

Notes and news

Women's health in Slovenia

On 15–16 November 2012, the Women's Health Special Interest Group of the Slovenian Association of Physiotherapists held a seminar on "Ageing and Physical Activity" at the spa at Dobrna, a health resort that has historically focused on women.

The seminar was organized by Darija Ščepanović, Gabrijela Starc (née Gaber, former Head of the Slovenian Physiotherapy School) and Lidija Žgur. Twenty-five delegates attended (Fig. 1), and Jill Mantle opened the programme with a presentation entitled "Ageing from an 81-year-old physiotherapist's experience!". This was followed by papers on the physiology of and typical changes seen in the ageing process, osteoporosis, and fall-prediction tests (posture, gait,

balance, aerobic exercise capacity and muscle performance). These presentations were interspersed with practical group sessions to illustrate the important contributions that physiotherapy can make, particularly to the promotion of fitness, balance and continence.

The Slovenian Women's Health Special Interest Group was formed in 1996 following a seminar at Dobrna in 1994 that was funded by the European Union's Tempus Programme and led by lecturers from what was then the Physiotherapy Division of the University of East London. Jill Mantle was on that team and she returned in 1997 to lead a course on "Physiotherapy in the Promotion of Continence". Since then, members of the Slovenian Women's Health Special Interest Group have been regular delegates at ACPWH Annual Conferences. Some



Figure 1. Delegates and organizers at the seminar on "Ageing and Physical Activity" held in Dobrna, Slovenia, on 15–16 November 2012 (photograph by Teja Grum).

have also attended women's health and continence courses in the UK as part of their continuing professional development.

Jill Mantle

University of Bradford postgraduate course update

By the time you read this, we will have completed the 2012–2013 academic year, and the University of Bradford Board of Examiners will have confirmed the results for many of our students. However, at the time of writing, we have only recently started the second semester and I have just two results to announce.

Emma Upstell and Wendy Rarity have both been awarded the Postgraduate Certificate: Continence for Physiotherapists, and therefore, have completed the academic requirements of ACPWH membership.

Apologies also to Gemma Barnes (née Cook) – I transposed her two surnames in my last update in the Spring 2013 edition of the *Journal* (No. 112, p. 57).

For those interested in applying for the 2014–2015 academic year, the closing date for applications (for both the Physiotherapy in Women's Health and Continence for Physiotherapists postgraduate certificates) is likely to be 30 June 2014. If this changes, any new information will be posted on the ACPWH academic courses page of the website (<http://acpwh.csp.org.uk/academic-courses>).

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Update on the proposed united professional network

In an official announcement to the membership (see p. 82), Ruth Hawkes, the Chair of the Association, has made it known that the proposed merger of ACPWH and Chartered Physiotherapists Promoting Continence (CPPC) has been abandoned.

Although a significant majority of those who voted on the matter in February this year were in favour of creating a single professional network, it was not possible for all parties to reach an agreement on the necessary interim framework.

"Therefore," Ruth states, "it is with regret that the proposed merger is no longer going to be possible, and we have been advised by the [Chartered Society of Physiotherapy] CSP to stop any further negotiations."

As Amanda Savage and Wendy Rarity note in this edition's editorial, "192 out of 577 members voted on this matter, which demonstrated a serious commitment to participation in its work and future direction" (p. 3). Furthermore, Ruth is at pains to point out that a great deal of effort was made by individual members of both CPPC and the CSP in the attempts to reach an amicable settlement.

The Executive Committee intends to move forward again with its plans for ACPWH, which include changing the name and rebranding the Association's corporate image. These changes will affect the *Journal*, leaflets and workshops, and the Executive hope to make their plans available at Conference in September (see the inside back cover for full details). Ruth stresses that information will continue to be disseminated through the website and by e-mail: "We believe we can move forward with optimism, and look forward to your continued support and ask for patience as we move into a new and exciting era for ACPWH."

Andrew J. Wilson
Managing Editor

Extended online content

I am a little ashamed to admit that, when I was asked to join the Journal Subcommittee last year, I had no idea that there was also an online version of *JACPWH*. A little investigation of the Association's microsite revealed a few extra items that did not appear in the printed version, including reports from the area representatives, the "Papers in other journals" section and Karen Radford's excellent "Website watch" column. Unfortunately, these gems were hidden behind rather unappealing Word document icons, with nothing to inspire the reader to download and read these resources.

So it's time for a change! Karen Radford, our Websites Reviewer, has made a map to guide readers to each part of the ACPWH microsite, including the *Journal's* extended online content (Fig. 2). Documents and articles will now be easier to access, and we will include more photographs and news. The extended online content will also be used to highlight and celebrate the

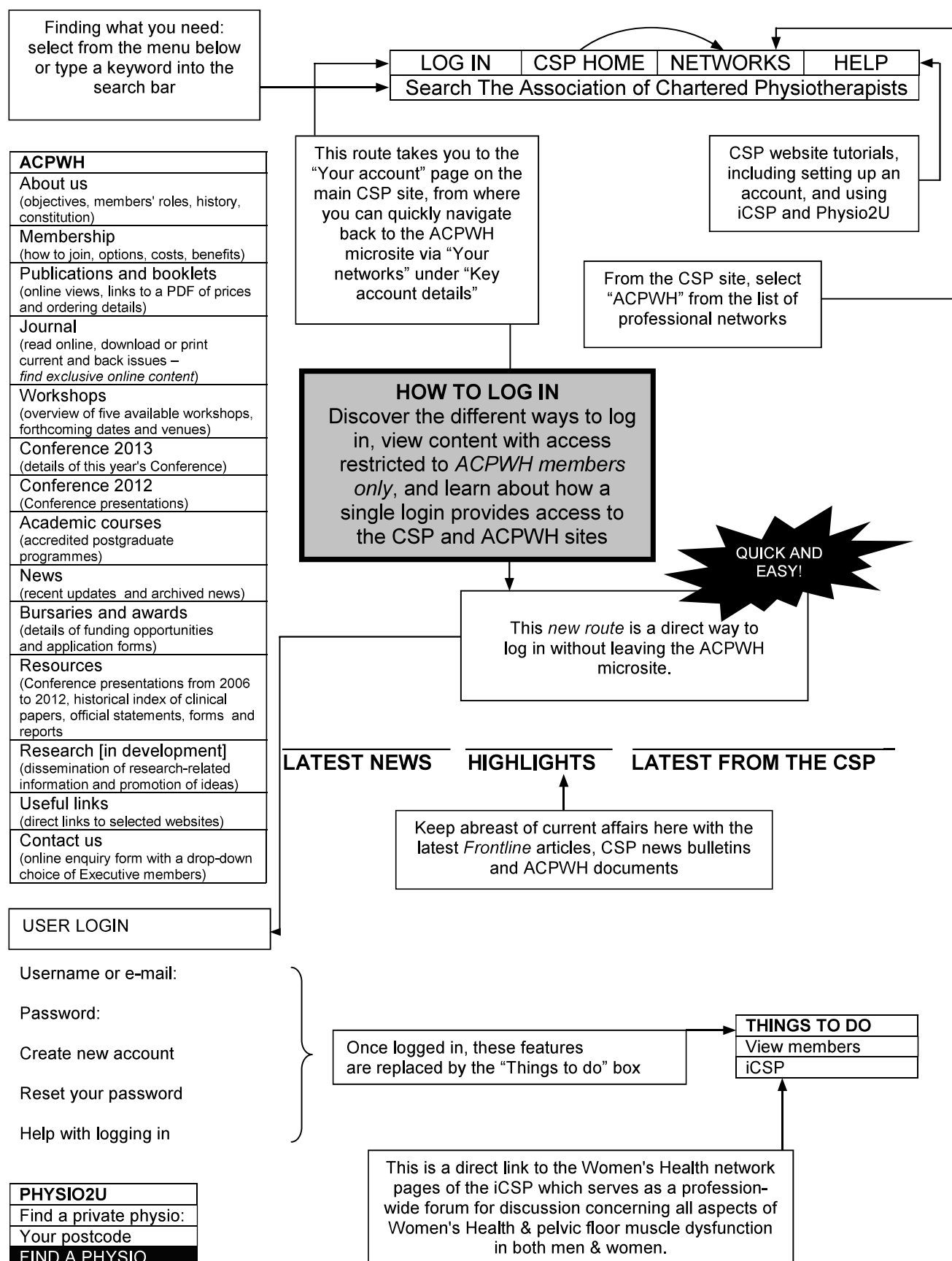


Figure 2. Map of the ACPWH microsite including instructions for logging in and navigation: (CSP) Chartered Society of Physiotherapy; (iCSP) interactiveCSP; and (PDF) Portable Document Format file.

academic achievements of ACPWH members, and keep information as current as possible.

We are always looking for interesting snippets of information to include. Have you recently gained a postgraduate diploma or Master's degree? Have you posted a question on interactiveCSP and want to share the responses? Do

you enjoy writing and would like to review a newly published book? If you answered "yes" to any of the above, then please get in touch and get involved!

Rachel Bromley
Online Content Editor