

RIMS Annual Report

2005

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

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Greetings from the President

The 10th Annual Conference in Tallinn Estonia was held in May 2005. Five new Executive Board members were elected. Old members continued their tasks as Treasurer and Secretary. Two new officers were nominated: SIG Coordinator and Member Officer.

The focus of the first year of the new Board has been on creating firm logistics for member ship issues and on recruiting new members and keeping all members well informed about our activities.

I wish to thank all members for this past year that gave a lot of challenges for the new Board's first year. Your contribution has been of crucial importance for us all. The following years will hopefully show a growth in members, increasing activities in SIGs and naturally a vivid multiprofessional nature in all RIMS activities which is crucial for our success.

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.

At the 10th Annual Conference in Tallinn, Estonia in May 2005 five new Executive Board members were elected. Three previous members continue for a further term in 2005-2008: Dr Holger Albrecht of Germany as a Treasurer, chief physiotherapist Paul van Asch of Belgium as a Secretary and Dr Katrin Gross-Paju of Estonia. The Executive Board also nominated two new officers: the duty of Dr Judith Lutz (Switzerland) as the SIG Coordinator and the duty of Brita Loevendahl (Denmark) as the Member Officer.

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		2005-2008

(*) second term; stepping out in 2008

Including the organizing meeting in Tallinn 21st May 2005, The Executive Board had altogether three meetings during the year: at July 25th-26th and at 26th November, 2005.

Ingrid Galan, Paul van Asch and Eija Luoto were nominated as members in the RIMS Annual Conference 2006 Scientific Committee. The head of the Institute Guttman, Dr Josep Ramirez kindly offered to organize the 2006 RIMS Annual meeting as a joint meeting together with their XVIII Technical Conference.

Local organizers and the representatives of the Executive Board held two workshops in order to plan the joint conference.

1.2 Members

At the end of year 2005 RIMS had altogether 38 member centres and 30 individual members.

RIMS Members	Annual fee received for 2005	Delay in payments	Total nr of members
Centre members	27	11	38
Individual members	16	14	30
Companies	0		0
Societies	2		2

During the first year of the new Executive Board it was found that some centres had not paid their annual fee for 2004 and 2005 (altogether 11 centres). Nor had they reported their wish to resign. According to the bylaws a member is considered to no longer be a member due to failure of payment of the membership fee for two (consecutive or non-consecutive) years.

The Member Coordinator was actively corresponding and trying to find the key persons of those centres but did not succeed in all cases. Also, the invoices for annual fees for 2005 were sent quite late (September), which may have caused some delay in payments.

That is why it was decided to regard these centres and individuals still as members if RIMS receives the payment for the year 2006. In case of not receiving it, they will be regarded as resigned members. Even so, a reminding letter with the request to inform RIMS about their wish to resign will be sent to check the situation.

The Executive Board decided that in the future, the invoices for annual fees will be sent in January-February.

1.3 The By Laws

The new by laws were accepted at the Tallinn General Assembly in 2005.

According to them, today, member-centres pay a single membership fee which allows membership in the Organisation for all individuals working within that centre.

Regarding the Executive Board members, after a period of absence from the Executive Board of one full term (three years), a member of the Organisation can be re-nominated and re-elected to the Executive Board. The financial year was changed to end on December 31.

As far the Annual General Assembly did not met the quorum of 2/3 members present, RIMS Secretariat sent a member letter to all members on July 10th 2005 to have their possible objections until the end of July. The Secretariat did not get objections by that time or after that.

The Belgian authorities officially accepted the new by laws and the new elected Executive Board of RIMS in the Belgian State Journal in October 2005.

1.4 RIMS new logo

The new logo was approved during the Tallinn General Assembly. The Italian artist, Gabriella Gventaglio has designed a modern and versatile logo which was most welcomed by attendees of the General Assembly.

The new logo will be used on official letter forms and envelopes, as well as in Network and on RIMS website.

1.5 The RIMS www-site

A new www site lay out was designed and evaluated during the year and the pages will get their new design with the new logo at the beginning of the year 2006.

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:

SIG	Chair person	Co Chair person
SIG on Mobility	Dr Claude Vaney (CH)	Dr Holger Albrecht (D)
SIG on Bladder, Bowel and Sexual Disorders	Dr Dirk DeRidder (B)	
SIG on Communication and Swallowing	Guy Ganty (B)	Eva Hartelius (S)
SIG on Psychology and Neuropsychology	Päivi Hämäläinen (FIN)	Agnete Joensson (DK)
SIG on Occupation	Marijke Duportail (B)	Daphne Kos (B)
SIG on Social Integration and Participation	Rina Verdoodt (B)	An van Nunen (B)

The Chair of SIG on Communication and Swallowing, Guy Ganty informed the Executive Board that he will resign his chair.

Several SIGs had in-between meetings during the year. RIMS contribution for organising SIG in between meeting was 2.500 € per group.

2005	City/Country	Date	Partici- pants	Countries present
SIG on Psychology and Neuropsychology	Tallinn, Estonia	May 22 nd	8	7
	Genoa, Italy	October 28 th -29 th	10	8
SIG on Mobility	Montana, Switzerland	February 24 th -26 th	10	5
SIG on Occupation	Barcelona, Spain	March 11 th -12 th	32	6
SIG on Social Integration and Participation	Brussels, Belgium	October 21 st -22 nd	14	5
SIG on Communication and Swallowing		<i>not organised</i>		
SIG on Bladder, Bowel and Sexual Disorders		<i>not organised</i>		

SIG Psychology and Neuropsychology published two booklets: Emotional reactions and MS and Personality, Behaviour and MS. In autumn, RIMS Executive Board accepted the proposal of the group to circulate the booklets in PDF format it through the RIMS www-site. The editing process will be done by the Annual Conference in Barcelona 2006.

It was also noted with pleasure that after a time of inactivity SIG on Social Integration and Participation organized an in between meeting in October with a great success.

All SIGs reported their in between meetings to the Executive Board. A statistical follow up regarding the SIG meetings was created.

The Executive Board sent a www based questionnaire to all SIG Chairs and Co chairs in autumn 2005 in order to find out the future plans of SIGs and to get comments and wishes regarding the new board. According to these comments a more regular contact between Executive Board and SIG Chairs and Co Chairs is needed and regular information about the Executive Board decisions would be highly

appreciated. Some reported that organizing the in between meetings is stressful. Some very useful ideas for developing RIMS www site were also presented.

In future, RIMS Executive Board and SIG Chairs will have at least one joint meeting a year preferably during the RIMS Annual Conference and a regular correspondence was started.

3 Annual conference 2005

The 10th Annual Conference 19th – 22Th May 2005 in Tallinn, Estonia was very successful and well attended by professionals with a diverse experience in MS. The Pre-conference Satellite workshops proved to be a very practical form of intensive professional education.

This conference again underlined the fact that RIMS has a broad remit, which incorporates all aspects of MS and its management from the very beginning of the disease. The “will-be-remembered” moments were dinner at a medieval Tallinn stone house and the real life feeling of the nearby museum village.

Including the Pre Satellite Workshops the annual conference had a total of 272 participants. This time, the proportion of doctors was the greatest (59%).

RIMS Annual Conference Participants	2005 Tallinn
Doctors	163
Nurses	26
Physiotherapists	14
Occupational therapists	4
Social workers	3
Psychologist, neuropsychologists	10
Speech therapists	3
Dietician	1
Others	3
Centre managers, directors	12
Occupation not documented	23
Marketing representatives	12
TOTAL	274

Altogether there were 31 abstracts for platform presentations (8) and poster presentations (23).

The RIMS awards for the best platform presentation and the best poster presentation were delivered during Tallinn’s General Assembly. The award for the best platform presentation was given to Peter Feyes (Belgium) “Does peripheral cooling influence

MS intention tremor” and the awards for the best posters were given to two groups: L Veugles, S Rekman, G Nagels, H Vertomme, S Ilsbroux (Belgium) “Mental health Inventory (MHI) and the Melsbroek Rehabilitation program (MRP)” and to L Kompus, L Sema, A Toomela, M Kreegipuu, K Gross-Paju (Estonia) “Executive functions and their relations to depression in patients with MS”

4 Information to members and to interest groups

One informative member letter was distributed to all members in autumn 2005. In addition, the SIG Chairs and Co Chairs were informed about Executive Boards decisions. The RIMS SIG questionnaire in autumn 2005 was a very good tool to start developing a closer communication with SIGs.

In addition, several outside interest groups acquired information about the RIMS new Executive Board and about the 11th RIMS Annual Conference in Barcelona 2006 including Nordic MS Nurses and the members of CMSC and IOMSN (Consortium of MS Centres, International MS Nurses Organisation, USA). The members of ECTRIMS Executive Board also received an up date on RIMS future activities.

4.1 Network

RIMS newsletter *Network* was published in summer 2005. The new logo was inserted to Newsletter and the summer edition is to be used also as a tool for advertising purposes as long as RIMS has no a special RIMS promotion brochure is available.

5 Financial support, marketing

The Executive Board started 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 stable. Vienna 2004 ECTRIM/RIMS Conference RIMS benefit was distributed to RIMS account during the fiscal year 2005.

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.

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RIMS newsletter *Network* is published twice a year.

Find more information: www.rims.be

