



## **Members Elect and Friends of IOPTWH**

Since my last report, interest in both membership of the International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) and Friend status has continued, and there has been steady stream of enquiries over the past 6 months. Kuwait has applied for membership and will hold Member Elect status until our next General Business Meeting in Singapore in 2015. New Friends include physiotherapists in Japan and Albania.

If you know of any women's health physiotherapists in non-IOPTWH member countries, then do ask them to contact me if they are interested in Friend status (e-mail: [gill.brook@lineone.net](mailto:gill.brook@lineone.net)).

### **India**

I have added several physiotherapists from India to the list of Friends and they have given consent for me to put them in touch with each other. I hope that this networking opportunity will not only allow them to discuss professional issues, but also help them to work towards the formation of an Indian women's health subgroup.

### **Website**

The Executive Committee recently agreed a 4-year contract with CaduceusWebs, the host of our current website, that will take us up to and beyond our 2015 General Business Meeting. We have negotiated a contract that will reduce costs and standardize our outgoings month on month, and the Executive will now look for sponsors and advertisers to minimize the cost to the IOPTWH membership.

### **Website coordinator**

The Executive Committee would like to appoint a website coordinator from within our membership to take the lead in monitoring, managing and developing the Organization's Web pres-

ence. No experience is necessary – although it would be a bonus! – and you would have support from the Executive and CaduceusWebs as you developed the role. If you are interested, or know someone who might be, please e-mail me at the address above.

### **Scope of practice**

Following discussions at the General Business Meeting at the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) Congress in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, in 2011, Vice-president Meena Sran is leading a review of the IOPTWH *Scope of Practice* document, which was first published 7 years ago (IOPTWH 2005). A draft of the revised document has been circulated to the every Chief Delegate so that it can be discussed within each of our member countries. Any changes suggested will be considered by the Executive Committee before the final document is published. If you have not seen the draft document, you will find it in the Spring 2012 edition of the *IOPTWH Newsletter*, which is accessible online (IOPTWH 2012).

### **Amsterdam women's health networking session**

Approximately 50 physiotherapists attended a networking session facilitated by the IOPTWH Executive Committee during the 2011 WCPT Congress in Amsterdam. I produced a summary of the discussions, and this was circulated to the Chief Delegates late last year so that they could distribute it to their members. If you have not seen the document and would like to, then please e-mail me at the address above and I shall be happy to send you a copy.

### **IOPTWH Conference in Boston in 2013**

Following successful meetings in Portugal and the Netherlands, the Executive Committee is planning a conference in Boston, MA, USA, on

*International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health*

the weekend of 26–28 April 2013. This will be a joint meeting with the International Organization of Physical Therapists working with Older People (IOPTOP), another official subgroup of the WCPT. The Conference will include presentations that are relevant to both groups of physiotherapists, as well as separate sessions for each organization. Further details will be available later this year on the IOPTWH website ([www.ioptwh.org](http://www.ioptwh.org)).

**Gill Brook**  
*IOPTWH Secretary*

**References**

- International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) (2005) *Scope of Practice*. [WWW document.] URL <http://ioptwh.info/pdfs/IOPTWHscopeofpractice.pdf>
- International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) (2012) *IOPTWH Scope of Practice*. [WWW document.] URL <http://www.ioptwh.org/publications/newsletters/2012/spring/IOPTWH-Newsletter-Spring-2012/index.html#/16/>