



## IOPTWH conference in Boston

The International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) and the International Association of Physical Therapists working with Older People (IPTOP), another official subgroup of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT), hosted a very successful conference at the Harvard Medical School in Boston, MA, USA, on 26–28 April 2013. Around 100 delegates from all over the world attended the meeting, and enjoyed a range of presentations on themes relevant to women's health and the ageing population, both male and female.

The speakers included WCPT President Marilyn Moffat, who spoke on "Moving the profession forward to a healthier lifestyle" and "Are you pushing your patients/clients hard enough?". This latter, evidence-based address, along with a practical exercise session involving Pilates for bone health, which was designed for older people and led by Sherri Betz of Polestar Pilates Education, certainly challenged some of our beliefs, not to mention our own physical capabilities! Other topics covered included osteoporosis, breast cancer, sexuality, nutrition and exercise, incontinence and prolapse, and urogynaecological surgery, all with the emphasis on older people.

The meeting was supported by generous sponsorship from a number of companies, many of which were represented in a trade exhibition.

Delegates had also been invited to submit posters, which were on display throughout the weekend.

As is always the case at IOPTWH conferences, the attendees voiced their appreciation of not only the programme, but also the opportunity to network with fellow physiotherapists from countries as diverse as Australia, New Zealand, Bermuda, Nigeria, Chile, Brazil, Norway, Iceland, Saudi Arabia, the US and the UK.

Despite the horrors of the Boston Marathon bombings, which had occurred just 11 days before the conference, the city proved to be a

welcoming host for this event, and even blessed us with fine weather throughout.

## WCPT Congress, Singapore, 1–4 May 2015

I would encourage ACPWH members to attend this 4-yearly congress, which offers an opportunity to meet thousands of physiotherapists from around the world, listen to a range of keynote speakers and presentations on relevant research, and view hundreds of posters.

As at its earlier congresses in Barcelona, Vancouver and Amsterdam, IOPTWH intends to offer a pre-congress study day or satellite programme. There will undoubtedly also be sessions of research presentations around women's health, continence and pelvic floor dysfunction. Further details will be made available in this journal, and on both the WCPT ([www.wcpt.org](http://www.wcpt.org)) and IOPTWH ([www.ioptwh.org](http://www.ioptwh.org)) websites.

Save the date!

## Website

### *Sponsorship and advertising*

Following an e-mail request sent to the chief IOPTWH delegates, I have received details of potential sponsors and advertisers from a range of member countries. Further suggestions are welcome, so please contact me (e-mail: [gill.brook@lineone.net](mailto:gill.brook@lineone.net)). Our website managers, CaduceusWebs, will create a hyperlink to details of the opportunities available, and I will send this to the companies concerned. This will generate welcome income for the Organization.

If you know of anyone who might want to advertise a course to a wider international physiotherapy audience, please let me know.

### *Mobile platform*

The IOPTWH web pages have been configured so that you can now view these from your mobile device. Enter "ioptwh.org" into your phone browser to find the website.

## **Scope of practice**

Meena Sran, Vice-President of IOPTWH, has led a review of the Organization's scope of practice, which has been updated in line with comments from the membership. The final version is now on the website (IOPTWH 2013a).

## **Opportunities on the IOPTWH Executive Committee**

All five positions on the Organization's Executive Committee – President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Member-at-Large – are open to nominations before each general business meeting, the next being in Singapore in 2015. I would encourage ACPWH members to consider applying. Further information on the

different roles will be published in the *IOPTWH Newsletter* within the next year, so keep checking the website for details (IOPTWH 2013b). Alternatively, e-mail me at the address above and I will be happy to discuss this with you.

**Gill Brook**

*IOPTWH Secretary*

## **References**

- International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) (2013a) *Scope of Practice*. [WWW document.] URL <http://www.ioptwh.org/pdfs/IOPTWHscopeofpractice.pdf>
- International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) (2013b) *Member Newsletter*. [WWW document.] URL <http://www.ioptwh.org/publications/newsletters/index.cfm>