

International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health

As many of you will be aware, ACPWH is a member of the International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH). I am the current secretary and Ros Thomas is treasurer. The mission of IOPTWH is to improve healthcare for women internationally through facilitation and promotion of best-practice women's health physical therapy.

As secretary, I regularly receive messages from around the world, some of which I shall summarize below to give ACPWH members a flavour of the Organization's 'business' during the past 6 months:

- I have had several requests to find physiotherapists/physical therapists in the UK and other countries. These are normally sent by physiotherapists whose patient is moving abroad or travelling. I have been able to locate clinicians for two patients travelling to the UK from the USA, and have done the same for a British woman living in Austria.
- A women's health physiotherapist in Greece requested information on continence physiotherapist and continence advisor education in the UK because she is working with a Greek university that hopes to establish a training programme.
- A subgroup of physiotherapists with an interest in women's health has recently been

established in Nigeria, and it has applied for IOPTWH membership. This application will be considered when the Organization holds its next general business meeting in 2011.

- A physiotherapist from Singapore has secured sponsorship for an overseas women's health placement and is currently arranging this with clinicians in the UK. At the same time, a UK women's health physiotherapist currently living in Singapore is trying to establish links with others, and I have been able to supply her with contact details for one of our IOPTWH 'friends' there.
- Fellow IOPTWH executive committee member Darija Šćepanović and I have been invited to participate in a conference in Croatia in April. Full details have yet to be confirmed.

In November 2008, I welcomed Azeb Befekadu Tessema, a women's health physiotherapist from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (www.fistulafoundation.org), who spent a week with me and my colleagues at Bradford Royal Infirmary, Bradford, before visiting Diane Stark and her team in Glasgow. I plan to submit an article about Azeb, her work and her visit to the UK in a future edition of the *Journal*.

Gill Brook
IOPTWH secretary