISWP also did a wider launch at the March 2019 International Seating Symposium during an ISWP pre-con workshop, at the ISWP exhibit hall booth, and by Dr. Pearlman during the opening keynote address. To date, 6 participants have completed the process – one person each from Argentina, Jordan, Lebanon, Nigeria, Spain and U.S. This is in addition to 21 individuals who received the certificate from last year's English pilot.

ISWP staff is revamping the website based on feedback from participants and PSB members with a goal to complete the updates by the end of May. Modifications include: Updating the training pathway to provide more information about certification, clarifying the difference between the test certificates and the Basic Wheelchair Service Provider Certification, and reorganizing the Resource Library. A Spanish version of the website will be available in early June. Krithika to send the link to the PSB when modifications are complete and will continue to promote through ISWP communications channels.

Perry Loh, PSB member, will help to promote the certification at the Latin American Seating Symposium in June. ISWP is working on a French version, with help from University of Montreal.

- 3. Recertification Process:** The first group will be eligible for recertification in August 2020. Based on the current process, the certificant must submit the following in order to be considered for recertification: 1) complete online application, including uploading letter from supervisor or instructor (Krithika creating template); 2) provide documentation of 9 seating assessments completed in a log sheet; and 3) complete 10 hours of continuing education, including self-study, in-person conferences related to wheelchairs and/or AT, in-person trainings; ISWP trainings in WIN; and other evidence-based online trainings; and 4) complete the continuing professional development form and short survey. PSB members discussed ways to refine the process so it can be announced when the certification process is marketed more extensively.

Regarding log sheets and seating assessments, Patience and Paula suggested reviewing the objectives for providing this information; e.g., is it to determine if the person is: a) still practicing as a wheelchair service provider; or b) providing wheelchair provision competently. The latter, (b), requires more time on the certificant's part to complete (which may be a deterrent), as well as a different level of evaluation and review. Previously, Mary Goldberg informed the PSB that ISWP does not currently have the pricing model and resources to do more of a competency based evaluation at the recertification phase. Robertangelo commented that the letter from a supervisor or instructor should also confirm that the certificant continue to have a basic competency. Patience and Maria comment that this may not be feasible in settings where the supervisor may not be a wheelchair service expert. **Krithika** to forward a sample recertificate letter template to the PSB for review.

ISWP also needs to consider that some certificants will be providing recertification materials in a different language, even though the process currently is in English.

- 4. Other Certification Processes:** ISWP PSB should review the New Zealand certification and the RESNA Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) and Seating and Mobility Specialist (SMS) certifications since there are people who have completed these certifications, and it will help to inform the ISWP certification. Dr. Pearlman suggested that until ISWP has a formal relationship with RESNA, for example, that a person with an ATP should not be considered differently than someone without it for purposes of the ISWP certification. Rosie Gowran acknowledged that as educational credential programs are different, it will be difficult to mirror program. **Maria** is creating a rubric of different certification programs to identify similarities, differences and gaps.
- 5. Promoting the Certification:** ISWP is promoting the certification through HVO, ISPO and ISWP newsletters, as well as at upcoming conferences: PMG, LASS, ISPRM, Rehab Week, Rehab2030, GREAT Summit, AATE, Mobility India and OSS.

Krithika also e-mails test takers individually to let them know they are close to receiving the certification. Three more people are in queue as result of this approach.

Maria suggested creating a QR code which can be shared with training organizations. The code will take anyone interested to the certification page on WIN.

ISWP will do 30-minute webinars in English, Spanish and French to describe the certification once the recertification process is finalized. Sessions will be recorded and archived on WIN.

Maria and the ISWP team also will look at countries (such as Chile and the Philippines) and regions which have made significant strides in wheelchair sector that would benefit from the certification and contact members who have taken the Basic test to explore an opportunity to involve organizations in addition to individuals. **PSB members** to provide input on contexts to be targeted.

**Participants** (check mark indicates participation on call)

✓	Robertangelo Ciccone, ICRC
	Susan Cwiertnia, VARILITE
✓	Rosemary Joan Gowran, University of Limerick
	Perry Loh, Loh Medical
✓	Patience Mutiti, Motivation
	Karen Reyes, WHO
✓	Paula Rushton, University of Montreal
✓	CJ Stanfill, Pencils of Promise
	Mary Goldberg, ISWP
✓	Krithika Kandavel, ISWP
✓	Maria Toro, ISWP
✓	Nancy Augustine, ISWP

Prepared by: Nancy Augustine and Krithika Kandavel

Reviewed by: Maria Toro