



Executive Committee activity

At the time of writing, it is now some months since last year's World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) Congress was held in Singapore on 1–4 May 2015. Therefore, I have had time to reflect on our meetings there, and to consider plans for the months and years ahead.

I have held one Skype conference call with my fellow International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) Executive Committee members, Meena Sran, Darija Šćepanović, Melissa Davidson and Robyn Willcock, and we will continue to communicate in this manner every 3 months. With officers in Western Canada, the UK, Slovenia, Australia and New Zealand, this is no mean feat. We are all in different time zones, which inevitably involves a late-evening call for some, and one in the early morning of the next day for others. . . Such are the challenges of being part of an international organization!

In response to discussions at the IOPTWH general business meeting in Singapore, the Executive Committee has produced an action plan to move forward a range of issues of importance to the organization and its membership. These include:

- support for new IOPTWH member groups;
- next year's WCPT Congress in Cape Town, South Africa, on 2–4 July 2017, and plans for IOPTWH involvement – the move by the WCPT from 4-yearly to biennial congresses will undoubtedly have an impact on the IOPTWH subgroups;
- a further consultation within the membership about the organization's name;
- the way forward for the IOPTWH website, a presence on social media, and the potential for other forms of electronic communication and discussion;
- increasing the membership of IOPTWH from within WCPT member countries
- the role of physiotherapists in the fitting and management of vaginal pessaries for pelvic organ prolapse (POP);
- student membership; and

- sharing of patient information literature in different languages.

I shall keep you updated on our progress with these points in future reports in this journal, and you can also check out the IOPTWH newsletter on our website (www.wcpt.org/ioptwh/newsletters).

Women's health networking report

In my last report (Brook 2015, p. 50), I described this highly successful networking session in Singapore. Facilitated discussions covered topics such as: the role of physiotherapists in the fitting and management of pessaries for POP; high-risk pregnancy; obstetric anal sphincter injury; paediatric continence; and the overactive pelvic floor. Subsequently, a detailed report was produced, and this can be accessed in the July 2015 *IOPTWH Newsletter*, either on the organization's website (IOPTWH 2015) or via our own (POGP 2015).

Fourth European Congress of the European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy

I hope to see some of you at this congress in Liverpool, UK, on 11–12 November 2016. The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy will host the meeting, the Fourth European Congress of the European Region of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy (Fig. 1). It will be a



Figure 1. Logo of the Fourth European Congress of the European Region of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy.

world-class event for physiotherapy educators, managers, practitioners and researchers, and eminent women's health physiotherapist and researcher Kari Bø will present a keynote speech.

Together with POGP, IOPTWH submitted a proposal for a joint networking session. The meeting's scientific committee very much supported our idea, which will feature as a fringe event alongside the core congress programme on 11 November. At the time of writing, we are awaiting further information. Updated details will appear on both the POGP and IOPTWH websites, as well as that of the congress (www.liverpool2016.com).

Eighteenth World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress

Finally, here is a reminder that the next WCPT Congress will take place in Cape Town, South Africa, on 2–4 July 2017 (Fig. 2): IOPTWH will be there and I hope you will be too!

Gill Brook
IOPTWH President



Figure 2. Logo of the 2017 World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress.

References

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- International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) (2015) *IOPTWH Newsletter*. [WWW document.] URL <http://www.wcpt.org/sites/wcpt.org/files/files/IOPTWH-newsletter-July2015.pdf>
- Pelvic, Obstetric and Gynaecological Physiotherapy (POGP) (2015) *IOPTWH July Newsletter*. [WWW document.] URL <http://pogp.csp.org.uk/news/2015/09/28/ioptwh-july-newsletter>