

International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health

Following the general business and executive committee meetings of the International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) (Fig. 1), there has been considerable action behind the scenes as the various executive committee members have settled into their new roles and started to work towards the goals agreed at our conference in Vancouver, Canada, in June 2007.

We are currently gathering information on resources such as the patient information leaflets that different member groups produce. It is proposed that these will be made accessible via the IOPTWH website as a means of sharing good practice, particularly with physiotherapists in countries where there is no women's health group. We have also finalized and circulated our strategic plan, which was ratified at the general business meeting.

I am in ongoing e-mail contact with a women's health physiotherapist in northern Iraq, and have also been approached by clinicians in Japan, Malaysia, Fiji and Nigeria, some of whom had visited the IOPTWH stand in Vancouver.

Ros Thomas and I met ahead of the 2007 ACPWH Conference so that I could complete my handover of treasury business to her. She can expect a relatively quiet time until the build-up towards our planned conference in Portugal in the autumn of 2009.

Simone Gruenig, our newsletter editor, produced the Fall 2007 edition, which can be viewed via <www.ioptwh.org>. Please do contact her by e-mail at <simonegruenig@hotmail.com> if you would like to suggest something that could be included. It is our goal to develop the newsletter over the next few years. As well as being produced online, hard copies are circulated to the chief delegates in our member countries and the World Confederation for Physical Therapy. Simone has also taken on the role of website manager, and you can expect developments over the months ahead as she collaborates with the executive committee and our webmaster Stephen Smith at CaduceusWebs.

Over the next few months, the Organization will be developing its subcommittees, so you may hear from your ACPWH area representatives as I look for volunteers. As an international group, contact will be via e-mail rather than at face-to-face meetings, and it will be an excellent opportunity for those concerned to communicate with women's health physiotherapists world-wide, as well as influencing the agenda in our specialty. And it would look good in your continuing professional development portfolio!

Gill Brook

IOPTWH secretary

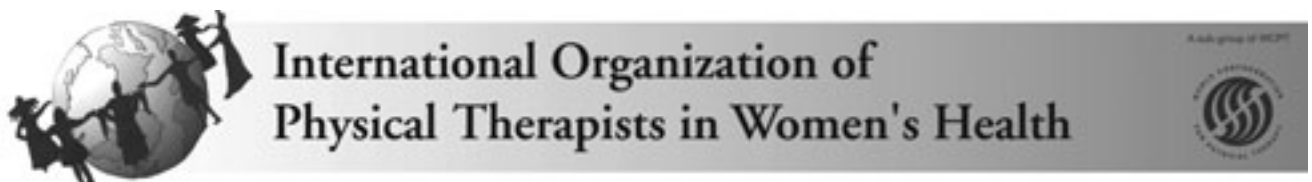


Figure 1. International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health logo.