**Symposium: Determinants of Paralympic Success**

*Simon Darcy, Cosmopolitan Civil Societies Research Centre, University of Technology Sydney, Australia*

*David Legg, Department of Physical Education and Recreation Studies, Mount Royal University Calgary, Canada; Member IPC Sports Science Committee*

The Paralympic Summer Games since the creation of the IPC in 1989 has grown from 83 participating nations in 1992 in Barcelona to 164 in 2012 in London.  In the Paralympic Winter Games a similar growth has occurred with 24 nations participating in 1992 in Albertville to 45 in 2014 in Sochi. With this growth of nations has been a corresponding interest and challenge in determining what contributes to Paralympic success. In this presentation the two speakers will review the current research pertaining to Paralympic participation and success and facilitate a discussion that will hopefully lead to new understanding of how athletes, administrators, coaches, and sport scientists can encourage even greater participation and performance. This will include the use of the SPLISS model as a potential way to understand how Paralympic nations can assess their policies that lead to sporting success. This presentation will also build upon discussions from October’s International Paralympic Committee’s VISTA Conference where a similar discussion was also led by the two authors.

*Presentations*

*Simon Darcy*

*David Legg*