



International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapists

IFOMT NEWSLETTER **December 2005**

President's Report

The Executive met in June in Helsinki, associated with meetings of the EC Europe. We were able to review the original Strategic Planning document, which was constructed at a special meeting in Antwerp facilitated by Anne Moore. I am happy to report that many of the goals have been reached, and many activities are “on track”, especially advocacy and communications which have always been important components of IFOMT. We were fortunate to have our Standards Committee Chair, Dr. Alison Rushton, at the Helsinki meeting, helping to frame a strong communication network between the Executive and the Standards Committee.

We continue to explore and evolve commercial partnering, and will keep Member Organizations (MOs) updated on this activity. The website has proven to be a valuable tool for promotion of manipulation by physical therapists, and an effective aid in communicating IFOMT and MO activities and news. Personally, I have been involved with the development of EC Americas, encouraging better communication between the Americas present MOs, Canada and the United States, and with the goal of encouraging international education activities on a “regional” basis to include other North and South American countries. The IFOMT Executive is actively planning meetings for both Vancouver, Canada in 2007 at the WCPT conference, as well as Rotterdam, the Netherlands for the 2008 IFOMT conference.

On a final note, I would like to thank the multitude of individuals and MOs that assist the Executive and the Standards Committee, you make our jobs easier and lighter. I would also like to personally thank the rest of my Executive, who have always been there for me through thick and thin. Without their assistance, the ball could have been dropped on several occasions, attesting to the fact that we are there for each other, we work well with each other, and is proof that we are a team, not just a group of individuals. Vicki Reid, our Executive Administrator, has proven to be invaluable, as always, and we consider her an integral part of the Executive, assisting with planning, review and communications. Vicki, thank you for your efforts. May all of you have an enjoyable holiday season, and I look forward to working with you again in 2006!

Michael Ritchie
President, IFOMT

FROM THE OFFICE:

The office will be closed from 22nd December until 9th January as I will be on annual leave (hopefully enjoying New Zealand sunshine at the beach) over that period.

Internet Searching Using www.scholar.google.com

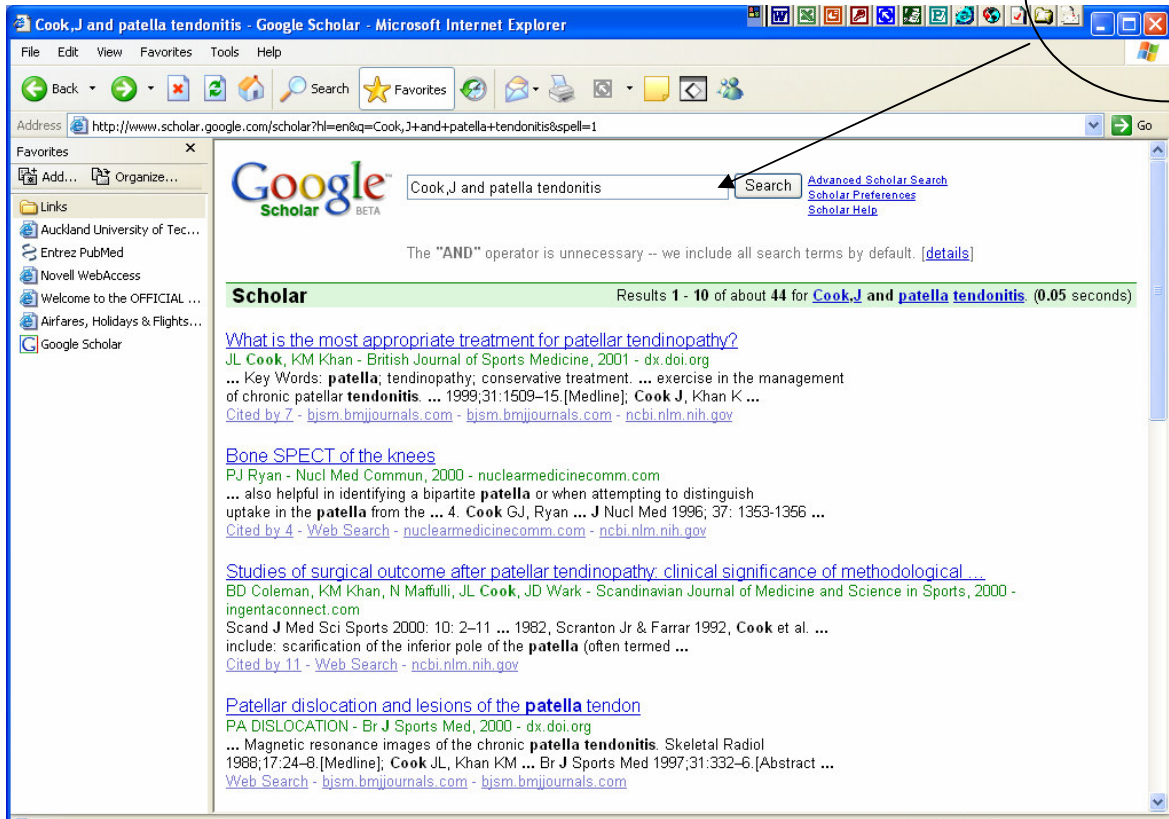
Often the office receives requests about gaining access to scientific literature via electronic sources, but are perhaps frustrated at the cost of getting University library access. One of the new search engines on the internet is www.scholar.google.com. While this is not quite as robust a search engine as Medline and others, it is a very easy to use search engine and gives you a pretty good idea of what information is out there. It can get you the abstracts for many of the articles you may require. Where free full text articles are available through certain journals these can be downloaded as full text or PDF files, which is very convenient. To read PDF files you need to have Acrobat Reader, and this can be downloaded from the internet too.

In New Zealand we had some members who attended the NZMPA conference that were interested in the work that Jill Cook has published. For example, if you put Cook, J and patella tendonitis on the search line, as shown on the screen print page below, you will see you get 44 hits.

All the sites listed will give you at least the abstract of the article. However, if you scroll down (see second page below) you will see the one titled “Conservative management of patellar tendinopathy”, published by Physical Therapy in Sport. This article can be downloaded free as a PDF file. You will soon find by using this search engine which journals are free. I hope this may be of some help to you.

Duncan Reid

Search Words



WCPT Congress

Planning for our next Congress, World Physical Therapy 2007, which will be held in Vancouver, Canada in June 2007 is progressing well.

We have recently added the following information to the Congress section of our website: -

- Key Congress Dates
- Congress Theme
- Programme Tracks
- Session Types

Please visit www.wcpt.org/congress for further details on all of the above items.

We also have some printed material regarding the Congress available for distribution at meetings and events. If you would like us to send you a supply of this material please let us know how many copies you need and where you plan to distribute it.

In the next few weeks we will send you some advertisements for the Congress which you can use in your journals, newsletters and on your website. In the meantime, we would ask you to add World Physical Therapy 2007 to your calendar of events, and set up a link from your website to www.wcpt.org/congress

Best Wishes
Rachel Moore, WCPT

IFOMT Standards Committee

The Standards Committee recently called for applications to fill a vacant position on the Standards Committee, due to the resignation of Louise Wellington. As the work load is going to vastly increase with the introduction of International Monitoring, it was agreed that an extra member be appointed. The standard of applications was extremely high, and the Committee was delighted to appoint Dr Darren Rivett, from Australia and John Langendoen from Germany.

Business Cycle

2005/6

- Information to MOs re timeframe international monitoring
- Initiation of mentorship of RIGs (agreed Helsinki 2005)
- Questionnaire to Member Organisations re Standards document and 6 year review (agreed Helsinki 2005)
- Questionnaire to Member Organisations re reciprocal recognition of members (agreed Helsinki 2005)

2006

- Review of Standards Document due on a 6 yearly basis
- 19th – 22nd October Meeting in USA (Westin Hotel, 601 S College Street, Charlotte, North Carolina). To consider:
 - Working of Standards Committee
 - Process of international monitoring
 - Supervision v mentorship
 - Standards document and results of survey
 - Reciprocal membership and results of survey

2007

- 2nd – 6th June. Meeting at WCPT, Vancouver, Canada. To consider:
 - processing of international monitoring Australia and UK
 - Responsive agenda to 2006 issues

- International monitoring:
 - Australia (1st occurrence)
 - United Kingdom (1st occurrence)

2008

- Consideration of points of further development from initial recommendation of membership for:
 - Greece
 - Spain
- International monitoring:
 - Canada (1st occurrence)
 - Norway (1st occurrence)
 - Sweden (1st occurrence)

2009

- International monitoring:
 - Netherlands (1st occurrence)
 - New Zealand (1st occurrence)
 - Switzerland (1st occurrence)

2010

- International monitoring:
 - Denmark (1st occurrence)
 - Finland (1st occurrence)
 - Hong Kong (1st occurrence)
 - Australia (2nd occurrence)
 - United Kingdom (2nd occurrence)

2011

- International monitoring:
 - Germany (1st occurrence)
 - South Africa (1st occurrence)
 - USA (1st occurrence)
 - Canada (2nd occurrence)
 - Norway (2nd occurrence)
 - Sweden (2nd occurrence)

2012

- Review of Standards Document due on a 6 yearly basis
- International monitoring:
 - Austria (1st occurrence)
 - Belgium (1st occurrence)
 - Portugal (1st occurrence)
 - Netherlands (2nd occurrence)
 - New Zealand (2nd occurrence)
 - Switzerland (2nd occurrence)

2013

- International monitoring:
 - Greece (1st occurrence)
 - Italy (1st occurrence)
 - Spain (1st occurrence)
 - Denmark (2nd occurrence)
 - Finland (2nd occurrence)
 - Hong Kong (2nd occurrence)
 - Australia (3rd occurrence)

- United Kingdom (3rd occurrence)

2014

- International monitoring:
 - Germany (2nd occurrence)
 - South Africa (2nd occurrence)
 - USA (2nd occurrence)
 - Canada (3rd occurrence)
 - Norway (3rd occurrence)
 - Sweden (3rd occurrence)

2015

- International monitoring:
 - Austria (2nd occurrence)
 - Belgium (2nd occurrence)
 - Portugal (2nd occurrence)
 - Netherlands (3rd occurrence)
 - New Zealand (3rd occurrence)
 - Switzerland (3rd occurrence)

2016

- International monitoring:
 - Greece (2nd occurrence)
 - Italy (2nd occurrence)
 - Spain (2nd occurrence)
 - Denmark (3rd occurrence)
 - Finland (3rd occurrence)
 - Hong Kong (3rd occurrence)
 - Australia (4th occurrence)
 - United Kingdom (4th occurrence)

Etc

MEMBER ORGANISATION REPORTS

Australia: Delegate – Debra Shirley

No report received.

Austria: Delegate - Jutta Bauer

The OEVOMT was very busy in advertising Manual Therapy all over Austria via journal articles and we do hope to have raised the interest to become an OMT Student.

The OMT course that is running at the moment is approaching its final year. The students have successfully completed their written exams and are working, besides the practical education, on essays and literature reviews at the moment. Furthermore the Translation of the “Standards Document” into German is finally completed and can be accessed via the IFOMT homepage.

The Transition of the undergraduate diploma of the “Academy of Physiotherapy” to a University study is still in progress. We hope to be starting the first courses at university level in autumn 2006. The courses will have a duration of 6 semesters and the students will graduate with an internationally comparable bachelor’s degree. Many different forms of Masters Degree studies are being developed in specialised areas of physiotherapy.

As the OEVOMT is an umbrella group of two Manual Therapy subgroups the chairperson is going to change routinely by the end of this year. I would like to thank you all for your fantastic co-operation over the last 3 years. It was a great pleasure to get to know you and work with you all.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
Jutta Bauer

Belgium: Delegate - Axel Beernaert

Since the last general meeting, there have been no changes in the Belgian situation. We are still working to obtain a specific competence at the Department of Health Care. The actual process seems to be positive.

Canada: Delegate - Anita Gross

A Conference on the Biology of Manual Therapy was held on June 9th to 10th 2005 in Natcher Conference Center, National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland to establish a research agenda. David Watson, Linda Woodhouse, and I attended. This is an exciting opportunity for Canadian Researchers in Manual Therapy. A call for proposals has been posted on <http://nccam.nih.gov>.

With the leadership of Michael Ritchie, the foundation to construct an EC Americas is being established. The target is to establish an inaugural meeting at WCPT 2007. It is hoped that discussions between AAOMT, CAMT, and IFOMT will lead to closer communications and collaborative projects between Canada and the United States. The goal is to improve education encounters / exchange between groups and enhance communication between North American Educators.

The executive committee of CAMT has begun a campaign across Canada to increase public awareness of CAMT, utilising the services of a public relations firm. Numerous radio and television interviews have been given about low back pain and how CAMT members can help across Canada. We had our annual Orthopaedic Symposium in October 2005. This is shaping up to be an exciting scientific conference.

Denmark: Delegate – Per Kjaer

In Denmark we have had a busy fall. Our basic courses have become very popular and we have had to give extra courses to fulfil the demands. Furthermore, it seems that the interest in taking exams is increasing. The case report writing course has been filled up and also the clinical supervision courses leading to part one exam. Outside our own courses we have had a course with Stewart McGill in the fall.

Next year we will re-establish our collaboration with osteopath Laurie Hartman on the advanced manipulative courses. We will offer a course on neurodynamics with Michael Shacklock and a course on movement impairment with Shirley Sahrman.

At our half-yearly teachers meeting the content and organization of the advanced part of our courses was discussed. The big discussion at the moment is how to secure high quality and safety in both manual techniques and in clinical reasoning. For ten years we have shifted the focus towards clinical reasoning, and we now feel that the manual skills have to be an important focus.

Our quality development programme on basing the teaching in manual/musculoskeletal physiotherapy on the best available evidence is now running and has been funded by the Manual Therapy group, The Danish Physiotherapy Research fund, the Physiotherapy Practitioners fund and hopefully the Rheumatology Association Research fund will add to as well. We hope in the next year to collaborate with other IFOMT members on this important project. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel like joining this work (denmark@ifomt.org).

Our parent body has last week decided to financially support the establishment of a research unit for physiotherapy leading to a master in physiotherapy at the University of Southern Denmark. It has been a long

wait and since the government did not give financial support we are grateful that our parent body finally took their own action. The legislation about physiotherapy is discussed in the government and in organisations. It is expected that a new law will be in force by 2007. It seems that our legal professional name will change from therapy assistants to physiotherapist by law. The big battle is about whether we still have to work on medical doctors' prescription, or if we can do without prescription.

Finland: Delegate – Maarit Keskinen

No report received.

Germany: Delegate - Fiona Morrison

Nothing to report from Germany for this newsletter.

Greece (HMPA): Delegate – Kostas Sakellariou

No report received.

Hong Kong: Delegate - Agnes Chan

In the year of 2005, the Manipulative Therapy Specialty Group continues to organize educational courses for practicing physiotherapists. Local and overseas manipulative physiotherapists were involved in the teaching. In Hong Kong, physiotherapists are working under the medical referral system. The Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association did a survey in the profession in July to solicit physiotherapists' opinion concerning the issue of direct access to physiotherapy services.

Italy: Delegate - Guido Frosi

In Italy there is much news this year. The University of Padova is starting with another Masters course in OMT, so now we have two masters in OMT, one in Genova and the other in Padova. Our national meeting of GTM took place in Tirrenia, on the 21st of October, with many physiotherapists (more than 120) who came to listen to very interesting presentations in manual therapy. We had also an important guest, the Australian researcher, Deborah Falla, who talked about muscular dysfunctions in patients with cervical disorders.

Our group is discussing about education in Manual Therapy, and has to decide what kind of courses will be certified in the future. To take a better decision we have started a survey on other countries that are full members of IFOMT and we are now exchanging information with some of them. To improve our relationship with foreigner physiotherapists we have planned to translate our Internet site (www.terapiamanuale.it) into English.

Italy is pleased to take part in the Research Priority Studies Project following the IFOMT requests and plan, for the next year, to promote the OMT role and education in our country. In a few months there will be another national meeting to discuss about the education and the role of the Executive Committee. Davide Albertoni (Resp. GTM/IFOMT relationship), Guido Frosi (Chairman GTM/AIFI)

Netherlands: Delegate - Will Bonneveld

On March 11th and 12, 2006, The Dutch Association for Manual Therapy (NVMT) will organize its 6th consecutive two-day scientific congress. And as it is the 25th anniversary of the NVMT, it will be a very special one! The theme will be: *FUTURE OF MANUAL THERAPY: WHERE IN LIE THE CHALLENGES?* For the first time, because of the anniversary, the entire congress will be in Dutch, as only Dutch and Flemish speakers have been invited for this jubilee congress. We are again expecting at least about 800 delegates each day. We will also again have an exhibition of over 2000m² where more than 30 companies will present their trade.

In the June IFOMT newsletter we already wrote that we have worked hard over the last year, describing the competencies of our profession as well as the end terms of the educational system.

Our profile for professional competence has been translated into English. Should you be interested, it is available now. Send an email to nvmt@kngf.nl and we will forward it to you. You can also download the profile from our site; <http://www.nvmt.nl/publicaties.asp>

In order to improve on the external positioning and profile of Manual Therapists in The Netherlands, we have for strategic reasons chosen to claim expertise in a certain target audience or patient group: people with signs and symptoms relating to the vertebral column. That our profession incorporates not only this, but all extremities as well has to be made clear in all communications as well.

Our aim for 2006 therefore is to enlarge the name recognition or brand awareness of the Manual Therapist with patients, referring doctors and patient organisations. Together with an external PR marketing bureau we are in the process of realising this goal.

In June we have also stated that due to Ba-Ma developments, the Manual Therapy schools and its educational system is undergoing major changes. Beside that, the NVMT has decided that all registered Manual Therapists must attain at least the master of profession level before 2015 to keep being registered. Last September the first Master education years was started. An upgrade for at present registered colleagues is being developed.

As of 2006, the national health care system will change dramatically in The Netherlands. Health care is becoming increasingly expensive and the government therefore is stimulating health care workers to compete on quality and on cost. Civilians must enter the role of a critical client who chooses with which health insurance company he will take out health care insurance. This free market system should lead to improved and more efficient care.

The difference between national health care and private health care will no longer exist from January 1st 2006 in The Netherlands. And we will get direct access finally!!!!

AND NOW NEWS ABOUT IFOMT 2008



Since the last newsletter in June, the congress committee of the IFOMT2008 congress has not been idle. A lot of behind-the-scenes work is being done but some of our work is visible too.

At the ECE conference in Helsinki in June we were able to promote the IFOMT2008 congress, thanks to Maarit Keskinen of Finland. We also attended the KC/MACP 2nd International conference on Movement Dysfunction in Edinburgh in September, where we were given the opportunity to present the congress theme to all delegates, thanks to the organizers Sarah Mottram (KC), Linda Exelby (MACP) and Melanie Tait (Elsevier). After that we went to the Rome "World congress on the Spine" in October, where we were also

able to promote the IFOMT2008 congress. I have spoken to many delegates, speakers, exhibitors and sponsors who are all aiming to join us in Rotterdam in 2008, so we are growing ever more confident that the IFOMT2008 congress will be a great success.

The congress website is expanding and more and more people are joining the e-mail update list. So on behalf of the congress committee, I urge you to bookmark the website: www.ifomt2008.nl and join the mailing list, so you will be kept up to date.

Erik Thoomes, Chairman Congress Committee IFOMT2008

New Zealand: Delegate – Donna Hickmott

The highlight for the New Zealand Manipulative Physiotherapist Association (NZMPA) this year was our biennial Scientific Congress, held in Rotorua at the end of July. The theme for the congress was 'Getting Connected- Bone and Tendon' and our four keynote speakers were Bill Vicenzino from the University of Queensland, Steve Edmondston from Curtin University, Jill Cook from La Trobe and Meena Sran from Vancouver. We received exceptional reviews, as all four speakers were extremely complimentary in their presentations and provided our clinicians with clear links between current knowledge and its clinical implications. They also discussed the future challenges of research within this area, so we look forward to hearing more about their work. As you will be aware, Jill and Bill are keynote speakers in Rotterdam in June 2008, so you will thoroughly enjoy their presentations and workshops.

The NZMPA continues to run our NZ College of Physiotherapy accredited membership courses (CAMC) in our three main centres. This provides our members with eight weekend courses run over a two-year cycle, covering all areas of musculoskeletal management and treatment. Two of our course lecturers are being funded to attend the BAMPT's (Biennial Australasian Manipulative Physiotherapists) meeting in Perth, on February 2nd & 3rd 2006, which is a great opportunity to discuss current manual therapy issues and look at areas of new curriculum development. One area of discussion within our association is the possibility in the future of co-operative ventures with the Universities to link our courses to online and distance learning. This could range from interactive chat rooms and guided case studies, to more formal courses.

Our members who wish to further their post graduate education can do so at the Auckland University of Technology (AUT) or at the University of Otago in Dunedin. Currently at AUT, they offer a post graduate diploma in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy (PGD) which takes one year of full time study or three years part time to complete. It also makes up half of the requirement of a Masters degree. Students may study full time for the PGD for the first year and then undertake a full research thesis in the second year you graduate with a Masters in Health Science. If students complete the full Masters programme on a part time basis it can take up to 5 years. IFOMT accreditation of this programme is for the PGD component only.

The School of Physiotherapy at the University of Otago currently offers a one year full-time Postgraduate Diploma or an 18 month Masters Degree in Physiotherapy endorsed in either Manipulative Physiotherapy, Sports Physiotherapy or Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy. The subjects taken for the Diploma make up the first year of the Masters degree, which also has the additional requirement of a 6 month research dissertation. It is possible to undertake these programmes on a part time basis and a number of subjects are available by distance. An 18 month unendorsed research Masters degree is also available. The School also actively encourages enrolment in doctoral research for those who are appropriately qualified and has considerable research facilities, available topics and staff willing to help foster a specific research programme. Current research topics and potential future directions are available on the School's website at <http://physio.otago.ac.nz/>

As New Zealand is to be monitored for the first time by IFOMT in 2009, we have appointed Angela Cadogan as our external assessor and the process of collating the necessary documents has begun at both of our Universities.

Several of our members have been involved in helping create the following guidelines:

- Diagnosis and Management of Soft Tissue Knee Injuries: Internal Derangements

- Diagnosis and Management of Soft Tissue Shoulder Injuries and Related Disorders
- New Zealand Acute Low Back Pain Guide, incorporating the Guide to Assessing Psychosocial Yellow Flags in Acute Low Back Pain

These guidelines can be found on the New Zealand Guidelines Group website <http://www.nzgg.org.nz> and the link to this can also be found in the IFOMT research sub menu. Currently there is also a summary of recent research on managing soft tissue ankle injuries produced by the Accident Compensation Corporation <http://www.acc.co.nz/> and a guideline from this work will be available in the New Year.

Finally, we are planning our next conference which will be held in Rotorua in August 2007, so if you are keen to visit New Zealand and fit in a little skiing as well, place this date in your diary planner.

Norway: Delegate - Heather Nicol

Primary Contact Role for all qualified Manual Therapists in Norway commences from 1st January 2006. The Norwegian Parliament introduced a bill on the 17th of June 2005 to make the Primary Contact Trial a permanent and national system. Our new role includes the following:

1. Treatment of patients without a referral from their medical practitioner will still maintain their payment rights from the Health authorities for treatment when they come directly to us.
2. Right to refer patients directly to Medical Specialists, all forms of Radiology, Chiropractic, all forms of Physical Therapy.
3. Give sick leave, up to a maximum of 8 weeks, with full salary for those employed.

More information can be found on our web site: www.manuellterapi.com (click on English info).

Annual Congress in Oslo, 10-12 March 2006.

Multidisciplinary congress with the theme of Sub-division of Back Disorders.

Keynote international speakers are Dr Julie Fritz, University of Pittsburg, USA. and Peter O`Sullivan, Curtin University, Australia. This Congress could be of interest to those of our Scandinavian colleagues who can follow the other lecturers who will be speaking Norwegian.

The program is also to be found on our web site: www.manuellterapi.com

Portugal: Delegate - João Filipe Vasconcelos Abreu

No report received.

South Africa: Delegate - Lorraine Jacobs

The first year of an OMT Masters programme, which included a newly structured clinical aspect, has just been completed at the University of the Witwatersrand. This is the first step towards complying with IFOMT requirements, and we are extremely excited about it. Students were involved in the management of patients at accredited practices and at a community clinic. They worked under the supervision of experienced OMT practitioners. The course also included the students participating in workshops, conducting back classes, giving health promotion talks, presenting cases to their colleagues, and teaching undergraduate students. The programme ran successfully and the students benefited greatly from this experience. The External Examiner of the course was approved by our National Executive Committee. The University of Stellenbosch will be instituting a similar course in 2006.

The Post Basic Course in OMT was run in various centres with 70 students participating in 2005. This course continues to fill a need between University and clinical practice, enabling the students to hone their assessment, clinical reasoning and management skills in a clinically orientated environment.

A national workshop was held with the course leaders and lecturers of the Post Basic Course in October with the following aims:

- to standardise the course nationally as far as possible
- to update the course (as has been done on a continuous basis throughout the years)

- to remove any outdated information from the course and review the course structure
- to make the course as evidence-based as possible

Eight courses have been run throughout South Africa on the Kinetic Control Concept. Courses on the McKenzie concept were also run.

Spain: Delegate - José Miguel Tricàs Moreno

No report received.

Sweden: Delegate - Ingela Lundholm-Ågren

During this year the "Swedish national wiphlashkommission" with the formal national Prime Minister, as chairman, has come forward with their results. The Swedish MT group together with SFOM (the manual therapy group of doctors) have arranged a whiplash day in June and one in October regarding management with WAD. During the year the MT group has arranged both courses in "Mulligan Concept" as well as "Myofascial Pain Syndrome". We were also very happy to be able to have Michael Shacklock as our main speaker at the national PT days. His lecture in neurodynamics was greatly appreciated, as well as his weekend course.

The MT group is trying to act politically together with the PT group of Sweden to promote the PTs knowledge of rehabilitation. Sweden's cost for sick leave is the highest in Europe and the Minister of Health presented a proposal of how to use PT's in order to get people back to work faster. During 2005 the MT group has also participated in discussions regarding priorities in healthcare and participated in a national "priority congress". Right now the MT group is working hard in order to organize our 40th anniversary in February 2006. A report will follow in the next newsletter.

Switzerland: Delegate - Renée De Ruijter

All SVOMP-members can now subscribe to the German Journal Manuelle Therapie, Thieme for the reduced price of 69,- Euro.

The Swiss Physiotherapy organisation plans to restructure the membership in their association in which 4 membership categories will be defined. One of which is neuromusculoskeletal. It is envisioned that all groups, as, for example, SVOMP would become a part of this category. This may have large implications on the SVOMP as an independent association and as the representative of Switzerland in the IFOMT. This project is in its beginning phase and the SVOMP board together with the educational committee is actively involved in the discussion. The SVOMP, in principal, endorses this project as its objective is to promote Evidence Based Therapy and education within the specialisation and bringing all groups within this specialised field closer together. However, concern exists within the SVOMP how the current OMT education will be positioned, and how in future political interests will be represented.

Last but not least, a short update on our OMT-course. In the current program patient exams will be completed in December 2005. The overall course will be completed with a literature study. The introductory course for the new OMT-program 2005-2007 just took place with 25 motivated students. On behalf of the SVOMP I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a good start in 2006.

United Kingdom: Delegate - Linda Crocker

**2nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MOVEMENT DYSFUNCTION
23rd – 25th September 2005 hosted by Kinetic Control & MACP**

The following report was submitted by a MACP member:

The title of the conference was Pain and Performance, evidence and effect, attended by 662 delegates representing 34 countries. In addition to the keynote speakers and guest lectures a total of 160 abstracts had been submitted, resulting in 32 oral presentations and 57 poster presentations.

A varied and stimulating programme covered a wide range of topics during the three days, including motor control issues relating to musculoskeletal dysfunction, biopsychosocial approach to patient assessment and classification of musculoskeletal conditions to name but a few. The 'pain and performance' theme of the conference was supported with evidence from a range of research that is going on around the globe. However a key message that emerged was that 'one size does not fit all', and the importance of sound clinical reasoning in the management of patients with musculoskeletal dysfunction.

The conference was well organised in conjunction with Elsevier and the city of Edinburgh provided delegates with a range of 'extra-curricular' activities.

This was a truly inspirational conference and on leaving one felt compelled to contribute to this ever-increasing evidence base, be it through involvement in research activities within the clinical setting or through the development of own research questions.

CERVICAL ARTERIAL INSUFFICIENCY AND MANIPULATIVE THERAPY A LITERATURE REVIEW AND CLINICAL SUMMARY

In Coventry on 1st December 2005, Roger Kerry MACP MSc, presented the findings of his research which was commissioned by the MACP. The results will be available on the MACP web site (www.macpweb.org) week commencing 12th December 2005.

MEMBERS DIRECTORY

The new member's directory is in its final stages and due to be printed in January 2006.

WEB SITE

The new web site has been launched – www.macpweb.org

USA: Delegate – Chris Showalter

No report received.

RIG REPORTS

Greece Delegate – Despina Proimou

This year (2005) has been a very busy time for the Panhellenic Association of Manual Physiotherapists, as two new groups (Athens & Sallonica) have been added to our scheduled educational program. The seminars were held in both cities by our Association, and our teachers (all OMTs & Ms in Manipulative Physiotherapy) had prepared and developed a lot of course material. This had a great impact to our new students. (We had excellent comments in the feedback forms). The exams were completed successfully and we have new OMTs and members of our Association. We have completed our educational program and it's a matter of time before the submission to the Standards Committee for evaluation.

Our website is going to be ready in a short time and all our members are excited since they are going to have access to a major scientific sample of articles. Meanwhile, we have been involved in some interesting activities (on a national level):

1st Balkan Congress of Physiotherapy, 27-29/5/2005, Greece: we had 5 members (4 teachers) invited as keynote speakers in the following subject: "Evaluation and therapeutic approach of Lumbar problems". We presented our thoughts and experience in Clinical Reasoning, Neurodynamics, Mobilisation and Stabilization of the Lumbar Spine and Ergonomics.

Annual Symposium of the Panhellenic Physiotherapy Association 25-27/11/2005 "Evidence-based Physical Therapy": we had two members (also teachers) invited as keynote speakers with subjects: "Evidence- based practice and Manual Therapy" & "Evidence-based practice & Lumbar exercises".

Hungary **Delegate – Andrea Rigo**

The 5th Hungarian Physiotherapy Congress was held this year on 17-19th November. Two main topics directed the conference: Neurologic Rehabilitation, and Manual Therapy. Agneta Lando, the previous IFOMT president was invited to read lectures about the profession policy and also about manual therapy. She emphasised the international collaboration and clinical standards through the IFOMT organisation. She was looking for the answers of the following questions:

1. What are the main goals for an international organisation of clinical experts?
2. What is the pathway to achieve these goals?
3. Through what process do we ensure continued development and guaranteed standards of the clinical experts?
4. What relevance does an international organisation of clinical experts have on the profession as a whole?

The next day she opened the manual therapy section by demonstrating the development and future vision of manual therapy. It was followed by different manual therapy approaches performed by Hungarian physiotherapists, and finally a round table discussion closed the program.

Our task in the future: how are we able to build up an optimal treatment in neuro-musculoskeletal rehabilitation using and combining the different approaches?

Ireland **Delegate – Deirdre Hurley-Osing**

In Ireland we have started a MSc Neuromusculoskeletal Physiotherapy Degree at University College Dublin School of Physiotherapy and Performance Science in September 2005. It is a part-time course over two years. We are working towards applying for IFOMT approval and liaising with the Chartered Physiotherapists in Manipulative Therapy (CPMT) regarding the IFOMT International Monitoring procedures.

The CPMT have introduced three research awards for members: a Project Grant, a presentation award and a publication award. We are continuing to bring international speakers to Ireland (Lorimer Moseley, Mark Jones) and organising short courses for local physiotherapists.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

WCPT: The next congress will be held in Vancouver from 3rd - 7th June 2007.

IFOMT: Next Conference Rotterdam, the Netherlands June 8-15, 2008
Contact: Erik Thoomes ejthoomes@wxs.nl 'Connecting "Science" to Quality of Life'.
For more information and the call for papers we draw your attention to the website: www.ifomt2008.nl

Best wishes for a safe and happy festive season and a wonderful New Year!

Kind regards

Vicki Reid
IFOMT Executive Administrator