

# RIMS Annual Report

## 2006

## How to join RIMS?

RIMS is a fruitful network for all professional working in the field of MS.  
Therefore we encourage all MS Centres, MS Societies and  
individual professionals to join the network.  
Read more: [www.rims.be](http://www.rims.be) / [How to join?](#)

RIMS Annual membership fees are:

Centre	400 €
Individual	130 €
Student	25 €
Company	750 €

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### Benefits:

Individual members as well as all professionals from a member centre are able to get RIMS Annual Conference registration fee at a special reduced member price.

At the Annual Conferences RIMS aim at items of interest for both the new professional in the MS field, advanced professionals and visit local MS Centre.

A number of Special Interest Groups (SIG) have been established. The groups meet at least once a year during RIMS annual conference. They are also encouraged to hold an annual in-between workshop. Active groups are supported financially by RIMS.

Some of the Special Interest Groups have published papers or pamphlets on important MS issues. These are distributed among RIMS members.

RIMS is an active network for MS professionals and Centres and a membership gives you access to the resources of the network and hopefully it encourages study-visits, exchange of best practise and other skill improving activities.

Read more: [www.rims.be](http://www.rims.be)

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## Greetings from the President

During the year 2006, the Executive Board has tried to optimise the logistics for membership issues as well as improving the recruitment of new members.

The RIMS 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference took place in Barcelona, Spain May 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> 2006 and was organized as a joint conference with the Guttman Institute's XVIII Technical Workshop. The conference was a great success with 49 scientific poster presentations. Altogether 313 professionals participated. In addition to a very high quality scientific program the participants were able to enjoy a very pleasant social program.

I wish to express my pleasure that that Special Interest Groups (SIG) have been very active. I hope that all member centres will be active in encouraging their staff to take more interest in these groups. These SIG meetings are enthusiastic and a very nice way to give the first "kick off" for staff members to start their international collaboration.

During the year, a further challenging task was the planning process the joint **ECTRIMS** 2007 conference, Prague 11<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> 2007.

While having this year's General Assembly as late as in October, I also take the opportunity to welcome all participants to the 13<sup>th</sup> RIMS Conference that will be organised 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> May, 2008, in Leuven, Belgium.

I wish to thank especially all SIG Chairs and Co Chairs for developing their activities, the local organisers for Barcelona Conference as well as the organisers for the forthcoming Leuven RIMS 2008 and naturally all RIMS members for your communication and participation.

Eija Luoto  
RIMS President

## 1 RIMS

The aim of RIMS (Rehabilitation in MS) is to link the European MS Centres in order to encourage professionals interested in Multiple Sclerosis to exchange their knowledge of clinical, scientific, social, economical and educational matters about the disease and to establish individual and scientific contacts between persons. In addition, individual membership for those who have a special interest in MS is welcomed.

### 1.1 Administration

RIMS is managed by an Executive Board, which according to the bylaws is composed of eight elected officers, including the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. Dr Holger Albrecht continued actively as Treasurer until October, and chief physiotherapist Paul van Asch as Secretary. Dr Judith Lutz continued to act as SIG Coordinator and producer of our newsletter Network Brita Lovendahl remained in charge of membership issues.

Holger Albrecht expressed his wish to resign from Treasurer's task in early spring. The Executive Board nominated Dr Claudio Solaro as the new Treasurer. Due to the official Belgian regulations and publication systems, the actual change of Treasurer took place at the end of the year. The past Treasurer, Holger Albrecht remained as a Board member.

Along the change in officers, RIMS bank account was transferred to Belgium. In order to make all bank transfers faster and more practical, the Treasurer also has an internet banking access.

<b>Executive Board member</b>		<b>Country</b>	<b>Officers</b>	<b>Term</b>
Eija Luoto	Administrative director	Finland	President	2005-2008
Holger Albrecht	Dr	Germany	Treasurer	2005-2008 (*)
Paul van Asch	Chief physiotherapist	Belgium	Secretary	2005-2008 (*)
Katrin Gross-Paju	Dr	Estonia		2005-2008 (*)
Ingrid Galan	Dr	Spain		2005-2008
Brita Lovendahl	Manager	Denmark	Member officer	2005-2008
Judith Lutz	Dr	Switzerland	SIG-Coordinator	2005-2008
Claudio Solaro	Dr	Italy	Treasurer elect	2005-2008

(\*) second term; stepping down in 2008

The Executive Board held three meetings during the year 2006: March 9<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, Barcelona, Spain; 9<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, Masku, Finland and 17<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> November, Genoa, Italy.

The head of the Institute Guttman, Dr Josep Ramirez kindly offered to organize the 2006 RIMS Annual meeting as a joint meeting together with their XVIII Technical Conference.

Ingrid Galan, Paul van Asch and Eija Luoto were nominated as members of the Barcelona RIMS Annual Meeting Scientific Committee. The local organizers and the representatives of the Executive Board held two workshops in order to plan the joint conference.

The next RIMS conference will be organised as a joint ECTRIMS conference in Prague, October 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Eija Luoto, Dr Claudio Solaro and Dr Katrin Gross-Paju were nominated for the ECTRIMS Scientific Committee.

## 1.2 Members

During the spring and early summer 2006 the Executive Board was trying to contact all members listed by sending a letter with the request to inform RIMS on their membership status.

At the end of year 2006 RIMS had altogether 42 member centres, 31 individual members, 3 societies and 2 students listed. However, as was noted at the 2006 General Assembly, the amount of centres and individuals that had not paid their annual fee was remarkably high. According to the bylaws a member is no longer considered to be a member following failure of payment of the membership fee for two (consecutive or non-consecutive) years.

The invoices for annual fees for 2006 were sent in March. The RIMS Member Coordinator was actively corresponding and trying to find the key persons of those centres but did not succeed in all cases. No second round for annual fees was done.

<b>Members 2005 - 2006</b>	<b>Annual fee received for 2006</b> (in 2005)	<b>Delay in payments 2006</b> (in 2005)	<b>Total nr of members</b> (in 2005)
Centre members	23 (27)	19 (11)	42 (38)
Individual members	16 (16)	15 (14)	31 (30)
Students	1 (2)	1 (1)	2 (2)
Companies	0		0
Societies	2 (2)		2 (2)

Two new individual members registered in 2006.

### 1.3 RIMS www-site

The RIMS www-site was completely redesigned and also updated according to the information received from members regarding their centres.

## 2 Special Interest Groups

The Executive Board has established a number of Special Interest Groups (SIG). The groups aim to promote research and improve the management of Persons with MS and their caregivers. The following SIGs have been nominated by the Executive Board

During the term, the Chair of SIG on Communication and Swallowing, Guy Ganty informed the Executive Board that he will resign. In addition, Marijke Duportail, OT, the Chair of the SIG Occupation informed the RIMS Executive Board of her resignation.

At the General Assembly, May 12<sup>th</sup>, Barcelona, Spain the new SIG Chairs as well as the Co-Chairs were nominated.

Dr Rosa Terre, from the Guttmann Institute, Badalona, Spain was nominated as Chair for SIG Communication and Swallowing with two new Co-Chairs, Marta Renom, Speech therapist, Day Hospital, Barcelona, Spain and Antonella Nota, Speech therapist., National MSCentrum, Melsbroek, Belgium.

Daphne Kos, Occupational therapist, from National MSCentrum, Melsbroek, Belgium was nominated as Chair of the SIG Occupation with Co-Chair Dr Stephan Ilsbroukx, Nationaal MS Centrum, Melsbroek, Belgium.

<b>SIG</b>	<b>Chair person</b>	<b>Co Chair person</b>
SIG on Mobility	Dr Claude Vaney (CH)	Dr Holger Albrecht (D)
SIG on Bladder, Bowel and Sexual Disorders	Dr Dirk De Ridder (B)	
SIG on Communication and Swallowing	Dr Rosa Terre (S)	Marta Renom (S) Antonella Nota (B)
SIG on Psychology and Neuropsychology	Päivi Hämäläinen (FIN)	Agnete Joensson (DK)
SIG on Occupation	Daphne Kos (B)	Dr Stephan Ilsbroukx (B)
SIG on Social Integration and Participation	Rina Verdoodt (B)	An van Nunen (B)

## 2.1 New Booklets

The SIG on Psychology and Neuropsychology published two booklets: “Emotions and MS” and “Personality and MS”. The booklets are in PDF format on the RIMS website. The Executive Board rewarded this achievement with 500 € for the SIG on Psychology and Neuropsychology to use for example for their in-between meetings.

The Executive Board decided that all future RIMS publications will have the same layout. Each SIG group will have its own typical RIMS colour. For SIG Psychology and Neuropsychology this was decided to be green.

## 2.2 SIG meetings

Several SIGs had in-between meetings during the year. All of them organised a special SIG program for one day during the annual conference in May, Barcelona. Some of them also had another in-between meeting. RIMS contribution for SIG the meetings was 2.500 € per year/group if there was an organised in-between meeting.

<b>2006</b>	<b>City/Country</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Participants</b>	<b>Countries present</b>
SIG on Psychology and Neuropsychology	Copenhagen, Denmark	November 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	14	8
SIG on Mobility	Masku, Finland	March 9 <sup>th</sup> -11 <sup>th</sup>	45	10
SIG on Occupation	Brussels, Belgium	March 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup>	14	5
SIG on Social Integration and Participation				
SIG on Communication and Swallowing				
SIG on Bladder, Bowel and Sexual Disorders				

In addition this, All SIGs organised a workshop during the RIMS Annual Conference in Barcelona, May 11<sup>th</sup> 2006.

All SIGs reported their in between meetings to the Executive Board.

As planned, during the Annual Conference in Barcelona, SIG Chairs and Executive Board held a meeting. All SIGs reported shortly on their in- between meetings. The SIG Chair`s responsibilities and the reimbursement procedure for SIG in-between meetings were discussed and agreed. In addition, a statistical follow up regarding the SIG meetings was created.

As a result of the discussion, a more regular contact between Executive Board and SIG Chairs and Co Chairs was planned and decisions of the Executive Board will be communicated more regularly.

### 3 Annual conference 2006

#### 3.1 Annual conference organisation

Annual Conference 2006 was organized as a joint conference with the Guttman Institute. Altogether 313 professionals participated in the joint meeting of Institute Guttman´s XVIII Technical Workshop and the 11<sup>th</sup> RIMS Annual Conference in Barcelona May 10-12, 2006.



## **ANNUAL MEETING OF RIMS -2006- XVIII TECHNICAL WORKSHOP**

The 11th RIMS Annual Conference was a great success with a record number of participants together with 49 scientific poster presentations. The traditional awards for Best Poster Presentation and the Best Platform Presentation were nominated. As there were two equal highly appreciated posters the jury decided to award two posters: The Role of Nutrition in MS Fatigue. A Survey of 118 Three-Day Food Records by Hanna-Maria Viholainen and Päivi Hämäläinen (Finland) and Neurogenic Dysphagia in MS. Nursing Role by M. Teresa Marques Ten, Laura Terrafeta Turigas, Angeles Barahona Arroyo (Spain). The Best Platform Presentation was awarded for “Physical and Cognitive performance can be Predicted in Recently Diagnosed MS” by Dr Vincent de Groot (Netherlands).

<b>RIMS conference participants 2005-2006</b>	<b>2006 Barcelona</b>	<b>2005 Tallinn</b>
Doctors	72	163
Nurses	69	26
Physiotherapists	35	14
Occupational therapists	14	4
Social workers	3	3
Psychologist,	14	10
Neuropsychologists	19	
Speech therapists	10	3
Dietician	1	1
Others	3	3
Centre managers, directors	16	12
Occupation nor documented	24	23
Marketing representatives	12	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>313</b>	<b>274</b>

### 3. 2 Conference evaluation

The participants evaluated the conference using an internet based webropol questionnaire that was sent them by email. Altogether 229/313 personal emails were found and the total number of received answers was 80 (35%). The participants used the scale 4 = very good, 3 = good, 2=moderate, 1=poor.

In general, the participants were satisfied with the organisation (91%), conference venue (85%) and the time table (86%) and the mean score was 3,1. They also reported that their expectations were met very well (27%) / well (58%) and the final impression of the program was very good (23%) / good (57%). The mean score was 3,0.

Regarding the participants interest in the future activities they would be interested in

	<b>very interested</b>	<b>interested</b>	<b>moderately interested</b>	<b>not interested</b>
teaching courses from other specialists	42,5%	45,2%	12,3%	0%
Multidisciplinary presentations focused in one topic	56,2%	41,1%	2,7%	0%
creating guidelines	42,3%	39,4%	16,9%	1,4%
multicenter studies	55,7%	34,3%	10%	0%

The majority (92%) also reported that they would appreciate if RIMS abstracts were printed in a professional journal.

#### 4 Information to members and to interest groups

One informative member letter was distributed to all members in autumn 2006.

In addition, several outside interest groups acquired information about the 11<sup>th</sup> RIMS Annual Conference in Barcelona 2006 .The members of ECTRIMS Executive Board and CMSC (USA) also received an up date on RIMS future activities.

##### 4.1 Network

RIMS newsletter *Network* was published twice in 2006. The first edition in April reported on the SIG in between meetings since the RIMS annual conference in Tallinn in May 2005. The second edition in July 2006 was dedicated to reports from the 10<sup>th</sup> annual conference in Barcelona in May 2006.

#### 5 Financial support, marketing

The Executive Board continued planning new tools for marketing and advertisement purposes. Work on new brochures for informing possible new members of RIMS activities was ongoing throughout the year.

The financial situation was reasonably stable. One major website sponsoring of 5.000 euros from Schering AG was received. No further outside sponsoring was available. The annual conference 2006 did not make any financial profit.

Rehabilitation in Multiple Sclerosis (RIMS), the network of MS Centres in Europe was created in 1991, in Milan, Italy to enhance collaboration by the foremost MS Centres in Europe. Today the Organisation has 38 member centres throughout Europe.

The aim of RIMS is to link the European MS Centres in order to encourage professionals interested in Multiple Sclerosis to exchange their knowledge of clinical, scientific, social, economical and educational matters about the disease and to establish individual and scientific contacts between persons. In addition, individual membership for those who have a special interest in MS is welcomed.

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