

To all members of ESCIF and inter-
ested organisations

Nottwil, 20.01.10
SPV/KF/PK

Newsletter January 2010

1. ESCIF Congress and Assembly of Delegates 2010 in Lobbach, Germany 19 - 21 May

The next congress will take place in Lobbach from Wednesday 19 to Friday 21 May 2010 – starting with registration on Wednesday afternoon at around 3.00pm and closing with lunch on Friday. The detailed programme for the congress will be sent as soon as this is finalised.

The theme of the congress is ***SCI: Cure and assistive technology***. We intend to present an overview of previous and current research in cure and assistive technology, and to consider the prospects for future treatment. Further, we would like to discuss the general issue of experimental treatments, the potential risks and ethical problems.

The congress will be held at the Manfred Sauer Foundation:

Manfred-Sauer-Stiftung, Neurott 20, D-74931 Lobbach

Tel +49 6226 960 250, Fax +49 6226 960 2535

www.msstiftung.de

As space in Lobbach is limited, we will follow the statutes: each member country can send 2 official delegates plus 1 assistant/accompanying person per delegate. If a member country wishes to send more participants and accompanying persons, this will depend on the space available. We will send out the registration form in early February.

2. Elections in 2010

The Executive of ESCIF consists of 5 members who are elected by the Assembly of Delegates. The present members are as follows: President Daniel Joggi (Switzerland) elected 2006, Vice President Jane Horsewell (Denmark) elected 2006, Treasurer Jani Trdina (Slovenia) elected 2008, Pekka Häätinen (Finland) elected 2006 and Winnifred de Moes (Netherlands) elected 2007.

The members of the Executive who were elected at the founding assembly in 2006 reach the end of their four-year term this year. ESCIF's current President Daniel Joggi from Switzerland and Executive member Pekka Häätinen from Finland have decided not to stand for re-election. We have discussed this within the Executive and we would like to nominate Jane Horsewell (the current Vice President) for the Presidency. Jane is willing to stand for election to the post of President.

We need two candidates for the Executive committee to replace the two current members who are not standing for election. Therefore we ask you to consider potential candidates from your

organization who have the time and interest to accept a position on the Executive. Please inform us of your nominations. If you need further information, please contact us.

3. Fact sheet for organizers of the Congress and Assembly of Delegates

We have made a couple of minor adjustments to the Fact Sheet sent out earlier. The updated sheet is attached.

4. Future congresses

ESCIF's intention is to organize the annual Congress and Assembly of Delegates in the country of one of our members. Switzerland, Germany, Croatia, Austria have all taken their turn to host and organize this annual meeting – May 2010 is ESCIF's second visit to Lobbach!

Please study the Fact Sheet and discuss with your organization if you could host the next congress.

It would be wonderful if we could decide the venue for 2011 so that this could be announced at our meeting in Lobbach in May.

5. ISCoS 2009 in Florence from 21 to 24 October 2009

Winnifred de Moes and Jane Horsewell took part in the 48th Annual Scientific Meeting of ISCoS from 21 to 24 October. With well over a thousand participants from all over the globe, the meeting provided ample opportunity to network and exchange ideas!

ESCIF was directly involved in two presentations: The first was the ESCIF poster *Setting the SCI agenda in Europe* that outlined the work of the ESCIF policy working groups; the second was the oral presentation by Dr Jan Reinhardt of the first results of the *It takes two to tango revisited* project.

Indirectly, ESCIF has also contributed to other projects that were presented at the meeting: the ISCoS/WHO collaboration on the report on *International Perspectives on Spinal Cord Injury* in which Daniel Joggi, Pietro Barbieri and Jane Horsewell are members of the Advisory Committee. The IPSCI report will be published later this year and a member of the group will attend the ESCIF Congress in May to tell us more about the project.

Finally, the ISCoS/ASIA work on the Quality of Life and Activity & Participation datasets was presented by the leaders of the two working groups in which Jane has participated since last year.

6. ESCIF poster *Setting the SCI agenda in Europe*

The poster presented by ESCIF at the ISCoS meeting in Florence is attached as a pdf file. The file can also be downloaded from the ESCIF website www.escif.org

7. Questionnaire – information about ESCIF members

We attach a questionnaire about your organization that we would ask you to complete and return to secretary@escif.org. As we would like to update information from **all** current members, we would ask that every organization completes the form.

8. Useful links on www.escif.org

From time to time organisations/institutions request that a link to their website be posted on our website. Could you please send us interesting links that you think should be posted on escif.org?

9. Articles about the ESCIF Congress in Vienna

We are sure that many members published articles about last year's ESCIF congress in Vienna in their organization's magazine. Could you please send a pdf file of your article to secretary@escif.org? We would like to publish them on www.escif.org.

Remember that ESCIF is always interested in posting news items about your organization on the website!

Yours sincerely

On behalf of the European Spinal Cord Injury Federation



Dr Daniel Joggi
President



Urs Styger
Secretary