



ISWP Professional Standards Board (PSB) October 29, 2019 Meeting Recap

The ISWP Professional Standards Board (PSB) met by conference call on Wednesday, October 29, 2019 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. U. S. Eastern Daylight Savings Time. This provides a recap.

Link to Meeting Recording: <https://iswp.adobeconnect.com/pxtl4zn9ftwf/>

Next Meeting: Please select your preferred timing for the January 2020 meeting here: <https://doodle.com/poll/grc3apfcvmiwfzku>

Discussion: Action items are shown in bold/underline.

Number of certified providers: 58 from 20 countries.

Certification and recertification fees have been modified based on PSB input. Regarding feedback from PSB and certified providers, there are a couple of concerns:

1. Finalizing certification fees

No incentive to pay for certification process. Certification is optional. Proposal is to target partner organizations in the field (business to business, BTB) to help promote the certification among their teams and network.

Paula asked how the approach would work for students who are graduating from a program. Mary indicated a possible better term would be “broker” instead of BTB. She envisions instructors and/or administration could help to recruit students for the certification in a group or cohort setting, which will enable us to offer the group discount.

Paula reported that based on a conversation with the University of Montreal OT program director, it is not possible for the program to pay or to subsidize the certification fee. The program does award prizes to the graduating class, such as the person who performs best in the wheelchair skills course, which is an elective taken by about 50 students. The prize is offered by a Canadian wheelchair manufacturer. Paula will ask the manufacturer if it would be willing to offer WSP certifications in lieu of the cash prize. Mary offered to have ISWP visit a class to describe the certification as a way to promote the program and to test the approach of targeting students. **Paula** will include in her syllabus and coordinate a date with ISWP.

How will professionals in high income setting prove that they volunteer in LMIC. There was a proposal to allow volunteers to pay the student fee. We recommend the organization submit a letter on the provider’s behalf as justification for the volunteer activity.

2. Recertification: May explained details on the value of recertification will evolve as the

program does and proposed to reassess concerns regarding work experience with first wave of recertifications in 2020. With regard to continuing education, ISWP proposes adding a mentoring template letter. **PSB members** are invited to continue to comment on the recertification requirements document ([link](#)).

With regard to course or conference eligibility -- ensuring courses cover the 8 steps, ISWP does not have an accreditation yet but suggests a recommended number of contact hours per step and establish a minimum number of practical activities. Currently, the certificant would send a letter from a supervisor or instructor indicating the person has completed the 8 steps training. Adding more requirements approaches accreditation process. Maria said we shared with the group a list of courses to submit to ISWP to be considered eligible for contributing to the certification. Each applicant either needs a letter or to have the course approved. Once the course is approved, it would be listed on the ISWP certification website. That way, the instructor would not need to provide a letter for every trainee.

Mary indicated that for courses to be eligible, and in an effort to keep it simple, the person needs to provide the course taken and a brief description.

Maria Toro Hernandez described the Colombian Seating Symposium, which is being planned as a 3-day event. The first 2 days will be pre-conferences related to assessment, prescription and user training. The full-day conference on day 3 will be more theory around 8 steps. It is in a different format and will have less depth than WHO. Maria is discussing with conference organizers about collecting the certification fee and paying ISWP.

ISWP could develop a guidance document for conferences interested in offering certification to attendees.

3. WSP Survey: 53% response rate (among 58 certified providers). Some indicated that the certification is not required but does add credibility, which is important for a person's CV. All but one person is planning to recertify. Respondents identified a number of continuing education opportunities, including ISS, LASS, Physiopedia, LDS, and university courses. Barriers include: Access to local opportunities, dollars available and time available to pursue continuing education. Respondents like the idea of having a closed community, but ISWP needs to consider a variety of languages available. The closed community is an opportunity for all those who are certified to access information such as continuing education modules offered each month (about 1 hour), and a discussion board to discuss challenging clinical cases and other cases. Would also be option to promote events. ISWP is working on the logistics but has developed an outline of what the continuing education could be.

4. Promotion Efforts: ISWP is working with several organizations regarding certification for their teams.

- While new entry-level staff at **Permobil** are working to their 1,000 hours of client contact, they could work toward the certification. Mary will be talking with someone in the North America region, who would be willing to test it and share it with the other Permobil

regions.

- **CONADIS** in the Dominican Republic has received some wheelchair service provision training and is interested in professionalizing the group's providers. Providers are starting to take the test and are seeking funds. The organization also interested in intermediate level training.
- **Mobility India** currently uses the ISWP Basic test at the end of several of its courses and has shared certification information with trainees. There was some confusion about how the basic test is involving into certification. Misperception was that the certification fee was being sent to MI. Have a meeting with MI to discuss communications related to certification.
- ISWP has been working with Linda Wolf, **Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO)**, who oversees rehab services in Bhutan and who would like to have her providers pursue certification.
- Four **RICD Thailand** team members completed the Basic ToT training in Los Angeles in 2018. They then conducted several trainings around Thailand, with trainees taking Basic test. The RICD project manager is a certified provider who wrote a grant to the Thai government regarding certification. We anticipate hearing from him next year, as he is out of the office for the rest of this year.

5. ICRC Ethiopia Request: Robertangelo requested waiving certification fees in areas where there is conflict. Robertangelo also said internet connectivity is very low, so having a reliable connection to do the certification process online is a challenge. ISWP is helping with a paper-based process. In areas of conflict, it is difficult to raise money or allocate budgets specifically for this. Discussions continue internally. They would like to get a common position from ICRC. Myanmar is in a similar position as a conflict country, although internet connection is better.

In Myanmar, 60 people are taking the course online as part of an ICRC Basic training. Of the 60, 40 passed the Basic test. In this context, ICRC organizes training both for ICRC staff and for clinics in the area. Receiving the certification free of charge would help to qualify ICRC's position on paying for certification.

Perry feels there should be an independent standard. If we don't have a clear standard, it becomes a blurry line.

Patience suggested considering that some of the low-income countries might not be in conflict zones but may have other factors that prohibit people from being able to meet the fee requirements.

Mary requested the group to consider waiving the fee for low-income countries that also appear in the World Bank fragile and conflicted countries list – about 35 countries. **Krithika** to send a link for PSB members to vote before the January 2020 meeting.

6. Plan to meet WSP Certification B2B Goals: Goal is to onboard organizations in addition to reaching individuals one by one. ISWP would appreciate help from each PSB member organization to adopt the certification. Perry offered to promote through Loh Medical.

7. PSB Membership Tenure: Two seats are open: End-user representative, previously held by Karen Reyes, now with a different division in WHO; and industry representative, previously held by Susan Cwiertnia, VARILITE. PSB members to nominate replacements and to provide recommendations on how to address the tenure ending in December 2019. Current members are invited to continue. **Krithika** to email document outlining PSB member criteria and request PSB nominations for open seats and tenure question.

Participants (check mark indicates participation on call)

✓	Robertangelo Ciccone, ICRC
	Rosemary Joan Gowran, University of Limerick
✓	Perry Loh, Loh Medical
✓	Patience Mutiti, Motivation
✓	Paula Rushton, University of Montreal
✓	CJ Stanfill, Pencils of Promise
✓	Mary Goldberg, ISWP
✓	Krithika Kandavel, ISWP
✓	Maria Toro, ISWP
✓	Nancy Augustine, ISWP

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Reviewed by: Maria Toro