

Newsletter July 2015



Dear ESCIF friends and colleagues

Summer is approaching fast (even here in Scandinavia!) and so we are sending the usual pre-summer ESCIF Newsletter just to keep you up-to-date.

As you all know, the ESCIF Congress and Assembly of Delegates 2015 was held in May in Brno, the Czech Republic. The Congress formed the culmination of the Overcome Challenges project that was initiated and led by our hosts ParaCENTRUM Fenix and the main theme was that of returning to work following a spinal cord injury. ESCIF wishes to extend our warmest thanks for the hospitality of our hosts – not to mention all the hard work they invested in the meeting. We look forward to reading the final report of the project when this is ready for general publication!

You can see the presentations from the Congress, and read the documents and reports pertaining to the Assembly on the ESCIF website www.escif.org – but a brief summary of the main news items follows in the Newsletter.

On behalf of the ESCIF Executive

Summer greetings

Jane

Jane Horseywell
ESCIF President

Email: president@escif.org

Content

Farewell to Winnifred

New member organisation

New member of the ESCIF Executive

New Vice President

EndParalysis foundation first anniversary newsletter

The International Spinal Cord Repair Meeting 2015

ESCIF Congress 2015 in Brno



Farewell to Winnifred



It was difficult not to become emotional when we said “goodbye” to Winnifred de Moes at the meeting in Brno!

Winnifred was active at the “pre-founding” meeting of the Federation in 2005, was elected as a member of the ESCIF Executive eight years ago and has been the Vice President of ESCIF since 2010.

Fortunately, Winnifred is still active as a group leader of one of the working groups in the Successful Integration project – so she isn’t going to suddenly disappear from ESCIF.

All of us in the ESCIF Executive hope that we can still draw on Winnifred’s experience and expertise – and that she will still be willing to help ESCIF out in some of our future projects.

New member organisation

After a lively and interesting presentation of the work and activities of the organisation from its chairman, Bojana Gladovic, the delegates voted unanimously to approve the association from Serbia as ESCIF's newest member.

New member of the ESCIF Executive



We are all pleased to welcome Tomas Moravic as the newly-elected member of the Executive.

Tomas is a member of the Czech SCI organisation Czepa and, since last autumn, the leader of the working group on Quality of Life in the ESCIF Successful Integration project.

As Daniel Joggi, President of Swiss Paraplegic Foundation, who was chairing the Assembly of Delegates, stated after Tomas' election "We regard it as an asset to have a member of the Executive who can, with his youth and experience as a fairly recently-injured person with SCI, bring a new dimension to our discussions."

New Vice President

At the first meeting of the Executive following the Assembly, it was agreed unanimously that Gunilla Åhrén (from RTP Sweden) should take over the position of Vice President. Gunilla was elected to the Executive for the first time in 2010 and was re-elected for a second term last year in De Rijp.

Even before she joined the Executive, Gunilla was an active participant in ESCIF projects – notably in the influential report on centralisation. Since then she has

participated in other projects and initiated and led the fact-finding report on multi-resistant bacteria and the impact on the care and rehabilitation of people living with SCI. Gunilla also contributes generously to the ongoing work of the Executive – including the preparation of this Newsletter!!

EndParalysis foundation first anniversary newsletter



EndParalysis is one year old!

Visit www.endparalysis.org to subscribe to the newsletter.

The International Spinal Cord Repair Meeting 2015



Leading international experts will debate on the latest advances in the field of Spinal Cord Injuries at ISCORE '15. The conference aims to stimulate the translation of understanding of neuroregeneration mechanisms into advanced therapeutic applications.

The event will take place in Barcelona (Spain) in November and it is organized by the Step by Step Foundation, a non-profit organization that helps spinal cord injured patients to rehabilitate through physiotherapy and physical activity.

For more information visit www.iscorespinalcordmeeting.com