Spinal Cord Diseases and ISCoS

JJWyndaele

ISCoS President

The International Spinal Cord Society was founded in 1961. Its goals have always been to promote the **highest standard of care in the practice of SCI** for men, women and children throughout the world. Through its member **Professionals** ISCoS endeavors to foster **education, research and clinical excellence.** Causes, prevention, basic and clinical research, medical and surgical management, clinical practice, education, rehabilitation and social reintegration are topics discussed and studied. The society functions in close collaboration with other international bodies, as WHO and ISPRM.

Today the Society has members from 87 countries and is affiliated with 22 regional or national groups/societies covering several hundreds of people from all continents..

The last years important evolutions have been accomplished within ISCoS: the modernizing of the rules and bylaws, the expansion of the worldwide activity with educational courses, the creation of Affiliated Professional groups of nurses, PT and OT, the active involvement in disaster management, the search for best ways to prevent SC primary and secondary injury. Special appointed “Ambassadors “ have helped to bring local plans to realization as in Greece and Albania.

ISCoS publishes “Spinal Cord” and “Spinal Cord Series &Cases”, two specialised international journals. Its ELEARNING system has been most successful. Last year the ISCoS Textbook was launched, a comprehensive standard work made by 200 specialists. Its joint publication “IPSCI” with WHO offers very good guidance for authorities and professionals.

The evolution continues and in the next years more initiatives will be further developed. Most recent is the growing support in promoting SCI care in parts of Asia, in Africa, the Middle East and Central America.

It is a pleasure and a privilege to work together with all the worldwide organisations. Members have been very active in ISCoS and held and hold positions in the Executive board, Council and several Committees.