

# VISTA 2011

The VISTA conference is designed to promote and advance the mission, goals, objectives and reputation of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and provides a platform for sport scientists to meet with experts in the field of sport for athletes with a disability. Due to a need for greater opportunities to discuss and exchange knowledge, the VISTA Conference has become an important international event for elite sport for athletes with a disability.

The objectives of the VISTA conference are:

- To provide a forum for exchange on current information, research and expertise related to Paralympic Sport and the Paralympic Movement.
- To enhance and promote cross-disciplinary professional interaction among sport scientists, coaches, athletes and sport administrators.

The target groups of the conference include: sports scientists and researchers, classifiers, coaches/trainers, sports administrators and athletes

Building on the success of previous editions, the fifth VISTA Conference will now be held in Bonn, Germany, from 31 August-03 September 2011

On the theme: 'A multidisciplinary approach to Paralympic Success', keynote address, invited symposia, and free communications on different topics that drive the Paralympic Movement in the early 21st Century will be addressed

The IPC welcomes contributions on the following themes:

- Athlete Development Models & Career Pathways
- Classification
- Coaching Innovation
- Education & Awareness
- Ethics
- Equity in Sport: gender, athlete with high support needs, ...
- Integration / Development / Recruitment
- Media / Marketing / Sponsoring
- Sport Management: Organization & Administration
- Social Legacies
- Sport performance – Exercise physiology, Advances in training techniques, Technical development, Sports medicine
- Youth in Paralympic Sport
- .....

In order to encourage submissions from non-scientists who wish to contribute and be a part of this important event, descriptive abstracts will be accepted for this Conference. All abstracts submitted will under-go a peer review by the Scientific Committee established for this purpose.

### Background

In 1993, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) felt that there was an urgent need to increase knowledge pertaining to elite sport for athletes with a disability in the international arena. As a result, the concept of VISTA emerged. The first VISTA Conference was held in Jasper, Alberta, Canada at the Jasper Park Lodge in May 1993. At this Conference, 163 international authorities convened to discuss issues pertinent to sport for athletes with a disability. The delegates included researchers, administrators, trainers, coaches and athletes. A variety of plenary and interactive sessions were organized in the areas of performance. These included: exercise physiology, advances in training techniques, technical developments, sports medicine, classification, integration, ethics, organization and administration. The second VISTA Conference was hosted by the German Sport University in Köln, Germany in September 1999. In this Conference, the overall concept of the VISTA '93 Congress was retained. Once again researchers, administrators, coaches and athletes discussed optimal ways of implementing “theory into practice” in the areas identified above. The third VISTA Conference was held in September 2003 at the Swedish Development Centre for Sport in Bollnäs, Sweden. The theme of this Conference was “Youth in Disability Sport” and was deemed a great success by all attendees. The fourth VISTA Conference was held in Bonn, Germany, home of the IPC Headquarters, on 6-7 May 2006. The theme of this Conference was “Classification – Solutions for the Future”. For 2 days, 210 participants discussed the future of classification in the Paralympic Movement.

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Researchers, administrators, coaches, trainers, students and athletes are encouraged to submit abstracts for oral presentations and posters that are pertinent to the Conference theme.

**Details on the conference, including registration and abstract submission procedures are available from the IPC Website at [www.paralympic.org/events](http://www.paralympic.org/events).**