

# PMG- Why I don't think our wheels are falling off.



## □ Introduction:

- Nigel Shapcott, RE for 30 years in US and UK.
- Based in Swansea
- Where the Wales Rugby team are based
- Grand Slam?
- Any Wales supporters here?
- Loud cheers anticipated!!!!

# PMG- Why I don't think our wheels are falling off.



- Enormous thanks to Dave Long for all his work and contributions over the last 5 years.
- PMG NTE 2008- thanks to Dave Calder and his team for their efforts.
- Chair Elect- taking over after AGM
  - PMG is a great organisation, with many strengths
  - Honoured
  - Listen and dialogue with you
  - Some ideas about the future for PMG

# PMG Challenges

- Why am I here? Because the govt didn't show up.
- What does that mean? Change in service provision and a set plan? I ask the question- are they listening?
- What about future funding for service, training and R&D?



# Strengthen PMG (goals)

- ❑ Internally by improved communication - Special Interest Groups
- ❑ Professionally by developing training component-webcasts, ATP and ATS
- ❑ Strategically by improve govt. listening skills-developing Alliances (strength in numbers)

# Special Interest Groups (SIGs)



- ❑ RESNA is a broadly similar organisation to our own in North America. 20+ years ago it was very top down, R&D orientated.
- ❑ Storm the board
- ❑ SIGs were set up- which between them had representation on the Board.
- ❑ Their SIG structure has matured and now forms a backbone of RESNA's activities
  - improved communication within the membership
  - a forum for development of: priorities; national policies; paper presentations; and lifelong friendship and support.



# SIGs and PMG

- If we adopt a SIG structure my feeling is that it:
  - will improve our organisation
  - will improve what our membership get from PMG
  - might enable us to attract other smaller groups to ally themselves with PMG forming a larger, more effective and robust organisation
- We would need to:
  - allow time for SIGs to meet at the NTE
  - develop list serves and internal support structure to support the SIGs
  - develop organisational rules for SIGs.

# Potential SIGs and groupings

- Professional Groups
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Manufacturers/Suppliers
  - Physiotherapy
  - Rehabilitation Engineering
  - Retired PMG Members
  - Service Managers
  - Consumer Representation
  - Others

# Potential SIGs and groupings

- Protocols, Policy and R&D
  - Governmental Relations/ Legislation
  - Technology Transfer
  - Service Delivery
  - Education/Training
  - International Appropriate Technology
  - Outcome Measurement
  - Funding



# Potential SIGs and groupings

- Interventions and Specialities
  - Special Seating
  - Pressure Ulcers
  - Manual Mobility
  - Powered Mobility
  - Spinal Stabilisation
  - Transportation
  - TeleCare/TeleHealth
  - Functional Electrical Stimulation

# Potential SIGs and groupings

- There are a lot of possibilities and I invite your feedback using the questionnaire in your pack.
- There will be a box for you to use
- Thanks
- Now let's discuss Training

# Training- webcasts

- PMG is to try to reach out to members who are unable to attend the NTE by providing them with the opportunity to sign up for **webcasts** of this year's plenary presentations.
- Last year we experimented with both live and archived webcasts
- Both days of plenary sessions at this NTE are being recorded for webcasting.
- In future we will develop means of recording all parallel sessions



# Training- webcasts

- Yesterday our main sponsors were recorded (credit Monica Young and Helen Hislop)
- If this is successful it may well have significant implications for training and continuous professional development for the NHS and industry.
- Clearly this needs to be done in a manner that compliments the conference and finances of PMG.

# Training- Assistive Technology Practitioner

- ❑ RESNA has developed certification for Assistive Technology Practitioners (ATP) and a similar certification for Suppliers (ATS).
- ❑ They are recognised across North America
- ❑ Individuals with this certification have proved they possess knowledge and experience in AT.
- ❑ There is a strong ethics component
- ❑ Much of the RESNA work could be used here
- ❑ PMG is in the early stages of discussing the relevance of this type of certification in the UK
- ❑ Now let's discuss Alliances



# Alliances– Meaningful Alliances and webcasts

- We have started to negotiate with other organisations in our field in the UK and North America to see if there is interest in cooperation.
- There is a great deal of interest in developing an archive library where we can mutually share conference proceedings and other training events by webcasting.
- I am confident that if we are able to cooperate in what will be a complex endeavour like this, other opportunities for cooperation will emerge over time



# Alliances

- Listing of contacts
  - SPMN
  - ESS
  - NWMF
  - RESNA
  - RAATE
  - ISS (Vancouver)
  - BHTA
  - Industry
  - Independent Training Consultants (Minkle, Siekman)

# Summary

- ❑ Don't forget to complete the SIG questionnaire
- ❑ Comments welcome on any of the issues raised
  - SIG
  - Webcasts
  - Alliances
- ❑ Please communicate your ideas to me or PMG Committee members
- ❑ Thank you