



International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health

A sub-group of WCPT



Biennial conference

Full details of the biennial conference of the International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) in Oeiras, Portugal, are available on the Organization's website (www.ioptwh.org/conference). We hope to attract a truly international selection of delegates and the early signs look promising: the first seven applicants are from seven different countries.

New member elect

The Organization has received an application for membership from the Nigerian Society of Physiotherapy in Women's Health. The group will remain a member elect until our next general meeting in Amsterdam in 2011. The Italian group for Rehabilitation of the Pelvic Floor has also expressed an interest in joining.

Conference in Croatia

Fellow IOPTWH executive committee member Darija Šćepanović and I participated in the first international congress of physiotherapists organized by the University of Applied Health Studies, Zagreb, Croatia. Entitled 'Physiotherapy – Skill and Creativity', it took place in Zadar, Croatia, from 1 to 4 April 2009. My contributions included delivering the results of a survey of IOPTWH member countries on pelvic floor physiotherapy around the world, further details of which are available on the website via a link from the homepage. In addition, I gave a presentation on the role of tutors and clinical educators in postgraduate education that was based on my experiences at the University of Bradford.

I was one of just a handful of overseas speakers, and the majority of the conference was in Croatian. The audience was evenly split between physiotherapists and students. The latter group,



Figure 1. (Left to right) Croatian student physiotherapist Uglješa Rušnov, Gill Brook, Marie Donaghy (Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, UK) and Beate Carrière (California, USA) chat during a break in proceedings at the international congress in Croatia.

in particular, were very receptive, and took the opportunity to speak to me individually about their studies and career plans (Fig. 1).

It was a pleasure to participate in this fledgling conference, and I would like to thank the ACPWH for supporting my travel via the Dame Josephine Barnes Bursary.

Listserves

Can I use this opportunity to announce five additions to the IOPTWH listservs that ACPWH members can access via the website? This means that you can now post and reply to messages on urinary incontinence, pelvic pain, obstetric back pain, breast problems, osteoporosis, anorectal dysfunction, research and billing. If you wish to subscribe, please e-mail me at [<gill.brook@lineone.net>](mailto:gill.brook@lineone.net) and confirm that you are a member of ACPWH.

Gill Brook

IOPTWH secretary