



## - WHO Updates-

Distinguished ISPRM Members,

Greetings from the ISPRM!

I have the privilege to announce that last Friday (February 21, 2014), the WHO posted a Vacancy Notice (VN) for a P4 Medical Officer. The posting appeared on the [WHO website](#). [Click here](#) to read the description and requirements of the vacancy.

This vacancy (number HQ/14/NMH/TA13) is for an officer to work with the Disability and Rehabilitation team at the WHO.

It is important to note that the **VN closes on March 20, 2014!** This is a clear recognition of the importance of PRM for the Global Public Health agenda. Please note that the VN will give priority to a PRM specialist! **PLEASE DISSEMINATE AMONG ALL PRM COLLEAGUES!**

OTHER UPDATES:

1. Ministries of Health of the Andean Region call for a collaboration plan with the ISPRM. These Ministries will meet on March 27-28, 2014. In case the ISPRM shall pursue the collaboration, the attached collaboration plan should be signed at the beginning of March 2014! The collaboration plan will be extended to 15 countries members of CARICOM - Caribbean Countries! None of these 15 countries have an established PRM National Society or a training program in PRM affiliated with medical schools. Therefore this is a unique opportunity for the ISPRM to become a leader in this region in the promotion of rehabilitation services. According to the ISPRM Statutes, collaboration plans such as this one require approval of the Assembly of Delegates. Due to the short time frame for this decision and because our next official meeting will be in Cancun next June I am kindly asking you opinion on this matter. Do you agree with

the proposal? It is important for us to align ourselves as very active members of the WHO family of member states. An official letter, signed by the President of your National Society will suffice, informing the Society's opinion on the matter! I would kindly request an urgent reply!

2. I have just received a letter from Pauline Kleitz, WHO' technical officer – Disability and Rehabilitation - Western Pacific Regional Office! You may remember that she delivered the plenary session in Beijing on the topic of the World Report on Disability! The WHO has continued an impressive level of activity in the disability agenda and will be presenting an action plan in the WHO EB and to the World Health Assembly in 2014. The message from Mrs. Kleitz reads as follows: " WHO Western Pacific Region is hosting a meeting with Asian countries, June 25-27, 2014. At this meeting participants will explore the situation of rehabilitation services across countries and focus on objective 2 of the Global Disability Action Plan. The participants will be representatives from Ministries of Health, Ministries of Welfare, Disabled People Organizations and representatives from National Rehabilitation Centres. We anticipate approximately 36 reps from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Laos, Malaysia, Mongolia, Philippines and Vietnam. The choice of these countries is based on the engagement of WHO in disability. ISPRM is obviously a key stakeholder in the rehabilitation sector and ISPRM is officially invited to this meeting. At this meeting, we will also explore regional initiatives to further develop leadership in rehabilitation. This initiative would focus on development of sectoral leadership in order to strengthen rehabilitation systems."

This is, indeed, a special recognition of ISPRM at the global level. The WHO action plan is the first ever action plan developed in such a short period of time (less than 6 months) - usually it takes 2-3 years!!

Further, on January 21, 2014 – the WHO EB UNANIMOUSLY approved the Action Plan on Disability and it is now on the agenda of the World Health Assembly for the approval by 194 Member States! The quickness of these actions underlines the need for all of us to be in constant communication. ISPRM is earning the respect and recognition it deserves and we should be more involved with the global public health agenda at all levels. Support ISPRM by becoming a member and participating in our activities.

Very sincerely yours,

Marta Imamura MD PhD  
ISPRM President

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



**1- 5 June 2014**

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