



ISWP Professional Standards Board (PSB) March 25, 2020 Meeting Recap

The ISWP Professional Standards Board (PSB) met by conference call on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. U. S. Eastern Daylight Saving Time. This provides a recap.

Link to Meeting Recording: <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/pun9z19mgnw1/>

Next Meeting: Please select your preferred timing for the May 2020 meeting here:
<https://doodle.com/poll/5fhw7ubya6s6x5t2>

Discussion: Action items are shown in bold/underline.

1. **New PSB Members:** The PSB welcomed two new members. Sharmini Constantinescu, DDO, represents manufacturers. Jeff Spohr, Canadian Provincial Government, represents end-users.
2. **Number of certified providers:** There currently are 63 certified providers from 20 countries. Current certified providers received correspondence related to their recertification; the first group of 20 individuals will be recertified in October 2020.
3. **Website:** ISWP's website, [WIN](#), saw an increase in traffic due to an early March 2020 e-mail campaign and social media campaigns promoting certification.
4. **Certification Annual Report:** The annual report, which covers certification and re-certification, was completed to meet a work plan requirement. Mary Goldberg explained that the certification growth is slower than anticipated, which is not uncommon with starting a grassroots effort. ISWP is encouraged by opportunities brought to us by partners including the ISWP Forming Committee, University of Montreal, SESOBEL, Loh Medical, University of Manitoba and Mediterranean Seating Symposium. We anticipate the number of certified providers will double in the second year; the recertification process will be enlightening.
5. **Certification and Recertification Requirements:** Mary Goldberg outlined the WSP certification and recertification requirements. Fees vary by income settings (according to World Bank) and pre- and post-professional status. A discount is available for groups of individuals who pursue the certification from the same organization. ISWP will offer case-by-case waiver or additional discount requests for those who are unable to pay, such as living in a conflict region. There also is a special rate for volunteers from high-income settings who volunteer in low- and middle-income settings.



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6. **Organization Needs Assessment and Promotion:** A certification needs assessment was conducted as part of the annual certification report and presented in a SWOT format (Strengths, Weaknesses Opportunities, Threats). Rosie Gowran reported she was looking to adopt the certification with her health service executive.
7. **Certification Enhancements:** Enhancements being considered include a continuing education community with online education opportunities and forums for mentoring and support. ISWP also is exploring bundling the certification with sector conferences, including the Mediterranean Seating Symposium.

ISWP conducted a review of a stackable certification; e.g., creating a certification at the intermediate level to expand the market. However, because the certification uptake has been slower than anticipated, ISWP will wait until the first group of providers is recertified in fall 2020, and 500 people have completed the certification.

8. **Wheelchair Education Accreditation:** Mary Goldberg provided an overview of various terms related to recognition and regulation of a profession. She also described the voluntary quality assurance process to assure students are making a solid choice, programs are being held to standards, and end-users are receiving the best service possible. ISWP reviewed ISPO, WCPT, WFOT and other groups which accredit programs in the AT field, as well as CAA-HEP (Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs), which accredits three programs in the U.S., then mapped and identified common elements/requirements: Education committee, education standards, self-study requirements and materials; peer review process; site visit; report; result/decision, funding, and reaccreditation criteria.

Mary Goldberg explained that accreditation is extensive and expensive. Given the variability of programs offered worldwide, it would be a formidable task, which ISWP has decided not to pursue at this time.

Mary explained the accreditation would be used for an existing program but also would provide a framework for a university that wants to start a program. If ISWP chooses to look at it from a continuing education perspective, it would consult with the National Association For Continuing Education Training, an international standards organization that accredits continuing education. Paula Rushton explained the University of Montreal School of Rehabilitation recently developed and launched a micro program on a specific topic.

9. **Certification Partners:** Loh Medical completed a pilot of the certification in Spanish with 6 staff; Loh staff members are providing feedback through a survey. There are 17 students at the University of Manitoba who will be undergoing the certification in the coming weeks.

At ISS Vancouver, ISWP and RESNA representatives met with Clinicians Task Force (CTF)

representatives. CTF advocates for appropriate training and services, primarily in the U.S. but is extending to Canada. Some feel there is a void in training before going into advance practice. There is an opportunity for OT students to complete an advanced practicum in their final year. There would be a special seating track for some students, or an advanced placement track would be developed to practice with wheelchairs specifically. The ISWP training and test could be an entry point to the service, and the advance practice skills would be monitored by a mentor. There is an opportunity to pilot with a small group with the potential to expand into PT and international contexts.

ISWP has been discussing the certification with organizations including Free Wheelchair Mission, Latter-day Saint Charities, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos and Universidad A Coruña, Spain. ISWP will present at an upcoming virtual meeting with Free Wheelchair Mission. Latter-day Saint Charities is promoting the certification among its partners and offered to sponsor the certification fee. The ISWP Advisory Board also provided feedback on ways to promote the certification during its February 27 meeting.

Through the University of Montreal, Motion Composites will sponsor 14 University of Montreal OT students to take the certification in French in spring 2020. Eleven (11) clinicians who trained at SESOBEL, Lebanon, in partnership with IRCR, are completing the process.

10. **Marketing Campaign:** ISWP sent an e-mail campaign on International Wheelchair Day promoting the certification with a special rate. A social media campaign ran Feb. 19-March 3, targeting specific countries, age groups and those interested in disability. The campaigns resulted in 23 new WIN users and one new country (Turkey); the number of Basic test takers also increased. The ISWP team will be incorporating these findings into future campaigns.
11. **ISWP Recognition for Meeting Certification Training Requirements:** The proposed recognition would be a seal or a stamp for those who offer training, including academic institutions, NGOs, governments. There would be an accompanying statement that the course meets the training requirements for a person to become an ISWP Certified WSP. Sharmini Constantinescu asked if ISWP needs to consider a regional approach for certification and whether there should be PSB representation or feedback from people in developing countries. **Mary** to follow up with Sharmini.
12. **List of Certified Providers:** Upon completion of the certification, the person receives a seal he/she can use in his e-mail signature. ISWP's WIN platform also has an interactive map (<https://wheelchairnetwork.org/map/>) where ISWP Certified Providers appear after clicking on "ISWP Certified Providers Basic Level" in the WIN Member Classifications table. A visitor then clicks on a specific icon to see a person's profile. Certified providers have the option to make their profiles public or keep them private.

13. **Next Meeting:** PSB members will be asked to respond to a Doodle poll for the May 2020 meeting date.

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

✓	Sharmini Constantinescu, DDO
	Robertangelo Ciccone, ICRC
✓	Rosemary Joan Gowran, University of Limerick
✓	Perry Loh, Loh Medical
✓	Patience Mutiti, Motivation
✓	Paula Rushton, University of Montreal
✓	Jeff Spohr, Canadian Provincial Government
✓	CJ Stanfill, Pencils of Promise
✓	Mary Goldberg, ISWP
✓	Krithika Kandavel, ISWP
✓	Maria Toro Hernandez, ISWP
✓	Nancy Augustine, ISWP