

EVALUATION REPORT
OF THE
4TH ASCON CONFERENCE
8th – 10th November 2004

Hosted by:
Spinal Injury Rehabilitation Centre, Jorpati, Kathmandu

Report Prepared by:
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Date:
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EVALUATION OVERVIEW

Approximately 20% of conference participants returned completed or partially completed evaluation forms. While it would have been good if more forms could have been completed the information gathered is none the less very valuable. It will be of particular benefit to The Hospital for the Rehabilitation of Professional Diseases in Vietnam which will be hosting the 5th ASCoN Conference.

Paper Presentations

The papers presented were found to be appropriate and relevant and there was a wide variation of opinion on the presentations found to be most useful. Papers describing overall spinal injury management approaches were popular and the White Paper on Spinal Injury Management in India by Dr. Chhabra was identified as the most useful paper. Perhaps this is an indication of the importance of the need for recognised protocols in the comprehensive management of Spinal Cord Injury in the region.

Participants felt that a number of areas could and should in the future be covered in greater detail. These include areas on SCI and Sexuality, Rehabilitation centre management issues and socio-economical and family integration. Physiotherapy, nursing, surgical management and orthotics were also mentioned as areas where coverage could be improved. Finally it was emphasized that the role of research in SCI management needs to be promoted more if services are to be improved and if reliable data on mortality and morbidity associated with SCI is to be better understood and methods of prevention improved.

The practicalities and logistics of ensuring wide coverage of topics most also be balanced with time constraints. In this regard it was suggested that the paper selection process must be developed to ensure that quality papers come through and research based presentations are encouraged. It was felt that papers impacting on all team members should be given more time and also adequate time should always be given for questions, answers and discussions as this is another excellent way of learning. Finally it was suggested that the abstracts in the souvenir brochure should be marked for easy reference and some blank paper included between sessions for note taking.

Workshops

The workshops were seen as an excellent way to get high quality teaching. It was encouraging to see that different centres collaborated with SIRC to deliver the workshops. It was suggested that smaller groups and more workshops would be better and that perhaps holding one workshop between 7.30 and 8.30 each morning would help overcome logistical problems. Enough space should be made available so that both presenters and participants can move around easily.

Good suggestions were given on how workshops can be improved. Those delivering workshops should be well prepared and experienced. The design should include discussion, practical demonstration and should elicit the views of the participants on how they address the topic in their own places of work. Discussion on low cost solutions, local products and innovations should be encouraged.

Workshop topics to consider in the future included Management and Organisation of an SCI centre, live surgical demonstrations for surgeons, Sexuality, Urology, Counselling, Comprehensive SCI nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and Psycho-Social and Economic integration.

Posters

In total 9 posters were presented by organisations from 6 countries. The poster on Bowel management presented by the team from the Chiang-Mai University Hospital was awarded first prize for its presentation and clarity of information.

Participants were asked to view the posters on tea and lunch breaks but it was suggested that poster presenters should also be given time to orally present and describe the poster in detail during a session. Others felt that more posters should be encouraged and that adequate space should be given for this and that the posters should also outline method, discussion and conclusion. Suggested areas to be covered in the future include Innovations, Mobility Aids, Prevention of SCI, Prevention and Management of pressure sores, Involvement of the person with SCI in the rehabilitation process.

Panel Discussions

Two panel discussions were held on the challenges and future strategies:

- (1) In relation to the provision of appropriate mobility aids
- (2) To ensure successful economical and social integration for people living with SCI

Both discussions invited panel members to give their views and encouraged questions and answers from the floor. The panel discussions were found to be both appropriate and relevant. It was suggested that this is another area that should be given more time as the conference provides a good forum to discuss these important issues. Panel discussions can be improved, it was felt, if more members from the multi-disciplinary team participated.

Meetings of Professionals

The meetings of professionals were held to share ideas, develop future links and discuss challenges/solutions in their areas of work. Respondents felt this provided a good opportunity to discuss issues openly and also made suggestions how this initiative can be improved in the future. It was felt that the meetings should be held earlier in the programme to ensure maximum participation and that better facilitation was needed to get people talking. More experienced participants should be encouraged to attend as this would add value and prestige. Finally and yet again it was suggested that more time was needed.

Relevance

Over 75% of respondents indicated that the conference did indeed provide delegates with skills and knowledge that can be applied to their own working environment post conference. It was felt that a continued emphasis on practical management and open dialogue is important. It was suggested that increased learning and its utilisation can be maximised through continued networking between spinal injury rehabilitation centres throughout the region.

Accommodation, Meals, Transport and Entertainment

Generally most respondents were happy with accommodation, meals, transport and entertainment. A number of suggestions for improvement included ensuring that transport from accommodation to the venue was punctual to ensure that participants arrived on time for every session. It was suggested that if possible it would be good to locate all participants in the same venue to strengthen links for future collaboration between different professionals and centres.

Communication

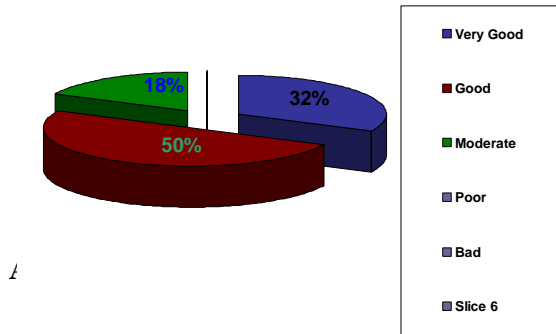
Communication was found to generally good. This can be improved however by circulating the programme well in advance so that participants can plan ahead. The programme is also necessary at times to gain support from the authorities where the participant is working. To ensure that this can be done it is advised that there is a strict cut-off date for the acceptance of abstracts and registrations so that the programme can be prepared and circulated well in advance. It was also suggested that pre-conference information could improve.

Other Suggestions

Other suggestions for the further development of the ASCoN conference raised the question as to whether the conference should be held by a “country” rather than a “centre or hospital”. It was also felt that the conference could be a starting point for a booklet or some type of publication to be produced which would help people understand the approaches taken by different centres in the management of spinal cord injury throughout Asia.

EVALUATION RESULTS

PAPER PRESENTATIONS



Paper Presentations

1	2	3	4	5
XXXXXXXXXX	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXXX		
Very Good	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad

What presentations did you find most useful?

There was a wide variation of opinion on the presentations found to be most useful with over twenty presentations being mentioned by name by the 29 evaluation respondents.

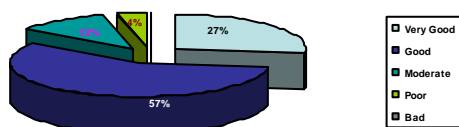
The presentations describing the approaches taken by different rehabilitation centres were popular. The White paper on Spinal Injury Management in India presented by Dr Chhabra from the Indian Spinal Injury Centre in New Delhi was identified as the most useful paper.

What areas were not covered adequately? In the future how can paper presentations be improved

Participants felt that a number of areas could and should in the future be covered in greater detail. These include areas on SCI and Sexuality on management issues and on socio-economical and family integration. Physiotherapy, nursing, surgical management and orthotics were also mentioned as areas where coverage could be improved. Finally it was emphasized that the role of research in SCI management needs to be promoted more if services are to be improved and if reliable data on mortality and morbidity associated with SCI is to be better understood and methods of prevention improved.

The practicalities and logistics of ensuring wide coverage most also be balanced with time constraints. In this regard it was suggested that the paper selection process must be developed to ensure that quality papers come through and research based presentations are encouraged. It was felt that papers impacting on all team members should be given more time and also adequate time should always be given for questions, answers and discussions as this is another excellent way of learning. Finally it was suggested that the abstracts in the souvenir brochure should be marked for easy reference and blank paper included between sessions for note taking.

WORKSHOPS



Appropriateness and Relevance of Workshops

1	2	3	4	5
xxxxxxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	xxx	x	
Very Good	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad

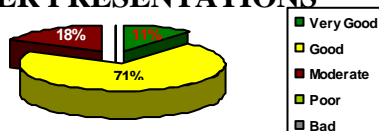
How can workshops be improved in the future? What other areas should be added

Over 80 % of the respondents found the workshops to be good or very good which indicates the importance of practical elements in an event such as this. The workshops were seen as an excellent way to get high quality teaching. It was encouraging to see that different centres collaborated with SIRC to deliver the workshops. It was suggested that smaller groups and more workshops would be better and that perhaps holding one workshop between 7.30 and 8.30 each morning would help overcome logistical problems. Enough space should be made available so that both presenters and participants can move around easily.

Good suggestions were given on how workshops can be improved. Those delivering workshops should be well prepared and experienced. The design should include discussion, practical demonstration and should elicit the views of the participants on how they address the topic in their own places of work. Discussion on low cost solutions, local products and innovations should be encouraged.

Views on workshop areas to consider in the future included Management and Organisation of an SCI centre, live surgical demonstrations for surgeons, Sexuality, Urology, Counselling, Comprehensive SCI nursing, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) and Psycho-Social and Economic integration.

POSTER PRESENTATIONS



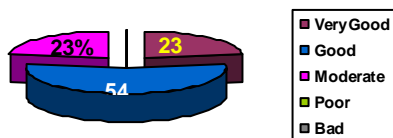
Appropriateness and relevance of Poster Presentations

1	2	3	4	5
xxx	xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx	xxxxx		
Very Good	Good	Moderate	Poor	Bad

The chart again highlights that the posters were judged positively. In total 9 Posters were presented by organisations from 6 countries. The poster on Bowel management presented by the team from the Chiang-Mai University Hospital was awarded first prize for its presentation and clarity of information.

Participants were asked to view the posters during tea and lunch breaks but it was suggested that poster presenters should also be given time to present and describe the poster in detail during a session. Others felt that more posters should be encouraged and that adequate space should be given for this and that the poster should also outline method, discussion and conclusion. Suggested areas to be covered in the future include Innovations, Mobility Aids, Prevention of SCI, Prevention and Management of pressure sores, and involvement of the person with SCI in the rehabilitation process.

PANEL DISCUSSIONS



Appropriateness and Relevance of Panel Discussions

1 xxxxx Very Good	2 xxxxxxxxxxxxx Good	3 xxxxx Moderate	4 Poor	5 Bad
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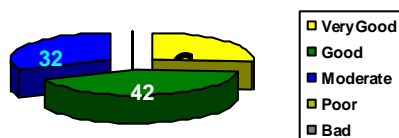
How can this area be improved?

Two panel discussions were held on the challenges and future strategies:

- (1) In relation to the provision of appropriate mobility aids
- (2) To ensure successful economical and social integration for people living with SCI

Both discussions invited panel members to give their views and encouraged questions and answers from the floor. The chart indicates that the panel discussions were both appropriate and relevant. It was suggested that this is another area that should be given more time as the conference provides a good forum to discuss these important issues. They can be improved, it was felt, if more members from the multi-disciplinary team participate.

MEETINGS OF PROFESSIONALS



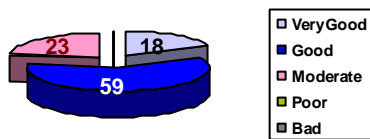
Appropriateness and Relevance of Meetings of Professionals

1 xxxxx Very Good	2 xxxxxxxx Good	3 xxxxx Moderate	4 Poor	5 Bad
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How can this area be improved?

The meetings of professionals were held to share ideas, develop future links and discuss challenges/solutions in their areas of work. Respondents felt this provided a good opportunity to discuss issues openly and also made suggestions how this initiative can be improved in the future. It was felt that the meetings should be held earlier in the programme to ensure maximum participation and that better facilitation was needed to get people talking. More experienced participants should be encouraged to attend as this would add value and prestige. Finally and yet again it was suggested that more time was needed.

RELEVANCE

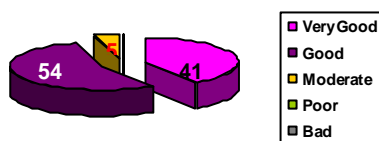


The conference aimed to provide delegates with skills and knowledge that you can apply to your own working environment post conference. Was this achieved?

1 xxxx Very Good	2 xxxxxxxxxxxxx Good	3 xxxxx Moderate	4 Poor	5 Bad
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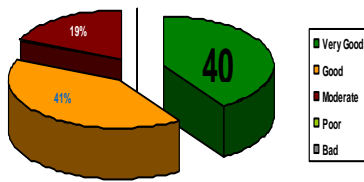
Over 75% of respondents indicated that the conference did indeed provide delegates with skills and knowledge that can be applied to their own working environment post conference. It was felt that a continued emphasis on practical management and open dialogue is important. It was suggested that increased learning and its utilisation can be maximised through continued networking between spinal injury rehabilitation centres throughout the region.

ACCOMMODATION



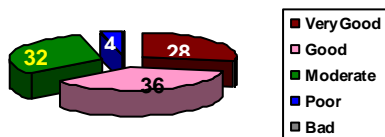
1 xxxxxxxxx Very Good	2 xxxxxxxxxxxxx Good	3 x Moderate	4 Poor	5 Bad
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MEALS



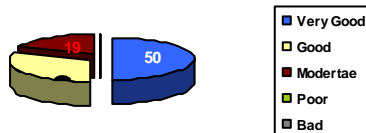
1 XXXXXXXXXX Very Good	2 XXXXXXXXXX Good	3 XXXXXX Moderate	4 Poor	5 Bad
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TRANSPORT



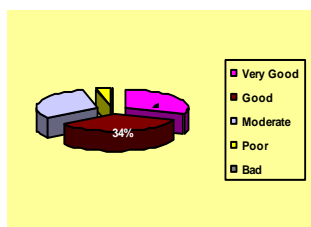
1 XXXXXX Very Good	2 XXXXXXXXXX Good	3 XXXXXX Moderate	4 x Poor	5 Bad
1	2	3	4	5

ENTERTAINMENT



1 XXXXXXXXXXXXXX Very Much	2 XXXXXXXXXX Good	3 XXXXXX Moderate	4 Poor	5 Bad
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COMMUNICATION AND CORRESPONDENCE



1 XXXXXX Very Much	2 XXXXXXXXXX Good	3 XXXXXX Moderate	4 x Poor	5 Bad
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Generally most respondents were happy with accommodation, meals, transport and entertainment as highlighted from the charts above. A number of suggestions for

improvement included ensuring that transport from accommodation to the venue was punctual to ensure that participants arrived on time for every session. It was suggested that if possible it would be good to locate all participants in the same venue to strengthen links for future collaboration between different professionals and centres.

Communication was found to generally good. It was suggested that this can be improved however by circulating the programme well in advance so that participants can plan ahead. The programme is also necessary at times to gain support from the authorities where the participant is working. To ensure that this can be done it is advised that there is a strict cut-off date for the acceptance of abstracts and registrations so that the programme can be prepared and circulated well in advance. It was also suggested that pre-conference information could improve.

Other suggestions for the further development of the ASCoN conference not already covered above related to a number of issues. One raised the question whether the conference should be held by a “country” rather than a “centre or hospital”. It was also felt that the conference could be a starting point for a booklet or publication to help people understand the approaches taken by different centres in the management of spinal cord injury.