



IOPTWH/IPTOP Boston conference evaluation

Further to my previous report on this conference (Brook 2013), which was co-hosted by the International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) and the International Organization of Physical Therapists working with Older People (IPTOP), both official subgroups of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT), we have had the opportunity to analyse delegate feedback submitted via an online survey:

- 91.4% said that it fulfilled their expectations;
- 91.2% felt that it offered good value for money;
- 100% were satisfied with the venue; and
- 94.1% said that they were either extremely (67.6%) or moderately (26.5%) satisfied with the event overall.

The IOPTWH Executive Committee are delighted with this evaluation, especially since the programme was designed to meet the needs of two different groups of clinicians, i.e. those working in women's health and those specializing in the care of older people. It appears to have achieved this very successfully.

WCPT Congress, Singapore, 1–4 May 2015

In recent months, the Executive Committee have been busy planning IOPTWH involvement in this 4-yearly event. The 2015 WCPT Congress may seem a very long way off, but submissions for focused symposia had to be tendered by the middle of December 2013, and proposals for pre- or post-Congress events must be submitted by the middle of February 2014, when this edition of the *Journal* is scheduled to be published.

Focused symposium

In collaboration with IOPTWH President Rebecca Stephenson (USA) and delegate Ruth Broom (New Zealand), I submitted a proposal for a half-day focused symposium on the topics

of female genital mutilation and obstetric fistula, and the relevance of these issues to physiotherapists. Sadly, our pitch was not successful.

Pre- or post-Congress study day

I am currently in negotiation with international speakers, and plan to submit a proposal for a pre- or post-Congress study day on behalf of IOPTWH. It is hoped that this will be accepted and prove to be as successful as similar events at the previous three WCPT congresses. Look out for further details in future editions of *JACPWH*, and on both the WCPT (www.wcpt.org) and IOPTWH (www.ioptwh.org) websites.

Website coordinator

Once again, I would like to appeal to any ACPWH member who might be interested in the role of IOPTWH Website Coordinator to get in touch. We do not anticipate that this will be a very time-consuming job (possibly only involving an hour per week), and the post-holder does not need any particular information technology skills. The Executive Committee just want someone to monitor the website and suggest updates, which will be implemented by CaduceusWebs. We also hope to branch out into Facebook and Twitter, and I am in the process of contacting prospective advertisers or sponsors. Please contact me for further information (e-mail: gill.brook@lineone.net).

Union of International Associations

In November 2013, I had the opportunity to attend an international round table organized by the Union of International Associations in Brussels, Belgium. Delegates from around a 100 diverse international groups met to discuss issues of common interest, such as financial stability (including fund-raising) and meeting the needs of our memberships. It was interesting to sit with representatives of such diverse groups as the

European Tyre Recycling Association, the International Egg Commission and the International League of Esperantist Teachers! I left armed with new knowledge, and an appreciation of the fact that different international groups face many of the same challenges.

IOPTWH newsletter

The Organization's newsletter is published twice a year, and the current issue is accessible alongside all earlier editions via the website (IOPTWH 2014). It includes reports from our member countries, as well as papers, articles and reviews. Editor Hana Al-Sobayel welcomes contributions from physiotherapists within any of our member groups, so please contact her if you wish to submit any item of interest (e-mail: h.alsobayel@gmail.com).

International collaboration

I was recently approached by a Belgium-based journalist who was writing an article on

postnatal care, and how this differs across European countries. Via our network, I was able to canvass replies from delegates in the UK, Ireland, Belgium, Portugal and Finland. This was a great way to spread the word about women's health physiotherapy practice in different countries!

Gill Brook

IOPTWH Secretary

Reference

Brook G. (2013) International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health. *Journal of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Women's Health* **113** (Autumn), 73–74.

International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) (2014) *Member Newsletter*. [WWW document.] URL <http://www.ioptwh.org/publications/newsletters/index.cfm>