



International Society for the Advancement of Kinanthropometry

**ISAK BIENNIAL MEETING, KINANTHROPOMETRY X
11 March 2006, Melbourne, Australia.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Introduction

It is my privilege to present my third presidential report to our Melbourne meeting which, as it occurs some five months earlier than usual, covers a nineteen-month period rather than a two-year one. Over this time, we have seen excellent growth in ISAK activity in some areas, but a slight drop-off in many others. From this, I conclude that ISAK has not made the overall great strides forward since Thessaloniki that I had hoped for, but rather has continued at the same level. The possible reasons for this, if true, will be discussed in detail at our various meetings, both formal and informal, in Melbourne.

Council Membership

The offices of the President, Vice-President and Past-President are halfway through their current terms so, in the absence of any resignations, remain unchanged, as do the holders of two Council positions - Sang-Jo Kang and Francis Holway. The office of the Secretary-General and the terms of three Councillors - Betty Perez, Arthur Stewart and Deb Kerr expire in August 2006, necessitating the holding of an election. The results of that election are contained in the report of our Returning Officer, Lindsay Carter. I am very pleased that Hans de Ridder has indicated a willingness to continue as Secretary-General and I thank Hans most sincerely for that. He has the office running smoothly within his university and a change at this stage, while not unmanageable, would almost certainly impede progress in the short term. Both Betty and Arthur have indicated their availability to continue if elected, which I'm also pleased to see will happen. Deb was not available for re-election, so her position needs refilling. I would like to thank Deb most sincerely for her contribution over the past three and a half years. It has been much appreciated. To replace Deb, (there being only four candidates for the four vacant Council positions), an equally-talented individual has put her hand up - Patria Hume from New Zealand. We look forward to welcoming Patria on board in August. My thanks go to Lindsay for once again managing the conduction of the elections so capably.

Anthropometry Accreditation Scheme and ISAK Manual

Despite the apparent concerns expressed by the Chair of the Accreditation Working Group (see his report), I am left in no doubt as to the robustness of the scheme which ISAK has developed and which is so capably promoted by those who run courses. Feedback from students who have just completed a course is invariably positive, particularly in comparison to their experience of other anthropometric "training". Such feedback confirms for me both the need for such a scheme and the need for it to set, and strictly adhere to, rigorous standards – a manifestation no longer universal, sadly, in so many of our education systems. Although there has been a significant unplanned delay in delivering the third phase of the Scheme, (the guidelines on how to run a course), and the final production of the 2nd edition of the Manual is much later than intended, I'm pleased to note that both those projects have now come to fruition. The same four senior ISAK anthropometrists have been involved in both - Lindsay Carter, Tim Olds, Arthur Stewart and Yours Truly and on your behalf, I once again extend ISAK's sincere thanks for all their efforts. I

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also wish to congratulate Miguel Alberran and Francisco Holway on their completion of the official Spanish translation of the ISAK Manual. This will prove invaluable to the many anthropometrists in South America and Europe for whom Spanish is their first language.

Kinanthreport

Editor Tim Olds continues to produce a quality publication with every edition of Kinanthreport, for which, Tim, ISAK expresses its continued gratitude. It is pleasing to note, in the latest edition, November 05, the contributions of significant articles from other than the editor, as well as those from the editor, of course. May this trend continue. The Kinanthreport is very much your vehicle for communicating with fellow members and, indeed, those non-members who read it, so don't be shy in taking the opportunity to contribute.

Presidential Travel

After the extensive itinerary of 2004, the past year has been relatively quiet on the Presidential travel front. Apart from the annual visit to Europe, in July, to work with Professor Jan Clarys at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, (and visit with Jan Borms), I only had a fleeting visit to the AIS in Canberra (to run a re-accreditation exam and conduct a brief workshop on the ISAK Manual update). Both trips were excellent, as expected, in terms of outcomes and interaction once at each destination, but the flights themselves were an entirely different kettle of fish. I shan't bore you with the details. Suffice to say that my trip to and from Melbourne involves only a single flight each way on a reasonably large plane with only one transit through security (fingers crossed) in each direction.

Acknowledgement

I wish to acknowledge the support of all the institutions that allow their staff to spend paid time on ISAK activities. Much of this activity is well within the ambit of their academic job descriptions, but, equally much is well beyond it. There are far too many for me to attempt to list, but one institute I do wish to recognise in this report is my own - the Universal College of Learning. I would not wish to quantify the time I spend on ISAK business, and like you, no small part of that is my own time (whatever that might mean in a senior salaried position), but I am well aware of the tremendous support that UCOL provides for my Presidency and gratefully acknowledge its continuation. Lastly, I acknowledge the efforts that you have all put in to further ISAK aims in whatever way you can.

Conclusion

To conclude, I wish to thank the Executive Council for its continued support over the past nineteen months, especially Hans de Ridder, our Secretary-General, Vice-President Isabel Fragoso and Past-President Lindsay Carter. I compliment you all on being members of a small, but important group which is making, in my view, a genuine contribution to the betterment of Mankind's lot. I look forward to serving ISAK for a further two plus years as President and making, I hope, a small contribution to that larger mission.

Best wishes



Mike MARFELL-JONES
President ISAK
Universal College of Learning
NEW ZEALAND

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