



Nineteenth World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress

Since my report in the Spring 2018 edition of this journal (Brook 2018), the focus of the International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) Executive Committee's business has been on our plans for the 2019 World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) Congress in Geneva, Switzerland – and beyond. Next year marks the twentieth anniversary of IOPTWH's recognition as an official subgroup of WCPT, and it will be an opportunity to reflect on the past and look towards the future as our specialty continues to grow and develop world-wide.

The Congress programme continues to develop, and I would encourage you to sign up for e-mail alerts (<https://mailchi.mp/wcpt.org/subscribe>). I can now confirm the following items.

Pre-Congress course, 10 May 2019: "Pelvic health in sports and exercise"

I am delighted to confirm that this course, which was proposed by IOPTWH in collaboration with Pelvisuisse, the Swiss pelvic physiotherapy group, has been formally accepted by the Congress organizing committee, and the date confirmed. International experts Kari Bø (Norway), Paul Hodges (Australia), Patricia Mota (Portugal), and Jacqueline de Jong and Helena Luginbühl (Switzerland) have confirmed their participation. The programme – a mix of presentations and workshops – will appeal not only to women's health and pelvic physiotherapists, but also to those working in musculoskeletal and sports practice.

A course outline and speaker profiles are now available online (WCPT 2018a). Full course details will be available early next year. All WCPT courses are subject to cancellation if application numbers are too low to ensure that these will be financially viable. This decision will be made in January 2019. No previous IOPTWH-backed course has been cancelled, and I have no reason

to think that things will be any different this time.

"Pregnancy, childbirth, and pelvic floor damage: prevention and management"

Melissa Davidson, the IOPTWH secretary, submitted the following pitch for a focused symposium to the Congress organizing committee:

"Maternity care and birth outcomes vary widely in different nations, with low-income countries experiencing the poorest outcomes. On a global scale, many women do not have access to physiotherapy services. The session will promote physiotherapy involvement in maternity care by focusing on pregnancy, birth, and immediate postpartum prevention and management of pelvic floor trauma. It will present recent evidence and discuss controversies in management, providing a unique and integrated perspective. Attendees will gain new insights and strategies to support their involvement in maternity care in their local context."

While this proposal was not accepted as a focused symposium, it is currently under consideration for inclusion as a seminar or discussion panel.

Networking session: "Women's health"

I have accepted an invitation to chair a networking session dedicated to women's health on behalf of IOPTWH (WCPT 2018b). Congress networking sessions address topical issues, challenges, opportunities and directions for the physiotherapy profession. These events are open to all congress delegates, and offer them an informal opportunity to meet and talk with colleagues who share a common interest. The aim of the networking sessions is to provide individuals who are interested in a topic with a more-informal interactive forum to discuss relevant issues, which are decided nearer the time to ensure that the subjects are current. These sessions are always popular with delegates, and

The image is a promotional poster for the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) Congress 2019 in Geneva. At the top, it says 'World Confederation for Physical Therapy' and 'CONGRESS 2019 Geneva' in large, bold letters. Below this, the dates '10-13 May' are displayed. A silhouette of the Geneva skyline, including the Swiss Re Tower, is shown. The slogan 'Where the world of physical therapy meets' is written in a stylized font. A dark grey banner in the middle contains the text 'Registration is now open!' and 'Register by 31 October for Super Early Bird'. Below the banner, the website 'www.wcpt.org/wcpt2019' is listed. At the bottom, the WCPT logo is on the left, and the 'physio swiss 100 YEARS' logo is on the right, indicating the host organization.

Figure 1. Call for registration for the 2019 World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress.

opportunities for networking are among the key benefits delegates associate with attending a WCPT Congress. At our previous networking session in 2017, 61 delegates from 42 countries participated. They had the opportunity to rotate through four discussion groups, there was brief feedback at the end, and collated notes of the session were circulated to attendees and published on the IOPTWH website (IOPTWH 2017) and in this journal (Brook 2017). I anticipate that we shall use a similar format for the meeting next year.

Congress registration

Registration opened in July 2018 (Fig. 1). A “Super Early Bird” rate is available until 31 October 2018, and “Early Bird” and “Advance” rates will be available until 31 January 2019 and

26 March 2019, respectively. Geneva is easy to reach from the UK, and it looks like a lovely place to visit!

Change of name consultation

Since I last reported, the IOPTWH has completed a further online survey of chief delegates representing each of our 25 member countries. A previous review had demonstrated that 72% were in favour of a name change. This time we asked them: what wording should be included in the title and what should be excluded; what the new name might be; and for any other information, questions or comments that they would like us to discuss or consider. There were varying opinions, but some strong themes emerged. Before the end of 2018, IOPTWH secretary Melissa Davidson will circulate a shortlist of names agreed by the Executive Committee, following consultation with WCPT. These will be put to the delegate vote ahead of ratification at the IOPTWH delegates’ business meeting in Geneva next May.

Gill Brook

IOPTWH President

References

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