PRESIDENT’S LETTER 2013

ISCMR is the leading international society for complementary and integrative medicine research. Over the last 12 months, ISCMR has concentrated on expanding the website, preparing professional meetings, the relationship with the society journal, BMC CAM, and to implement the Scientific Advisory Committee for the next term.

Below, I elaborate with some detail:

• ISCMR Website: The website has been operating with stability and has recently been expanded. It now includes a categorical search system, which allows members to identify collaboration partners of interest. A monthly newsletter has been sent to all members and members are welcome to provide suggestions for newsletter and website content.

• ISCMR Annual Congresses:
  o 2014 Congress May 13-16 in Miami: the 9th annual International Congress on Complementary Medicine Research (ICCMR) will take place together with the 4th International Research Congress on Integrative Medicine and Health (IRCIMH) (for further information see www.ircimh.org/2014).

  After the very successful 2012 Congress held in Portland, OR, ISCMR is partnering for the fourth time with the Consortium of Academic Health Centers for Integrative Medicine (CAHCIM), which is organizing the Congress.

  o 2015 Congress: ISCMR received two proposals: one from Korea, submitted by Seunghoon Choi, the President of the Korean Institute for Oriental Medicine, and one submitted by Tsutomo Kamei, Executive Director of the Board of Directors of the Japan Yoga Therapy Society. The Executive Board supported both applicants in preparation of their proposals and both were accepted by the Board of Directors in general. ISCMR members can express their preference by voting for one of these two options. Votes will be taken into account when the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors makes the final decision.

  o Congress Cooperation: ISCMR cooperates with other congresses that focus on research in complementary and integrative medicine. In October 2012, some ISCMR members joined the European Conference for Integrative Medicine in Florence, Italy. ISCMR members received a 25% reduction of the conference fee. At the conference, the Special Interest Group European Chapter of ISCMR had a meeting.

• Journals: BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine (BMC CAM) is the ISCMR society journal. ISCMR members receive a 25% reduction on publications fees (for code see members area of the website). The section editors had an editorial meeting at the 2012 Congress in Portland. Furthermore we continue to have several journals where members are able to receive
up to a 50% discount on the regular price of subscriptions (please check out the website for details).

• Scientific Advisory Committee: The term of the ISCMR Scientific Advisory Committee ends March 31, 2013 and the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors thanked the members for their service. Vinjar Fonebo leaves the Scientific Advisory Committee and is running for ISCMR President elect. Alan Bensoussan (Australia), Brian Berman (USA), and Marja Verhoef (CAN) were invited to serve on the committee for a further term. Peter Fischer (UK) was invited as new member of the Scientific Advisory Committee. All candidates were fully supported by the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee and each candidate committed to serve for the next 3 years.

• Our special interest groups (SIGs) are active, and two of their reports are on the website and attached here:
  o The European Chapter of ISCMR, organized as a SIG, met at the 2012 European Conference on Integrative Medicine in Florence.
  o The Asian Chapter of ISCMR held its first meeting on September 17, 2012, at the Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine (KIOM) in Daegon, Korea.
  o The Research Methodology Training in CAM SIG has offered research training.

As President, I want to offer my special thanks to the other members of the Executive Committee who have contributed many innovative ideas and have worked throughout the last 2 years to move the society forward. Furthermore, I thank the members of the Board of Directors for their thoughtful decisions and our Advisory Board for their support.

Claudia Witt, ISCMR President
March 16, 2013

Report Special Interest Group European Chapter
Chair: Ursula Wolf

In the past year, the steering group of the European Chapter of ISCMR has been busy with enhancing the basis for work and information within the European Chapter. To achieve this goal, the steering committee has had lively communication by email and in telephone conferences. Some more modification on the ISCMR website should enable better access to information and news from the European Chapter.

The annual meeting of the European Chapter took place in September at the European Congress on Integrative Medicine (ECIM) 2012 in Florence, Italy. At this meeting, steering committee
members Wolfgang Weidenhammer and Ursula Wolf were present. The minutes of the meeting can be found in the European Chapter section on the ISCMR website.

Meanwhile, the EU project, CAMbrella, has come to an end. The results were presented at a final conference in Nov., 2012, in Brussels, Belgium. A series of articles presenting the first results have been published in a special issue of Forsch Komplementarmed /Research in Complement Med, available through open access at http://www.karger.com/Journal/Issue/257354

One of the upcoming EU research funding programs is Horizon2020. It still is important to lobby at both the EU and the member countries the level. For further information, you may contact wolfgang.weidenhammer@lrz.tum.de. Karin Förster, a freelance expert in coordinating international research projects, briefly introduced herself at the EU chapter meeting in Florence and offered her assistance with respect to future projects. Karin Förster can be contacted at karinfoerster@gmx.de.

The steering committee will direct the communication within the European Chapter of ISCMR to the European resident-members. Other ISCMR members who are interested in the EU Chapter news will be gladly included in the mailing list upon request. The European Chapter of ISCMR encourages researchers to join and engage in the activities and also to contribute ideas and suggestions. For further information, contact the chair, Ursula Wolf, at ursula.wolf@kikom.unibe.ch

**Report from Special Interest Group: Asian Chapter**

*Chair: Seunghoon Choi*

The International Society for Complementary Medicine Research’s (ISCMR) Asian Chapter is a new special interest group (SIG), having been formally approved at the 7th ISCMR Annual General Meeting on May 16, 2012, in Portland, Oregon, USA. Its aim is to increase understanding of traditional medicine in Asia and promote research collaboration within ISCMR by sharing information on achievements in and the distinguishing features of traditional medicine. The Asian Chapter will be an efficient tool for enhancing ISCMR participation in the Asian region and for expanding members’ understanding and knowledge of traditional medicine.

On September 17, 2012, the first meeting of the Asian Chapter took place at the Korea Institute of Oriental Medicine (KIOM) in Daejeon, Korea, with all steering group members attending the meeting, except for Chris Zaslawski, who had other commitments.

To stimulate discussion, Myeongsoo Lee (Korea, KIOM) presented a short introduction to the potential future goals and activities of the Asian Chapter, following which the members of the steering group introduced themselves. The following items were then discussed:

- Development and effective operation of the ISCMR Asian Chapter
  - Promoting collaboration among the members of the steering group
  - Facilitating mutual understanding
- Necessity for setting academic, research-oriented and mutual understanding rules
- Specific suggestions for the development of the ISCMR Asian Chapter

In the latter part of the meeting, the members primarily discussed methods for promoting internal collaboration and an online platform was suggested as a means of promoting active
communication among the members of the Asian Chapter and increasing mutual understanding on research and regulations in countries within the scope of the Asian Chapter.

Finally, the group discussed increasing membership across countries. The next meeting of the Asian Chapter will be held during the 8th annual ICCMR congress in London, UK, April 11-13, 2012 (http://www.iccmr2013.org/). At the congress, the Asian Chapter will be promoted, and it will invite new members to join from among the existing ISCMR membership. The Asian Chapter of ISCMR is also now looking for researchers who would like to get involved in its work. For information or to share your thoughts, please feel free to contact the chair, Seunghoon Choi, at drmslee@gmail.com.

Report from Special Interest Group: Research Methodology Training (RMT)
Chair: Claudia Witt

Over the last year, the SIG RMT has concentrated on the consolidation of research methodology training. Concept and materials were reviewed by the course instructors and improved.

The overall aim of the research methodology training is to train physicians, practitioners and other people interested in complementary and integrative medicine research. The research methodology training consists of 3 modules:
- Basic study design and basic statistics (4 days), developed by Klaus Linde and Claudia Witt
- Systematic reviews (2 days), developed by Eric Manheimer and Susan Wieland
- Comparative Effectiveness Research (1 day) developed by Claudia Witt

In March, 2013, an international course organized by The Institute for Integrative Health offered all 3 modules in Baltimore (USA). In February, 2013, the one-day Comparative Effectiveness Research module was taught as part of the Master of Science Degree in Physiology, Complementary & Alternative Medicine, Georgetown University (USA). Furthermore, the trainers used course content on several other occasions.

The concept of the course has been presented and discussed at the International Congress for Educators in Complementary and Integrative Medicine in October 2012 in Washington as a featured discussion session under the title "Research Literacy in Integrative Medicine: How can we make it more engaging and sustainable?".

For further information on the courses see: http://www.iscmr.org/about/rtm/
We will keep ISCMR members updated on the progress of the training program.