

IOPTWH



INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF PHYSICAL  
THERAPISTS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

## The Physiotherapeutic Management of Anorectal Dysfunction in Adults and Children

Since my last report, the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) has accepted a proposal for a one-day course on the physiotherapeutic management of anorectal dysfunction in adults and children. This was submitted by the International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) in association with the Dutch Society for Physical Therapy in Pelvic Floor Disorders and Pre- and Postnatal Care. It will run as a satellite programme during the WCPT Congress in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on 21 June 2011. Full details are available on the Confederation's website ([www.wcpt.org/congress/](http://www.wcpt.org/congress/)).

Experts in the specialty will give presentations on a range of relevant topics, and the focus will be on physiotherapy assessment and interventions. The stated objectives of the day are to:

- inform delegates about the prevalence, incidence and definitions of anorectal dysfunction in adults and children on the basis of the best available evidence;
- make attendees aware of the evidence-based diagnostic tools that are used in the management of adults and children with this problem; and
- update delegates on evidence-based therapeutic options for conservative management and alert them to appropriate surgical interventions if conservative options fail.

It promises to be an excellent event. I would also urge ACPWH members to attend the WCPT Congress itself. It really is a unique opportunity to network with physiotherapists from all over the world and IOPTWH will co-host a reception with other official subgroups of the Confederation.

## Female genital mutilation

The Organization's Practice Committee has undertaken an Internet survey amongst member

countries and 'Friends of IOPTWH' to gain information on the global incidence, treatment and outcomes of women who have undergone female genital mutilation. Four hundred and twenty-three responses were received from physiotherapists in 18 countries, offering an insight into knowledge about and experience of this illegal practice. The Practice Committee has submitted an abstract to the Confederation's International Scientific Committee, and it hopes to present the results at the WCPT Congress in Amsterdam in June 2011. Further information will appear on the IOPTWH website in due course.

## Discussion forum

On 1 September 2010, the IOPTWH listservs were replaced by eight discussion forums dedicated to:

- anorectal dysfunction;
- billing;
- breast health and lymphoedema;
- osteoporosis;
- pelvic and vulval pain;
- pregnancy-related musculoskeletal dysfunction;
- research; and
- urogenital dysfunction.

As an ACPWH member, you are eligible to access this facility and can register on the website ([www.ioptwh.org/forum/](http://www.ioptwh.org/forum/)). This is an opportunity to share your thoughts, and canvass the views and experiences of others, particularly a large number of subscribers in the USA.

## Undergraduate physiotherapy education

On behalf of IOPTWH, Executive Committee Vice-president Meena Sran is finalizing a position statement on the women's health curriculum in entry-level physiotherapy/physical therapy training. This will propose that such education programmes world-wide should include basic and clinical science elements

relevant to the assessment and treatment of women's health conditions, and ensure that graduates are competent to independently perform some specific women's health skills. It is hoped that this position statement can be used to inform women's health physiotherapy curricula in all IOPTWH member countries and beyond.

## **Newsletter**

Let me remind you that the IOPTWH newsletter can be accessed via the Organization's website ([www.ioptwh.org/newsletters/](http://www.ioptwh.org/newsletters/)). The Fall 2010 edition included a fascinating report about work by American physical therapists at the HEAL

Africa hospital within the Democratic Republic of Congo (Goodard 2010). Please consider writing for the newsletter; your contributions will be welcome. Furthermore, current editor Simone Gruenig is retiring from the post after the Spring 2011 edition and we are actively looking for her successor. Could this be you? For further information, please contact me (e-mail: [gill.brook@lineone.net](mailto:gill.brook@lineone.net)).

**Gill Brook**  
*IOPTWH Secretary*

## **Reference**

Goodard A. (2010) Rehabilitation initiative @ HEAL Africa. *IOPTWH Members Newsletter* **Fall**, 5–9.