

Secretary's Report for ISPEN AGM 18th April 2012

Since its foundation in late 2010 we have worked hard to realise some of our initial goals. We ended the hard work of 2010 with a successful launch of ISPEN at the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin and we were delighted that Dr Barry White in his role as National Director for Clinical Strategy and Programmes, agreed to give the opening address.

ISPEN became affiliated to ESPEN in early 2011, as the National Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition group. Dr Nick Kennedy is our representative at ESPEN council meetings.

Our Management Committee met 5 times last year with independent meetings of the Strategic Review Group and the Research Committee.

A website was developed (www.ispen.ie) which aims to provide people working in the area of nutrition support with up to date guidelines and recommendations on managing specific conditions and patient groups as well as relevant publications and news in the area of disease related malnutrition and nutrition support.

One of our aims has been to have an on-going role in the education of doctors, specifically specialist registrars, and to this end we are working closely with Dr Orla Crosbie, National Specialty Director for Gastroenterology, to develop an evolving programme as a one day study day format. This was run twice last year, in January and September and is already planned for twice in 2012. An article was published in the Irish Medical News highlighting the importance of the training (www.ispen.ie/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/IMN-26.9.11.pdf). Our plan is to extend these study days to include surgeons and other health professionals such as nurses and GPs.

With so much to do it is often hard to know where to start, but one area which we felt there had to be some change was in the area of Home Parenteral Nutrition. Although it involves relatively few patients, it has proved to be an enormous drain on the time and resources of many a dietetic department in the country with no standardisation of care or recommendations for management. For this reason ISPEN held a roundtable meeting September 2011 where 20 dietitians, pharmacists, nurse specialists Doctors and Parenteral nutrition company representatives met to discuss ways in which the process of managing patients in the community on PN feeding could be streamlined. The first draft has been circulated for comment and revision and we plan to have the report completed by early summer. We plan that it will be followed by a document of recommendation for managing a patient on HPN later in the year.

The inaugural ISPEN Conference was held in November 2011 where we were delighted to have a group of experts in the area of muscle metabolism to present on recent advances and understanding in the areas of sarcopenia, frailty and muscle function in disease. Prof Marinos Elia delivered the key note address which discussed the importance of increasing efficiency of managing disease related malnutrition with fewer resources in this current period of economic austerity and how ISPEN will need to consider how best to apply its efforts to combat malnutrition. 124 people attended the meeting and recordings of the meeting as well as selected presentations can be found at www.ispen.ie/courses-events/the-inaugural-ispen-conference/. From feedback from the Conference held last November we have decided to hold the next ISPEN conference in March of 2013 and planning for this meeting is already underway.

2012 brings a new set of challenges for ISPEN. Due to the existence of a pharmaceutical company with a similar name we have had to consider a name change which is a resolution on which we will be voting later, but it has given

us an opportunity to have several focused sessions to develop the strategy for ISPEN into the future. Through this strategy review we have identified our key priorities as:

- Effective nutritional education programme for doctors.
- A National screening programme/improved nutritional management of patients across hospital/community healthcare settings.
- High quality, evidence-based nutritional care for every patient, with a focus on making all nutritional care available to patients in their home or community setting.
- Fostering local research / providing a forum for its dissemination.

Through this initiative we have developed an outline activity plan and budget for 2012 which will keep us streamlined, focused and on budget.

Niamh Rice, one of our founding members, has recently had an article on the scale and cost of Malnutrition in Ireland accepted for publication in the Nutrition Society Journal *Public Health Nutrition*. We aim to consolidate all the work to date on incidence and cost of disease related malnutrition in Ireland and publish an overview later in the year.

We have had a strong media presence over the past year with articles published in the Irish Medical Times, Irish Medical News and the Irish Times. Recently a piece on the scale and cost ran on The Pat Kenny Radio programme. We aim to build on this profile over the next year.

We continue to work with our founding organisations (the Irish Society of Gastroenterology, The Irish Nutrition and Dietetic Institute and the Irish Section of the Nutrition Society) to work on collaborate projects where possible.

We currently have a database of over 1800 health professionals in Ireland with a membership of 263 and we continue to grow.

We have an active and ambitious programme planned for 2012/2013 and we hope to get leverage from the Irish EU Presidency in the first half of 2013 when Dr James Reilly our Minister for Health will be President and Chair of the EU Health Council.

Over the coming weeks and months we will be approaching members to become more actively involved in ISPEN with representation of one of our four committees:

- **Research**
- **Education and Training**
- **Standards and Guidelines**
- **Communications.**

Julie Dowsett MSc FINDI

Secretary ISPEN