

RIMS Annual Report

2007

How to join RIMS?

RIMS is a fruitful network for all professional working in the field of MS.
Therefore we encourage all MS Centres, MS Societies and
individual professionals to join the network.
Read more: www.rims.be / [How to join?](#)

RIMS Annual membership fees are:

Centre	400 €
Individual	130 €
Student	25 €
Company	750 €

Benefits:

Individual members as well as all professionals from a member centre are able to get RIMS Annual Conference registration fee at a special reduced member price.

At the Annual Conferences RIMS aim at items of interest for both the new professional in the MS field, advanced professionals and visit local MS Centre.

A number of Special Interest Groups (SIG) have been established. The groups meet at least once a year during RIMS annual conference. They are also encouraged to hold an annual in-between workshop. Active groups are supported financially by RIMS.

Some of the Special Interest Groups have published papers or pamphlets on important MS issues. These are distributed among RIMS members.

RIMS is an active network for MS professionals and Centres and a membership gives you access to the resources of the network and hopefully it encourages study-visits, exchange of best practise and other skill improving activities.

Read more: www.rims.be

Executive Board, Bryssel 11th April 2008

INDEX

Greetings from the President	4
1 RIMS.....	5
1.1 Administration	5
1.2 Members	6
2 Special Interest Groups	6
2.1 New Booklets	7
2.2 SIG in-between meetings	8
2.3 RIMS www-site.....	8
3 Annual conference 2007	9
3.1 RIMS-ECTRIMS together.....	9
4 Network.....	9
5 Fellowship program.....	10
6 Financial support, marketing.....	10

Greetings from the President

Dear members

During the year 2007, a challenging task was the planning process of the joint **ECTRIMS** 2007 conference, Prague 11th –14th 2007.

There is no doubt that this joint conference was a great success regarding RIMS activities. The amount of participants for the conference rated up 5.500 people. Those of you who were there, remember how occupied the RIMS lecture rooms were, with 300 seats and at least 100-150 people still sitting on the floor and standing by the walls.

We were able to promote RIMS at our own exhibition booth and got new members and delivered a lot material of our organisation.

ECTRIMS Scientific Committee rewarded the Best RIMS Poster M.P. Amato et al (I) *An Italian multicentre study on cognitive functioning in childhood and juvenile multiple sclerosis*. The award was announced during the ECTRIMS closing ceremony.

During RIMS General Assembly, the award for Best RIMS Oral Presentation was given to L. Costelloe et al (IRL), *Response shift: the mismatch between patient reported quality of life and disease severity*.

I wish to express my pleasure that that Special Interest Groups (SIG) have been very active. I hope that all member centres will be active in encouraging their staff to take more interest in these groups. These SIG meetings are enthusiastic and a very nice way to give the first "kick off" for staff members to start their international collaboration.

Eija Luoto
RIMS President

1 RIMS

The aim of RIMS (Rehabilitation in MS) is to link the European MS Centres in order to encourage professionals interested in Multiple Sclerosis to exchange their knowledge of clinical, scientific, social, economical and educational matters about the disease and to establish individual and scientific contacts between persons. In addition, individual membership for those who have a special interest in MS is welcomed.

1.1 Administration

RIMS is managed by an Executive Board, which according to the bylaws is composed of eight elected officers, including the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. Dr Judith Lutz continued to act as SIG Coordinator and producer of our newsletter Network Brita Loevendahl remained in charge of membership issues. Dr Claudio Solaro continued the new Treasurer as well as Mr Paul van Asch as Secretary.

Executive Board member		Country	Officers	Term
Eija Luoto	Administrative director	Finland	President	2005-2008
Holger Albrecht	Dr	Germany	Treasurer	2005-2008 (*)
Paul van Asch	Chief physiotherapist	Belgium	Secretary	2005-2008 (*)
Katrin Gross-Paju	Dr	Estonia		2005-2008 (*)
Ingrid Galan	Dr	Spain		2005-2008
Brita Lovendahl	Manager	Denmark	Member officer	2005-2008
Judith Lutz	Dr	Switzerland	SIG-Coordinator	2005-2008
Claudio Solaro	Dr	Italy	Treasurer elect	2005-2008

(*) second term; stepping down in 2008

The Executive Board held three meetings during the year 2007:
March 9th-10th Haeslev, Denmark, Brussels, Belgium 1st-2nd September and 11th October, Prague, Czech.

RIMS 2007 conference was organised as a joint **ECTRIMS** conference in Prague, October 11th-14th, 2007. Eija Luoto, Dr Claudio Solaro and Dr Katrin Gross-Paju were nominated for the ECTRIMS Scientific Committee.

1.2 Members

At the end of year 2007 RIMS had altogether 33 member centres, 19 individual members, 4 societies and 1 students listed. However, as has already been noted earlier, the amount of centres and individuals that had not paid their annual fee was remarkably high. According to the bylaws a member is no longer considered to be a member following failure of payment of the membership fee for two (consecutive or non-consecutive) years.

The RIMS Member Coordinator was actively corresponding and trying to find the key persons of those centres but did not succeed in all cases. No second round for annual fees was done.

Members 2007	Annual fee received for 2007	Delay in payments 2007 (in 2006)	Total nr of members 2007 (in 2006)
Centre members	25	8 (19)	33 (42)
Individual members	15	4 (16)	19 (31)
Students	1	- (1)	2 (2)
Companies			0
Societies	1	3	4 (2)

2 Special Interest Groups

The Executive Board has established a number of Special Interest Groups (SIG). The groups aim to promote research and improve the management of Persons with MS and their caregivers. The following SIGs have been nominated by the Executive Board

At the General Assembly, October 13th, Prague, Czech, the new SIG Chairs as well as the Co-Chairs were nominated.

Dr Laura Lopez (I) was nominated as a new Co-Chair for SIG on Bladder, Bowel and Sexual Problems and PT Peter Feys, PhD (B) as new Chair for SIG on Mobility.

SIG Mobility	Chair	Peter	Feys (B)	PT, PhD
	Co-Chair	Holger	Albrecht (D)	Dr, neurologist
	Web Coordinator	Margit	Muller (I)	Physiotherapist
SIG Occupation	Chair	Daphne	Kos (B)	OT, PhD
	Co-Chair	Stephan	Ilsbrouckx (B)	Dr
	Web Coordinator	Katja	Laine (FI)	OT
SIG Psychology and Neuropsychology	Chair	Päivi	Hämäläinen (FI)	PhD Neuropsychologist
	Co-Chair	Agnete	Joensson (DK)	Neuropsychologist
	Web Coordinator	Anita	Rose (UK)	
SIG Bladder, Bowel and Sexual Problems	Chair	Dirk	De Ridder (B)	MD, PhD, urologist
	Co-Chair	Laura	Lopes	Dr, Medical Director
	Web Coordinator			
SIG Social Integration and Participation	Chair	Rina	Verdoodt (B)	Social worker
	Co-Chair	An	Van Nunen (B)	Dr
	Web Coordinator	Hanna-Mari	Hyvönen (FIN)	Social worker
SIG Communication and Swallowing problems	Chair	Rosa	Terre Boliart (S)	Dr
	Co-Chair	Marta	Renom (S)	Speech therapist
	Web Coordinator	Antonella	Nota (B)	Speech therapist

Detailed contact information is available on www.rims.be.

2.1 New Booklets

The new booklet, prepared by SIG on Communication and Swallowing was launched: The title of the booklet is *Talking about communication*.

The booklet is available on www.rims.be

Booklets on Emotional reactions and MS and Personality and MS were translated into Spanish and will be published in 2008

2.2 SIG in-between meetings

All SIGs were active and held their in-between meetings during the year. Some of them also had another in-between meeting. RIMS contribution for SIG the meetings was 2.500 € per year/group for organising in-between meetings.

2007	City/Country	Date	Participants	Countries present
SIG Psychology and Neuropsychology	Masku, Finland	20-21/05/07	12	7
SIG Mobility	Genoa, Italy	16-17/2/2007	33	7
SIG Occupation	Haslev, Denmark	11-12/05/2007	10	4
SIG Bladder, Bowel and Sexual Disorders	Haslev, Denmark	11-12/05/2007	5	3
SIG Communication and Swallowing	Barcelona, Spain	6-7/02/2007	5	4
SIG Participation and Autonomy	Haslev, Denmark	11-12/05/2007	4	2

All SIGs reported their in between meetings to the Executive Board.

As planned, during the Annual Conference in Prague, SIG Chairs and Executive Board held a meeting. All SIGs reported shortly on their in- between meetings. The SIG Chair`s responsibilities and the reimbursement procedure for SIG in-between meetings was discussed and also updated and agreed. It was clearly noted that there is a wish for research among RIMS SIGs but that carrying out a properly designed research is extremely complicated and difficult, mainly because of lack on funding and also because of lack of coordination and study design expertise.

It was decided that RIMS Advisory Board will be asked to work as a Scientific Committee in evaluating suggested projects and e.g. booklets before they are launched. Their task will be reading e.g. the RIMS booklet texts for the authors` advice, comments and critics.

Also, all SIGs nominated their www-page coordinator and it was accepted that the update of SIG space on RIMS website would be done by May.

2.3 RIMS www-site

A special project regarding updating the SIG`s www-pages was established and it was decided the pages should be updated by the Leuven RIMS Conference 2008. Each SIG`s web coordinators were actively involved with this.

3 Annual conference 2007

3.1 RIMS-ECTRIMS together

RIMS Annual Conference 2007 was organized as a joint conference with ECTRIMS in Prague, October 11-14 2007. A large number of people attended the RIMS sessions and there must have been at least 250-300 participants with 59 scientific posters within the RIMS section. We were able to promote RIMS at RIMS exhibition booth and we also recruited new members and delivered a lot material of the organisation.

ECTRIMS Scientific Committee rewarded the Best RIMS Poster M.P. Amato et al (I) : *An Italian multicentre study on cognitive functioning in childhood and juvenile multiple sclerosis*. The award was announced during the ECTRIMS closing ceremony.

During RIMS General Assembly, the award for Best RIMS Oral Presentation was given to L. Costelloe et al (IRL), *Response shift: the mismatch between patient reported quality of life and disease severity*.

RIMS conference participants 2005-2007	2007 Prague	2006 Barcelona	2005 Tallinn
Doctors	22	72	163
Nurses	3	69	26
Physiotherapists	5	35	14
Occupational therapists	4	14	4
Social workers	2	3	3
Psychologist,	4	14	10
Neuropsychologists		19	
Speech therapists	1	10	3
Dietician		1	1
Others	14	3	3
Centre managers, directors	3	16	12
Occupation nor documented	2	24	23
Marketing representatives	4	12	12
TOTAL	64*	313	274

* The number includes such registered participants who had marked themselves as RIMS members. The total number of multiprofessional MS team members (non doctors) was actually much higher.

4 Network

RIMS newsletter *Network* was published twice, June and in December in 2007.

5 Fellowship program

The Executive Board started planning a new fellowship program according to which RIMS members are able to visit RIMS member centres.

First ideas were discussed and it was decided that first we should find such centres that would be interested in this and also set some criteria for them. The start will be slow and regarding the volume, first experiences will be done with 1-2 persons with 1.000 € covering for each. All participants present were asked to inform Executive Board if their centre would be interested in this project.

6 Financial support, marketing

The Executive Board continued planning new tools for marketing and advertisement purposes. Work on new brochures for informing possible new members of RIMS activities was ongoing throughout the year.

The financial situation was reasonably stable. No outside sponsoring was available. The annual conference 2007 did a financial profit of 35.000 euros.

Rehabilitation in Multiple Sclerosis (RIMS), the network of MS Centres in Europe was created in 1991, in Milan, Italy to enhance collaboration by the foremost MS Centres in Europe. Today the Organisation has 38 member centres throughout Europe.

The aim of RIMS is to link the European MS Centres in order to encourage professionals interested in Multiple Sclerosis to exchange their knowledge of clinical, scientific, social, economical and educational matters about the disease and to establish individual and scientific contacts between persons. In addition, individual membership for those who have a special interest in MS is welcomed.

RIMS has established a number of Special Interest Groups (SIG). The groups aim to promote research and improve the management of Persons with MS and their caregivers.

RIMS newsletter *Network* is published twice a year.

Find more information: www.rims.be

