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*Welcome to the April edition of the ISOO Newsletter. Do you have an article or news that you would like to share? Please contact Allan, AHovan@bccancer.bc.ca or Tanya, trouleau@hsnsudbury.ca
Dr. Allan Hovan and Dr. Tanya Rouleau (Co-Editors, ISOO Newsletter)*

MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting

The MASCC/ISOO Annual Meeting takes place in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 25-27.

Meeting Chair Jørn Herrstedt and the Scientific Committee have put together an exciting program of presentations, workshops, discussions, and debates. The scientific program will focus on current research in the areas of treatment and techniques for minimizing treatment-induced side effects as well as the psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions of cancer diagnosis and treatment. Recognizing the importance of supportive care has made significant advances in cancer treatment possible. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from expert clinicians and researchers in supportive care and to contribute your own insights on an international level.

Meeting Chair Jørn Herrstedt welcomes everyone to MASCC/ISOO 2015: "A number of people have dedicated a lot of time and effort to make the meeting as interesting and attractive as possible for the attendees. Join us in Copenhagen and explore the exciting meeting program. Stay a few extra days and enjoy the wonderful city of Copenhagen!"

ISOO members may be interested in the following sessions:

Thursday June 25th: Mucositis Research Workshop, and Dysphagia Workshop (registration and fees required)

Friday June 26th: Oral Care in Head and Neck Cancer, and Bone Health

Saturday June 27th: ISOO CE Course and Business Meeting

Things to do in Copenhagen

Nyhavn-This canal-front neighborhood is a great place to hop on a canal tour, have something to eat or drink, enjoy the sceneries of Copenhagen, or people watch.

Free Walking Tour-90 minute to 3 hour tours of Copenhagen are offered on a tips-alone basis. Tours offered include Classic Copenhagen (3 hour), Christianshavn (90 minute), and Northern Copenhagen (90 minute). (Segway tours and running tours are other great ways to see the city.) <http://www.copenhagenfreewalkingtours.dk>

Tivoli Gardens-This is the second oldest amusement park in the world. Every Friday during the summer season (beginning April 1st) you can listen to Danish and foreign artists performing on the open air stage. <http://www.tivoli.dk/en/>

Copenhagen Zoo <http://uk.zoo.dk/VisitZoo.aspx>

Botanical Gardens-The Botanical Garden is part of the Natural History Museum of Denmark, at the University of Copenhagen, right in the middle of the city. Admission is free. <http://botanik.snm.ku.dk/english/>

Stay tuned for details regarding a possible 'Tango Night', which will most likely occur on Wednesday night!

Meet ISOO Member, Ivan Alajbeg

Prof. Ivan Alajbeg is an Oral Medicine Specialist at the University of Zagreb's School of Dental Medicine and University Hospital Center in Zagreb, Croatia. He has been working in the field of Oral Medicine since 1998. At the School of Dental Medicine, Ivan is a course lead in two courses which he introduced to the curriculum: Dental Care of Medically Complex Patients, and Tobacco Cessation and Prevention for Oral Healthcare Professionals. He also serves as the Vice-Dean for International Cooperation, which gives him the fantastic opportunity to meet and work with interesting and driven people from all over the world.



Ivan understands the struggles that other ISOO members have had in the past in terms of providing standardized oral care for oncology patients as this has been a problem in Croatia.

For the past five years he has been focusing his efforts on improving clinical care for patients. He has achieved momentum by partnering with medical doctors (head and neck surgeons, radiation oncologists, and a medical oncologist) who want the same excellent care for patients. Against many obstacles and odds, Ivan is rewarded by his advances in persuading patients and healthcare providers to see that excellent supportive oral care is achievable. He feels that he is often pushing against 'headwinds', but ISOO has been instrumental in creating a 'tailwind'. He is thankful to have others in the ISOO community that have been pioneers in their own countries, who are able to offer advice and support. A favorite quote that gives him perspective in his efforts is: "The struggle itself is enough to fill a man's heart. One must imagine Sisyphus happy."

Ivan is married to Iva, an Associate Professor of Prosthetic Dentistry, and they have a 16 year old daughter, Jana. He is a certified ski instructor, a passionate skipper doing quite a bit of sailing in the Adriatic, and he enjoys spear-fishing. He has a special love for his 10 foot dinghy (just a bit larger than a bath tub) with 18 hp, affectionately called "a suicidal kidney stone breaker".

ISOO Board Elections

Voting for six members to the ISOO Board will be open from May 8-22nd, 2015. An email notification will be sent to all ISOO members on May 8th, 2015 with instructions on how to vote. Positions to be filled are president-elect, secretary, treasurer, VP communications, and two members-at-large.
