

NOTES AND NEWS

AN INVITATION TO VISIT NEW YORK IN THE SPRINGTIME FROM ISPO 1977 WORLD CONGRESS, MAY 26—JUNE 2

“The Congress is open to everyone with an interest in prosthetics, orthotics, and rehabilitation engineering,” says ISPO 1977 Congress president Anthony Staros, issuing an invitation to spend a productive and enjoyable week in New York at a time of year when the still-great city is very likely to be at its best and most attractive.

The committee which Mr. Staros heads, selected to organize the 1977 Congress by the Executive Board of the United States Member Society of the international organization, represents most of the disciplines concerned with prosthetics, orthotics, and rehabilitative engineering, and the program they have assembled offers not only core technical sessions intended to establish the state of the art, but also a large number of instructional courses offering “explicit and clinically useful details.” These are available in some eight-hour, four-hour, and a large selection of two-hour units, thoughtfully scheduled so that it seems possible to encompass a substantial amount of instruction while still attending one’s fill of plenary sessions, papers, symposia, and workshops.

Pre- and post-Congress courses are also listed. Those pre include May 23–25 offerings in Orthopedic Shoes (for orthotists and orthopedic footwear specialists) and Cosmetic Restorations (for physicians, technicians, and prosthetists). These two courses, which include demonstrations and laboratory experience, will be presented by the Veterans Administration Prosthetics Center, of which Mr. Staros is director. Courses offered May 25–26 by New York University focus on lower-limb subjects—a basic introduction to lower-limb prosthetics, and a basic introduction to lower-limb orthotics. The NYU Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine is offering, on the same days, a course which will emphasize the use of newly-developed plastic lower-limb orthoses: a number of case presentations are planned for this unit.

The post-Congress offering is a June 6–8 course in Clinical Gait Analysis and Ambulation Training, at Temple University, Philadelphia. The faculty will be drawn from Rancho Los Amigos Hospital, University of California, Berkeley, as well as Temple University.

Attendance at the VA courses is limited to the professions mentioned, but the NYU and Temple courses are reported as “open to all profes-

sional disciplines attending the Congress.”

The Congress program is not, of course, devoted exclusively to explicit and clinically useful technical and scientific information. The organizational, administrative, conceptual, and research aspects of rehabilitation throughout the world also appear, both in plenary-session subjects and among the papers and symposia. ISPO itself, in Mr. Staros' phrase, “must now establish its role in the decade of the 1980's . . . in New York the Society will formulate its structure and missions to facilitate the delivery of high-quality care to patients no matter where they reside.”

The ISPO 1977 Congress is supported by the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association, and the program has been organized with the cooperation of the American Academy of Orthotists and Prosthetists. Collaborating also are the American Orthopedic Association, American Academy of Rehabilitative Medicine, and Rehabilitation International.

Secretariat before and after the Congress is Driscoll and Assoc., 7109 Masters Drive, Potomac, Maryland 20854, U.S.A. The Congress will be held in the Americana Hotel, 7th Avenue and 52nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019, U.S.A.

**SECOND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FOR FACIAL PROSTHESES
AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, MAY 1978**

The Second International Symposium for Facial Prostheses is to be held in San Antonio, Texas, next year. It will build upon experience of the First International Symposium on Maxillofacial Prosthetics, held in April 1976 at Arnhem in the Netherlands. (See BPR 10-25, pp. 129-133, for a summary of the conference.)

Officers of the 1978 Symposium, all of whom were participants at Arnhem, include as president Col. Alan C. Roberts, St. Luke's Hospital, Bradford, United Kingdom; as first vice-president Dr. Victor Matalon, University of Texas System, Cancer Center, Houston, Texas, U.S.A.; as second vice-president Dr. Adrian Bantjes, Twents University, Enschede, the Netherlands; and as secretary-general John F. Lontz, Ph. D., Veterans Administration and Temple University, U.S.A. Dr. Lontz is a principal investigator in maxillofacial prosthetic research for the Veterans Administration.

Present plans set the date at May 4-6, 1978, at San Antonio, Texas, at the Oak Hill Motor Inn. The nearby South Texas Medical Center (Bexar County, Texas) and the Audie Murphy VA Hospital, will participate.

The Symposium will be immediately preceded by the annual meeting of the Society for Biomaterials, to be held in San Antonio April 26-May 3, 1978.

VOICE-CONTROLLED WHEELCHAIR WITH MANIPULATOR IS PRODUCT OF VA-NASA-HEW COOPERATION

VA Prosthetics Center director Anthony Staros pronounced a new powered wheelchair with mechanical arm “about 97 percent bug-free” and said it might eventually be possible to put one of the devices into a veteran’s home for less than \$10,000.

Control of chair and mechanical manipulator by the human voice becomes available after the occupant of the chair turns it on, using slight movements of the head or shoulders, or limited movement of one or two fingers. Control then passes to a minicomputer, “trained” to respond to a 35-word vocabulary of commands when spoken only in the voice of the chair’s owner. The mechanical arm, which can extend as far as 4 ft to grasp objects with its pincer fingers, is said to make it possible for a quadriplegic occupant to eat, wash, read, shave, open doors, and perform other services for himself by means of the spoken vocabulary.

Development costs to produce the first working model of the voice-controlled wheelchair-manipulator were reported to have been about \$100,000. The Veterans Administration and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration cooperated in the development, with costs shared by the VA, NASA, and the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

HOTEL’S WILLINGNESS TO RENOVATE FOR ACCESSIBILITY WON WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE CHOICE

The Sheraton-Park Hotel in Washington, D.C., was selected as the site of the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals because the hotel’s management was willing to make many permanent renovations to give the landmark Washington hotel barrier-free accessibility. Jack F. Smith, executive director of the Conference, called barrier-free accessibility an important concept of the White House Conference and said it was a critical factor in the decision to select the Park-Sheraton.

The alterations, which were to be completed before the Conference’s May 23 opening, include permanent ramping of entranceways, swimming pool deck, and service entries from parking areas. Telephone booths with lowered instruments, and with amplified receivers and enlarged dials, were to be placed at strategic locations throughout the hotel. Service elevators converted to specialized passenger duty, new floorplans for restaurants and lounges, and large, raised-letter signs throughout the hotel for blind delegates, are typical details. Many guest rooms were to be renovated to improve mobility and function—plans called for 400 rooms out of the hotel’s 1,200 to be made suitable for persons with severe mobility disabilities.

The alteration and renovation program was based on a study by Conference staff members working with the hotel's staff and the Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board.

The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals staff, consisting of individuals with a variety of impairments, has also worked to make the Conference itself a demonstration of elimination, mitigation, and evasion of barriers. For example, room assignments were being planned to put the more seriously disabled delegates in rooms most convenient to elevators and meeting areas. Buffets at various points within the meeting room complex were planned to avoid the usual long trek to meals between sessions. Among the goals of the planners was one expressed as an effort to "avoid extensive and overt separation by disability category . . . to allow persons with different forms of inconvenience to mingle freely and exchange views."

The willingness of the Sheraton-Park management to agree to the many details of permanent renovations and special arrangements was described as a "breakthrough" for disabled persons visiting the nation's capital, and it seems to have made an important contribution toward realizing some of the Conference's goals. When Conference chairman Dr. Henry Viscardi, Jr., and his National Planning and Advisory Council first announced their decision to hold the Conference in Washington, D.C., they gave as their reasons "the highest national visibility and legislative impact." The hotel renovation has provided a concrete example, under highly visible circumstances, of the practicality of barrier-free accessibility. The report hints at a good prognosis for the Conference's aims of promoting individual dignity, independence, and full participation for the handicapped.

FEDERAL WOMAN'S AWARD FOR MARY PAT MURRAY, Ph. D.

Mary Patricia Murray, Chief of Kinesiology Research at the Veterans Administration Center at Wood, Wisconsin, is one of the six women from a variety of professional disciplines and backgrounds to receive the coveted Federal Woman's Award for 1976. The ceremony took place in October at the Shoreham-Americana, in Washington, D.C.

Born in Milwaukee, Dr. Murray has remained in Wisconsin while earning an admiring national and international following among professionals and scientists in the fields allied to rehabilitation. She began her career as a physical therapist and from this vantage point her interest in research has led her to a Ph. D. in anatomy and to her establishment of one of this country's first kinesiology research laboratories. Her studies of normal human locomotion are used as references by scientists world-wide; she also collaborates with medical specialists devising medical and surgical treatments for severe crippling

deformities in arthritis, paralysis, and Parkinson's disease.

Dr. Murray has not only remained in her home state; she has also remained in the Veterans Administration. She came to the Veterans Administration Center in Wood, Wisconsin, not long after completing her residency at the Mayo Clinic. The personal and professional growth that has made her a respected figure in the scientific community has been achieved while she has been at Wood—which is cause for considerable pride on the part of VA people at Wood and elsewhere. Her effect on VA women with professional backgrounds and aspirations must be described as inspirational.

Dr. Murray has degrees from Ripon College and Marquette University, she is an associate professor at Marquette University and the Medical College of Wisconsin. Marquette has given her its Alumni Merit Award. The American Physical Therapy Association gave her its highest award in 1967. And she was appointed to a National Institutes of Health Study Section, one of the highest honors an American scientist can receive.

Dr. Murray is the ninth VA woman to be selected for the Federal Woman's Award since the program began in 1961.

DR. WELLER RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF AEMB

Charles Weller, M.D., of Larchmont, New York, was re-elected president of the Alliance for Engineering in Medicine and Biology at its 29th Annual Conference, held November 6-10, 1976, in Boston, Mass.

Other officers elected by AEMB for 1977-78 are: Edward J. Hinman, M.D., M.P.H., of Columbia, Md., who was elected vice-president; Richard J. Gowen, Ph. D., U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado, who was elected secretary; and Robert Plonsey, Ph. D., of Cleveland, Ohio, who was re-elected treasurer.

Dr. Weller, a native of New York, is a private practitioner in Larchmont who specializes in internal medicine and diabetes. He has represented the American Society of Internal Medicine on the Alliance Council since AEMB's inception in 1969. He is a fellow and life member of the American College of Physicians and was president of the Society for Advanced Medical Systems in 1975. On behalf of the American Medical Association he testified recently before the Senate Committee on Aging.

Dr. Hinman, a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, has had a distinguished career as a practicing physician, hospital administrator, researcher, and teacher. Since 1955 he has served in the U.S. Public Health Services. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians, the American College of Preventive Medicine, the American Public Health Association, and the Society for Advanced Medical Systems. He also has

held office in a number of professional societies, and is the author or co-author of many articles and abstracts. Dr. Hinman has been active in medically oriented community projects in Maryland. In June 1976 he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal of the USPHS, and in a second ceremony he received the Outstanding Achievement Award of the Maryland Chapter of Federally Employed Women.

Dr. Gowen, a native of New Brunswick, New Jersey, is a Lt. Colonel in the United States Air Force, currently assigned to the USAF Academy where he is tenure professor and deputy head of the Department of Electrical Engineering. He also has served on the Apollo 16, 17, and Skylab Medical Launch and Recovery Teams. He has published extensively in the professional journals, and holds a patent for a blood pressure measuring instrument. Dr. Gowen has held office in several professional societies.

Dr. Plonsey, a native of New York City, holds a doctorate in electrical engineering, and is Professor of Biomedical Engineering at Case Western Reserve University. He has been associated with Case since 1957, and since 1970 he has served as director of the Biomedical Engineering Training Grant at the School. He is a past-president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Group on Engineering in Medicine and Biology (IEEE/GEMB) and has represented IEEE on the Alliance Council.

The AEMB is a consortium of 24 professional societies that have a common interest in the interaction between engineering and the physical sciences on the one hand, and medicine and the biological sciences on the other.

**DR. WELLER NAMES PATRICIA HORNER
TO AEMB EXECUTIVE POST**

Mrs. Patricia I. Horner has been appointed administrative director of the Alliance for Engineering in Medicine and Biology. Her appointment was announced by Dr. Charles Weller, who was re-elected president of AEMB at its 29th Annual Conference, held at Boston, Mass., in November 1976.

In her new post, Mrs. Horner will be responsible for managing the association as well as all current projects and for expansion of Alliance activities, particularly in the areas of continuing education, career guidance, placement service, constituent services, and the annual conference.

Before joining the AEMB, Mrs. Horner's positions have included that of assistant secretary of the BioInstrumentation Advisory Council, American Institute of Biological Sciences (1965-1973).

**M. ROBERT BARNETT AND DR. CARL KUPFER
NAMED WINNERS OF 1976 MIGEL MEDAL**

The Migel Medal for outstanding services in work for the blind has been awarded for 1976 to M. Robert Barnett, former executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind, and to Carl Kupfer, M.D., director of the National Eye Institute.

The medal was established in 1937 to honor the late M. C. Migel, first president of the American Foundation for the Blind. It is given annually in recognition of outstanding contributions in education, rehabilitation, and social welfare concerned with blind persons.

Mr. Barnett was the executive director of AFB as well as the American Foundation for the Overseas Blind (AFOB) for 25 years until his retirement in 1974. He was recommended for the posts by many leaders in work for the blind, including the late Helen Keller who was then a consultant to both organizations.

During Mr. Barnett's tenure the AFB provided leadership in many vital areas in work for blind persons. The integration of blind children into public schools alongside their sighted peers, and the growth of sensory aids designed to help blind persons lead more independent lives were among the areas cited by AFB executive director Loyal E. Apple in making the announcement.

Mr. Barnett began his career in the field of blindness in 1942 as a volunteer publicity consultant to the then new Florida Council for the Blind; in 1945 he was its executive director.

Dr. Kupfer received his Migel Medal award for his leadership in research in the field of blindness prevention. Since 1970 he has been director of the National Eye Institute, in Bethesda, Md., which was formed as part of the National Institutes of Health in 1968. The Institute's focus is on research to improve the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of visual disorders. Under Dr. Kupfer's leadership the office of Biometry and Epidemiology was established at the Institute, as well as the Office of Intramural Research and a Laboratory of Vision Research. In 1972 a nationwide cooperative research study to evaluate new methods of treating diabetic retinopathy was initiated.

Previously, Dr. Kupfer was professor and chairman of the ophthalmology department at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle. He graduated from Johns Hopkins Medical School in Baltimore and completed his internship and residency at the Wilmer Eye Institute, Johns Hopkins Hospital.

**CANADIANS HONOR MARJORIE MCGUFFIN WOOD
WITH FIRST ARTHUR NAPIER MAGILL ANNUAL AWARD**

Marjorie McGuffin Wood describes her recently completed autobiography as "an attempt to educate the public as well as the deaf-blind themselves that life is essentially good in spite of limitations."

Herself deaf and blind, she has run a home and raised three children, taught herself braille and learned to type, and continued to add to her education. But making a success of her own life has not prevented her from knowing and caring about the isolation so often suffered by the deaf-blind. In 1952, she began trying to do something about it in Canada with the "pass-around" newsletter which has become the internationally read Dots and Taps of the CNIB. She was also the organizer of the Canadian League for the Deaf-Blind.

At CNIB's National Annual Meeting in May 1976, Marjorie McGuffin Wood's Service to deaf-blind Canadians made her the first recipient of the Arthur Napier Magill Distinguished Service Award, which will go annually to some Canadian for a major contribution to the prevention of blindness or the amelioration of conditions for blind Canadians. The award was created to pay tribute to Mr. Magill and his efforts on behalf of blind Canadians throughout his years of service in the CNIB from 1935 to 1975.

**K.T. JENKINS OF AUSTRALIA ELECTED
PRESIDENT OF REHABILITATION INTERNATIONAL
AT 13th WORLD CONFERENCE**

More than 1,500 people from 50 countries met June 13-18, 1976, in Tel Aviv, for Rehabilitation International's 13th World Congress. They attended some 200 scientific sessions on aspects of disability prevention and rehabilitation, and heard Israeli, United Nations and RI leaders pledge cooperation toward the aim of increased help for the world's estimated 450,000,000 disabled citizens.

At Tel Aviv, Rehabilitation International elected as president Kenneth T. Jenkins, of Australia. He succeeds Norman Acton, and will serve through 1980. Mr. Jenkins is president of the Australian Council for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, and has been chairman of the international federation's Vocational Commission since 1972.

Among the resolutions adopted by RI's Assembly at Tel Aviv was a decision to hold its future meetings only at places "reasonably architecturally accessible" to the disabled.

The 14th World Congress of Rehabilitation International has been scheduled for June 1980, at Winnipeg, Canada. The meeting will mark the end of the Decade of Rehabilitation, proclaimed in 1969 by the

International non-governmental organization to “focus world attention on the gap between services for, and needs of, physically and mentally handicapped people.”

**NEW “JOURNAL OF BLINDNESS AND VISUAL IMPAIRMENT”
REPLACES AFB’S “OUTLOOK” AND “RESEARCH BULLETIN”**

The American Foundation for the Blind has superseded its well-known periodical, *New Outlook for the Blind*, and its *Research Bulletin*, with a single new international publication: the *Journal of Blindness and Visual Impairment*.

The *Research Bulletin* was reported suspended in mid-1976 after publication of No. 29.

Beginning in January 1977, AFB plans to publish the new *Journal* 10 times a year (September through June). It will be available through subscription, and will have an editorial board and editorial review panel. The focus will be on “the research and practice applications of new knowledge related to blindness and visual impairment.”

For material considered of value though unsuitable for its new journal, AFB plans two new series to be titled *Research Reports* and *Practice Reports*.

**NEW YORK CITY’S DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
PUBLISHES A BOOKLET FOR THE DISABLED**

Consumer Rights for Disabled Citizens is the title of a 90-page booklet by Dr. Lilly Bruck, Director of Consumer Education in New York City’s Department of Consumer Affairs. While an important share of the contents is information specific to New York’s stores, banks, transportation systems, and recreational facilities, etc., it appears to have much value to the disabled consumer everywhere. Dr. Bruck’s book should also be a useful reference and source of ideas for anyone compiling a similar guide for any area.

Chapters of *Consumer Rights for Disabled Citizens* cover Legal Rights (including civil, benefit, educational, employment, housing, transportation, and voting rights); Citizens Rights (including health care, a place to live, and recreation); and rights in the Market Place which gives “facts on fraud” as well as information on access, plus some guidance on dealing with entities such as insurance companies and public utilities. Finally there is a compendium of the groups, agencies and services (and their phone numbers) that can help in New York City and the neighboring counties.

Emphasis seems to be on the possibilities available to the handicapped

individual whose consciousness has been “raised” and who want to make the effort to achieve equality of opportunity and accommodations with other consumers.

Consumer Rights for Disabled Citizens is reported to be available in standard sized type for \$2.00 from: Consumer Education, Dept. of Consumer Affairs, 80 Lafayette St., New York, N.Y. 10013. Cassettes are reported available at \$3.00 from Lighthouse for the Blind, 11 East 59th St., New York, N.Y. 10022, and a braille edition costing \$5.00 from the Jewish Guild for the Blind, 15 West 65th St., New York, N.Y. 10023.

COOPER, RESWICK, AND KENEDI ELECTED TO THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

Of the 104 engineers whose “important contributions and unusual accomplishments” won them election to membership in the National Academy of Engineering in mid-1976, two were particularly well known to readers of the Bulletin of Prosthetics Research—Franklin S. Cooper, of Haskins Laboratories in New Haven, Conn., and James B. Reswick, of Rancho Los Amigos Hospital in Downey, Calif. And among the group of 21 who were the Academy’s first NAE Foreign Associates there appears the name of Robert Maximilian Kenedi, of the Bioengineering Unit, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, also a familiar name to BPR readers.

Dr. Cooper’s election recognized his “Originality in speech instrumentation and its application to human communication, including aids for the handicapped.” Readers will find him listed as principal investigator of the VA-sponsored Research on Audible Outputs of Reading Machines for the Blind, reported in the Sensory Aids section of the “Highlights of Other VA Research Programs” in this and preceding issues of BPR.

Dr. Reswick’s election recognized his “Contributions as a teacher and designer in the fields of mechanical control and biomedical engineering.” Readers shared his view of the prospects and direction of prosthetic research through his guest editorial which appeared in the preceding issue of BPR (BPR 10-25, Spring 1976). The title is “Functional Electrical Stimulation—Neural Prosthesis for the Disabled” and in it he described “. . . truly the beginning of a whole new world of medicine.”

Professor Kenedi, one of the National Academy of Engineering’s first group of foreign associates, was honored for his “Pioneering applications of engineering to medicine in diagnosis and therapy, with special reference to skin surgery and rehabilitation.” His name most recently appeared in BPR as co-author of “A Kneeless Leg Prosthesis for the Elderly Amputee, Advanced Version,” also in the Spring 1976 issue.