

## INTERNATIONAL PANEL OF EXPERTS ON SAFE PATIENT HANDLING MEET IN LOUGHBOROUGH



24<sup>th</sup> September 2012

**An International Panel on Safe Patient Handling took place on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> September, hosted at Loughborough University Design School by leading UK human factors design experts Dr Mike Fray and Dr Sue Hignett. The Panel consisted of ten leading patient handling experts from seven countries, specialising in fields as diverse as ergonomics, biomechanics, nursing and physiotherapy. The meeting was convened to develop an international strategy for decreasing the risk of injury for caregivers when mobilizing patients, without compromising on efficiency or continued quality of care.**

Healthcare staff are subject to some of the greatest risks of musculoskeletal disorders in comparison with other professions, and both the human and economic costs of these injuries can be considerable. Understanding all of the issues involved in creating a safe patient handling environment is therefore essential for all those involved. An important ISO Technical Report entitled 'Manual handling of People in the Healthcare Sector' (ISO/TR 12296: 2012) has recently been published, which provides a comprehensive assessment of risk, work organization, equipment, buildings/environments and caregiver education; the ISO TR also evaluates the effectiveness of interventions in manual handling in relation to these factors.

Many of the meeting attendees were involved in development of the ISO TR, and a major objective of this meeting was to form a communications plan for broadcasting the key points from the ISO Technical Report to a wider audience.

“This was a wonderful synergy of international disciplines dedicated to leverage what has already been done in this field” said Suzy Harrington, Director of the Center of Health, Safety, and Wellness at the American Nurses Association and one of the attendees, “it gives us the opportunity to propel each country to a new level of quality of care around safe patient handling”.

“We were delighted to help facilitate this meeting of global thought leaders, whose objective is to advance the important cause of safe patient handling” added Alastair McLeod, Director of Global Clinical Services at ArjoHuntleigh. “The group has achieved a lot with the publication of the ISO Technical Report, and we look forward to seeing further safe patient handling initiatives which will benefit patients, care workers, facility managers and payers.”

The International Panel consisted of: Dr Mike Fray (Loughborough University, UK), Dr Sue Hignett (Loughborough University, UK), Hanneke JJ Knibbe (LOCOmotion Research, Netherlands), Diana Robla (Galician Ergonomics Association, Spain), Mary Matz (Dept Veterans Affairs, USA), Dr. Leena Tamminen-Peter (Ergosolutions BC, Finland), Jean-Pierre Zana (INRS Paris-France), Suzy Harrington (American Nurses Association, USA), Dr Mattias Jäger (Leibniz Research Centre, Dortmund University of Technology, Germany), Elly Waaijer (ArjoHuntleigh, Netherlands) and Kristina Hallström (ArjoHuntleigh, Sweden).

The meeting was supported by an unrestricted educational grant from ArjoHuntleigh.

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[www.patienthandling-guidelines.com](http://www.patienthandling-guidelines.com)

For a full ISO/TR 12296: 2012, download  
[www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue\\_tc/catalogue\\_detail.htm?csnumber=51310](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/store/catalogue_tc/catalogue_detail.htm?csnumber=51310)

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