

Newsletter November 2011

Dear Colleagues

I hope that you are all enjoying an active and successful autumn! The Executive has been busy following up some of the issues and activities mentioned in the last newsletter.

At the end of September the Executive met in Sweden and attended the NoSCoS conference. Not only did we have the opportunity to meet up with colleagues from the Nordic SCI organisations, but ESCIF was also actively involved in the conference itself. I would like to offer my particular thanks to Corinne Jeanmaire, who gave an inspiring presentation on the efforts and objectives of the SCI research working group, to Gunilla who gave an excellent presentation on ESCIF's work on the need for centralisation in SCI treatment, rehabilitation and care and to Antti Dahlberg for his account of events in Finland during the hearing on the last day.



In October, Frans Penninx and I were invited to the ASCoN meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka. We welcomed this opportunity to discuss SCI issues with colleagues, both consumers and professionals, from Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Thailand, Nepal and Bangladesh. The meeting and, not least, the consumer workshop, has promoted and consolidated the relationship and collaboration between ESCIF and ASCoN consumers.

You can read more about these two meetings and other current ESCIF activities in this newsletter.

On behalf of the ESCIF Executive

Regards
Jane

Jane Horsewell ESCIF President

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ESCIF at the ASCoN conference



The ASCoN conference in Colombo was an undeniable success, attracting SCI professionals and consumers from all countries of South East Asia.

ESCIF had been asked to arrange an SCI consumer workshop designed to highlight and articulate pressing issues on the SCI consumer agenda in Asia. In addition, Jane was asked to give two presentations; one on community inclusion, the other on advocacy and legislation.

Frans and Jane were honoured to be presented to Her Excellency Shiranthi Rajapakshe, the First Lady of Sri Lanka, and to receive a memorial plaque in recognition of their contribution to the conference.

Please visit www.escif.org for more information.

ESCIF at NoSCoS 2011



The biannual meeting of the Nordic Spinal Cord Society (NoSCoS) took place in Gothenburg, Sweden in September.

ESCIF made two major contributions to the conference: the first was a presentation from the ESCIF SCI research working group; the second was a "hearing" on the need for centralisation of SCI treatment, rehabilitation and life-long care.

Please visit www.escif.org/news for more information.

Working group on Quality in SCI rehabilitation

The work to formulate a policy statement on Quality in SCI rehabilitation is progressing. A first draft has been drawn up. The group will continue the work and plan to hold a meeting in Copenhagen in February to discuss the final draft. The draft will then be sent to ESCIF members for discussion and comment. We expect the final version to be endorsed by the Assembly of Delegates at next year's Congress.

5th Coloplast symposium for current topics on SCI

The Coloplast annual symposium in Copenhagen will take place on 26th November. The symposium attracts health professionals from all over the world.

The programme has two parts: the morning session will investigate and discuss diagnostic techniques and novel methods in the specific areas of urinary tract function, bowel function and physiology, and cardiovascular function.

The afternoon session will be a combination of presentations and discussion from a diverse panel on Value-based healthcare delivery in SCI – professional, consumer and industrial perspectives. Jane Horsewell, President, and Gunilla Åhrén, Board Member of ESCIF will join the panel discussion and provide their SCI consumer perspective.

ESCIF Congress 2012

The ESCIF Congress and Assembly of Delegates 2012 will be held in Italy, in a countryside village of the region of Tuscany named Lucignano. The Congress venue is Casa Vacanze I Girasoli. You can surf www.igirasoli.ar.it to take a look at the facilities provided and to appreciate the place.

The Congress will take place from the 23 to 25 May 2012. Transportation will be available from Rome and from Florence airports, and from Arezzo railway station.

The theme of the Congress is the impact of the on-going economic crisis on the lives of people with SCI. The aim is to exchange information and to reach agreement on what actions can be taken in ESCIF member countries.

The Delegates' Assembly will last longer than usual, as we wish to have more time for input from our members about projects in their own countries. Rather than finishing at lunchtime on the last day, we will continue in the afternoon until 4pm on Friday 25 May.

As usual you must register on the Congress website before **1 March 2012**.

The website will be online from 2 December 2011.

We recommend early registration as the number of adapted rooms is limited. Preference will be given to the two delegates from each member organisation and their assistants; it may not be possible to accommodate larger groups of wheelchair-users from each country.

If you wish to stay extra nights, this should be indicated on the registration form; the cost of the additional nights will be charged direct by the hotel.



Contact information on the ESCIF website

Please visit the ESCIF website to check your organisation's/country's contact information. We have indications that the contact information for some members is incorrect.

Remember to visit the ESCIF website regularly for latest news and up-dates.

W2W -2011:

Some reasons for hope, many more reasons for action!

Corinne Jeanmaire recently attended the "Working to walk" conference in Maryland, USA and has sent feedback from the meeting to ESCIF under the above headline.

Corinne writes: *Returning from Working2Walk 2011, if you are currently sitting in your wheelchair and "waiting" for the cure, you could be disappointed by the absence of a fantastic scientific breakthrough. Even though some interesting and encouraging results were presented, the long awaited cure is not there yet...*

Read the full report and information on www.escif.org and follow the links in the report to watch videos of some of the presentations.

Interdependence 2012 Conference and Expo



As part of the 25th Anniversary of Rick Hansen's Man In Motion World Tour, the Rick Hansen Foundation (RHF) and the Rick

Hansen Institute (RHI) are co-hosting a global conference and expos to inspire collaboration towards a healthier and more inclusive world. The conference will be held in Vancouver, Canada, from 15 – 18 May 2012

Interdependence 2012 will engage international leaders and influencers and accelerate progress towards accessible communities for all and a cure for paralysis after spinal cord injury (SCI). The conference topics will include Making Communities Accessible for All and SCI Research and Development.

Read more on the website: www.rickhansen.com

Smiling child festival 2012



TOFD, ESCIF's member organisation in Turkey, has been organising the International Smiling Child Festival since 2006, and since

then, approximately 1550 disabled and non-disabled children from 37 countries have participated in the festival.

The organisers write:

Our priority is to gather the children of the world either disabled or not, together sharing cultures along with the idea of promoting Turkey. This year, we are going to organize 6th International Smiling Child festival from 2-6 April 2012. We are seeking children with or without disabilities, groups who can make some kind of stage performance (folklore or modern dance or lyric dance) along with talented individual children who either sing or play a musical instrument or present any kind of visual performance which can be performed during the festival.

The foreign groups are limited to 5 groups and 10 disabled participants from each group can participate in this festival. Accommodation and other expenses in Turkey will be provided by our organization but transportation from abroad is not paid.

For more information, please contact Ms. Zeynep Benan Dondurucu on the following mail address: benan.dondurucu@tofd.org.tr