

## MEETING CALENDAR

For information about these and other professional conferences see  
[www.docguide.com](http://www.docguide.com)

### 13th RIMS Annual Conference

The 13th RIMS Annual Conference will be held May 8 - 10th 2008 in Leuven, Belgium. The title is RIMS 2008: Targeting Good Practise in MS Care and Rehabilitation. Local organisers are Prof. Dirk De Ridder, Paul Van Asch and Dr. Stephan Ilsbroukx. The main venue will be University Hall. The SIG Workshops will be organised in separate venue, very near the University Hall.  
Abstract dead line: February 28th 2008  
Acceptance or rejection of abstracts (selection for oral or poster) by March 31st 2008  
Registration dead line: Early Bird February 28th 2008

### RIMS research fellowship exchange programme

RIMS intends to offer a research fellowship programme beginning in 2008.

The fellowship will be available to young European professionals in order to facilitate their training in rehabilitation related to multiple sclerosis in RIMS member centres. The goal of the programme is to promote the multidisciplinary approach to rehabilitation in MS and to encourage the exchange of information and professional growth for those working in the field of MS.

RIMS will support up to two fellowships annually, each with duration of one week, with a stipend of up to 1000 euro. Fellows are expected to identify a RIMS member centre prior to application.

### RIMS Annual Membership Fees

Centre: 400 Euro  
Individual: 130 Euro  
Student: 25 Euro  
Company: 750 Euro

Bank: Fortis Mechelen-Centrum, 81105 Bruul  
81, B2800 Mechelen, Belgium  
International Bank Account Number (IBAN)  
BE 32 0015 0445 0802, SWIFT (BIC) GEBABEBB

**Please remember to use your ID-number  
when paying your membership fees!**

### Join RIMS as a member

RIMS is a fruitful network for all professionals working in the field of MS. Therefore we encourage all MS Centres, MS Societies and individual professionals to join the network. If you want more information about RIMS or how to become a member you are welcome to contact Brita Loevendahl who is the "New Members Coordinator" for the RIMS Executive Board. She can be reached at 0045 27 11 78 81 or mail: [brita.loevendahl@mail.dk](mailto:brita.loevendahl@mail.dk). She will endeavour to get back to you as quickly as possible.

### SIG Funding Opportunity

RIMS Special Interest Groups (SIG) may apply to the Executive Board for a maximum of 2,500 Euro for the purpose of organising interim meetings. For more information please contact:  
[eija.luoto@ms-liitto.fi](mailto:eija.luoto@ms-liitto.fi).

**For more information visit our website: [www.rims.be](http://www.rims.be)**

# Network



## RIMS was really seen!

The 12th RIMS Annual Conference was organised as a joint conference with ECTRIMS in Prague 11-17, 2007. There is no doubt that the RIMS activities during ECTRIMS were a great success. As many as 5,500 participants were registered. Unfortunately we have no statistics as to how many RIMS members attended but if the number of people attending the RIMS sessions is anything to go by, we surely had at least 250-300 people this year. Those of you who were there will certainly remember how crowded the RIMS lecture rooms were, 300 seats occupied with at least a further 100-150 people sitting on the floor and standing by the walls!

We also promoted RIMS at our own exhibition booth, where we had a lot of visitors indeed acquired several regarding RIMS activities. new members.

The traditional awards for Best Poster Presentation and the Best Platform Presentation were nominated.

The ECTRIMS Scientific Committee awarded with the Best RIMS Poster with €500 to 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 RIMS award, also 500€, 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".

During the conference, SIG Chairs, Co-Chairs and Executive Board had their meeting. All SIGs gave a short report on their in between meetings and each has designated a member with special responsibility for their website entry, who will update the SIG space on RIMS www pages. It is intended that this will be completed before May 2008 and our Annual Meeting in Leuven.

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

Plans for a new fellowship program were also discussed. RIMS members will be able to visit RIMS member centres. The first step will be to identify centres interested in participating. Initially, a pilot project with a stipend of 1.000 € for two fellows is planned.

Network is the official newsletter of RIMS, a non-profit organisation of multiple sclerosis centres in Europe, bringing together all health care professionals involved in the care of persons with MS.  
<http://www.rims.be>

Our next conference will take place in Leuven, Belgium, from Thursday 8 May 2008 – Saturday 10 May 2008. The Pre Conference workshops will be on Thursday May 8th and will focus on employment and urological problems. A visit to Melsbroek MS-Center will also be organised. As 2008 is also an election year, the three “old” members of the Board will be stepping down (Dr Holger Albrecht from Germany, Dr Katrin Gross-Paju from Estonia, and Paul van Asch from Belgium).

With this, I wish to thank all members for their activities and especially the SIGs for their enthusiastic development of new ideas and how to initiate them in our daily practice.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Eija Luoto  
RIMS president



## Joint ECTRIMS/RIMS Conference in Prague: a great success

The 12th annual RIMS conference was held in conjunction with the 23rd Congress of the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS), in Prague in October 2007.

The interest in rehabilitation topics was much greater than had been expected showing that not only were people interested in the results of the numerous clinical trials and basic scientific research but that despite the developments in the treatment of MS there remains a great need for rehabilitation. The plenary lecture from Alan Thompson (UK) on measuring the outcomes in neurorehabilitation summed up the topics of our meeting very well. He stressed that the emphasis on evidence-based practice has underlined the need to demonstrate benefit from any given intervention and applies as much to the rehabilitation process as to other therapeutic interventions. Fundamental to this approach is the ability to identify the concepts to be measured and the identification of instruments which capture them. This is far from straightforward in a complex intervention such as rehabilitation

which is an educational process aiming to ensure that the person who has become disabled acquires the knowledge and skills needed for optimum physical, psychological and social function.

This topic was developed by the speakers, most of whom are active members of RIMS in SIG groups, in talks dealing with goal setting and outcome measures rating scales, principles of measurements, and the use of physician and patient based outcome measures in neurorehabilitation. On the Saturday, M. Ravnborg (DK) gave the plenary lecture on the challenges of evidence based medicine in Rehabilitation. In the following sessions recent developments in the physiotherapy of MS as well as many aspects of fatigue in MS were discussed. The final session was devoted to free communications.

Abstracts of all presentations are available at [www.akm.ch/ectrims2007/](http://www.akm.ch/ectrims2007/)

## Report from the meeting of Executive Board and SIG Chairs and Co Chairs Meeting in Prague, October 11, 2007:

It was noted that there is a clearly stated wish to undertake research among RIMS SIGs but that carrying out properly designed research is often very difficult, often due to problems with funding but sometimes also because of a lack of coordination and study design expertise.

It was therefore decided that RIMS Advisory Board will be asked to work with

us as a Scientific Committee, evaluating suggested projects and booklets before they are launched and offering advice, comments and criticisms.

The advisory board consists of former members of the executive board and at present is made up as shown below.

## RIMS Advisory Board

### President:

Alan J Thompson, Professor (UK)

### Members:

Jane Johnson, M.Sc. B.Ed. R.G.N. (UK)

Pierre Ketelaer M.D. (B)

Michele Messmer Uccelli MA, MSCS (I)

Mads Ravnborg MD. DMSc (DK)

Juhani Ruutiainen M.D., Associate Professor (FIN)

Claude Vaney M.D. (CH)

## SIG activities

- SIG on Psychology and Neuropsychology is currently planning a manual on cognitive rehabilitation. This decision was based on a Cochrane review 2006 in which the main conclusion was that there is a need for a manualised approach to treatment of cognitive issues in MS. Agnette Jønsson will lead this work.
- SIG Bladder, Bowel and Sexual Disorders (subdms) Dr. Laura Lopes has been appointed as co-chair of Subdms, Prof. Dirk De Ridder will resign as chair of Subdms in 2008.
- The new booklet “Talking about communication in multiple sclerosis” has been written by the core group of SIG Communications and Swallowing
- Peter Feys is the new chairman of SIG Mobility.
- SIG Mobility: The next in between meeting will be held on April 3-5th 2008 in Haslev, Denmark. The topic is “Daily life orientated Evaluation and Therapy” and will include a lecture by Vincent Degroot (MD, PhD - VU Amsterdam, NL) on outcome measures on activity and participation level as well as lectures on the interplay between impairment, activity and participation (e.g. MSSS-88 spasticity scale and actigraphy versus functional mobility measures). In addition a hands-on workshop with several MS patients to compare therapist’s and patient’s opinion is planned. The clinical centres of the various participants will be presented and it is planned to begin preparation of a multi-centre study.

- At the SIG Occupation meeting during ECTRIMS in Prague, October 11, 2007. The agenda included a discussion on the recommendations “Advisory role of OT in people with MS”, election of a webmaster and preparation of in-between meeting autumn 2008 in Slovenia.
- All SIGs will be meeting at the RIMS annual conference in Leuven in 2008
- Further information is available on the website or by contacting the SIG coordinator [Jlutz@multiplesklerose.ch](mailto:Jlutz@multiplesklerose.ch)

## News from the board

- www blog trial from the SIGs, it is planned to get this up and running in 2008 if possible
- For future joint SIG meetings the reimbursement of €2.500 will be given to all participating SIG’s according to the guidelines of organising SIG in-between meeting.
- The RIMS money may not be used for transportation reimbursement (flight tickets) and will only be for accommodation and dinner costs
- We discussed how to make RIMS more attractive to the members amongst other things the idea of setting up a Scientific Research Database. Claudio Solaro is working on this proposal.
- It was decided that 2009 RIMS conference will be organised in Italy, Genova

## Special Interest Groups (SIG)

### Mobility:

Peter Feys / Dr.H.Albrecht (D)

### Bladder, Bowel and Sexual Disorders:

Dirk de Ridder / Laura Lopes

### Psychology and Neuropsychology:

P. Hämäläinen PhD (FIN) /

A. Jønsson PhD (DK)

### Communication and Swallowing:

Dr. R. Terre (E) / A. Nota (B) /

M. Renom (E)

### Integration and Participation:

R.Verdoort (B) / Dr.A.van Nunen (B)

### Occupation:

D. Kos (B) / Dr. S. Ilbrouckx (B)