



# International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapists

## IFOMT NEWSLETTER

June 2005

### **FROM THE OFFICE:**

**New Delegates:** IFOMT Executive would like to take this opportunity to welcome Ingela Lundholm-Ågren back as the delegate for Sweden, Chris Showalter as the delegate for the USA, and Deidre Hurley as the new delegate for Ireland.

**New RIGs:** We would also like to welcome Japan as a new RIG of IFOMT, represented by Mr Isao Sunagawa. Japan sent a delegation of 4 people to Helsinki to meet with IFOMT Executive, and are very keen on becoming full members in the near future.

Egypt is also applying to become a Registered Interest Group, and have submitted their application documentation.

**Special Meeting:** It was great to see the MO participation, via the website, for the special meeting held in February to vote on Spain and Greece becoming full members. IFOMT would like to welcome the OMT Spain group, and the Hellenic Manipulative Physiotherapy Association representing Greece, into the IFOMT family.

**Office:** It was agreed at the Executive meeting in Helsinki that the Secretariat name be changed to 'Executive Administrator' to fully reflect the office position, and for Vicki's hours to be increased. The need for this has arisen as IFOMT continues to grow and implement the Strategic Plan developed in 2001.

**Standards Committee:** Dr Alison Rushton and her committee have been working very hard on developing International Monitoring and the associated time frame for implementation, which tentatively will be:

2007	Australia, United Kingdom
2008	Sweden, Norway, Canada
2009	South Africa, Netherlands, New Zealand
2010	Finland, Hong Kong, Denmark. Re-monitor Australia, UK
2011	Switzerland, Germany, USA. Re-monitor Sweden, Norway, Canada
2012	Belgium, Austria, Portugal. Re-monitor South Africa, Netherlands, New Zealand
2013	Italy, Spain, Greece. Re-monitor Finland, Hong Kong, Denmark
2014	Re-monitor Switzerland, Germany, USA
2015	Re-monitor Belgium, Austria, Portugal
2016	Re-monitor Italy, Spain, Greece

The Standards Committee have received 3 replies with regard to the vacancy on the committee, and are providing feedback to the applicants.

## **Presidents Message:**

To Member Organizations of IFOMT,

The 2004-2008 Executive have recently had our first in-person Executive meeting, associated with the 2005 EC Europe meeting in Helsinki, 8-11 June. To put it mildly, this meeting was a profound success. Over two days, we reviewed the IFOMT Strategic Plan (SP), recognizing that many goals have been realized, and many are well on their way to being realized. The website continues to be an important vehicle for communications, a theme throughout the SP. Many other current and future activities were discussed, as below:

- EC Americas continues to be developed, strengthening relationships between Canada and the United States, and other North/South American/Caribbean nations without current MOs, or RIGs.
- The Standards Committee continues to develop strategies for improved Standards, a cornerstone of our organization.
- International monitoring will advance our organization as well, providing quality assurance, and quality control.
- The Website Resource Centre has evolved into a usable method to help MOs and RIGs continue their educational and organizational development.
- Development of a new Logo has occurred, and should soon be ready for early presentation to MO representatives. Discussions regarding this new identifier will occur well before the 2008 IFOMT Congress.
- Consideration of a name change is, we feel, in order. Perhaps it is time to embrace the term "Physical" in our name. After all, we are all physiotherapists/physical therapists, should we not advertise this fact through our name? Once again, we will have the opportunity to discuss this through a website forum some time in the near future.
- Duncan Reid and myself are investigating how electronic resources can be made readily available to IFOMT MO memberships.

Following our Executive meeting, we had the opportunity to hear MO and RIG reports, presented by the MO and RIG delegates, and on Friday June 10th, had the honour of having a dedicated afternoon meeting with MO representatives, to discuss current issues, directions, and activities.

The delegates were met by a united and supportive Executive Committee. It became apparent that communications, which are timely and appropriate, will help to drive our organization forward. Each representative acknowledged their roles and responsibilities, which include effective and timely communications between themselves, the Executive, and the Executive Administrator, Vicki Reid (congratulations once again to Vicki who has changed herself in name only, a reflection of her commitment and importance to IFOMT).

Thank you to Maarit Keskinen for all her work organising the ECE meeting and the informal Business meeting, and also for liaising with the Executive Committee for their meeting in Helsinki.

Once again, and as always, you can reach me at [president@ifomt.org](mailto:president@ifomt.org). I look forward to hearing from you.

Michael Ritchie,  
President of IFOMT

## **MEMBER ORGANISATION REPORTS**

### **Australia: Delegate – Debra Shirley**

MPA is currently undertaking a review of the Guidelines for Pre Manipulative Testing of the Cervical Spine and plans to have the reviewed guidelines available early in 2006. The review will involve a member survey and focus groups for member input as well as a comprehensive review and analysis of the scientific literature.

MPA is keenly following the development of the use of Real Time Ultrasound as a biofeedback tool in rehabilitation. The Australian Physiotherapy Association has established a working party to develop guidelines on the use of real time ultrasound in physiotherapy. Several MPA members are members of this working party.

Another project of interest to MPA members is the exercise prescription project, also under the umbrella of the APA.

### ***MPA Conference 2005 - Positive Precise Performance***

**24 26 November 2005, Brisbane CEC**

This is the fourteenth biennial conference presented by MPA, and it is all about the future of musculoskeletal physiotherapy - both your future, and the future of the profession.

### **Speakers and Program**

The program for the MPA 2005 Conference just keeps getting more and more exciting. As well as our three top international keynote speakers Tom McPoil, Kim Bennell and Michelle Crites Battié, the list of highly acclaimed and distinguished invited speakers keeps growing. Visit the website, [www.mpa2005.com.au](http://www.mpa2005.com.au) for the latest details.

Some of the other themes of the conference include Health and Fitness, the Future of Health Management and a Lower Limb Day.

**Register now**, via the website [www.mpa2005.com.au](http://www.mpa2005.com.au) or contact The Conference Office on 61 3 9417 0888. (MPA In Touch E-Bulletin May 2005)

### **Austria: Delegate - Jutta Bauer**

At the moment we have 10 students participating in the OMT Education. In Austria the OMT education is a 2 year part time programme and the students will finish their first year in September. We are currently working on the revision of the evaluation system of the programme.

Austria also translated the “Standards document” part A and B into German. Proof reading of this document will be done by Germany and Switzerland. We hope to be able to upload the document onto the IFOMT website in September 2005.

The OEVOMT is continuing its work to promote manual therapy in Austria. We are planning on an information folder for patients, physiotherapists and doctors on manual therapy.

The Austrian government passed an amendment to the legal requirements for Physiotherapists in May 2005. According to this amendment it is now possible to change the “academies for physiotherapy” into “University colleges”. The Education will last for 3 years and will finish with a bachelors degree according to international standards. In the future this will lead our profession to a higher level of education including master’s degree studies, hopefully also in the field of manual therapy.

I am wishing you all a wonderful summer/winter!

**Belgium: Delegate - Axel Beernaert**

Manual Therapy in Belgium is still in a growing process. Most of the MT programs are organised at University level as postgraduate courses.

A workgroup depending on the National Department of Health Care is making a framework to develop a concept for specific competency and specialisation in different areas of physiotherapy. In the first place was the task of the workgroup to prove and to define the need for specialisation in the PT field. The next step is to use guidelines for educational standards as a recommendation.

This is going on for the moment in our country. There is still a lot of work to do but those developments in our profession for establishing a formal system of specialisation are very important for the future of PT in Belgium.

**Canada: Delegate - Anita Gross**

A Conference on the Biology of Manual Therapy was held on June 9 to 10th, 2005 at Natcher Conference Center, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland.

The conference covered the underlying biology of manual therapies. Experts from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) joined academic, patient advocacy, and professional organizations to assess current knowledge and identify opportunities for further research. A listing of the recommended research topics should be posted shortly on <http://nccam.nih.gov/news/upcomingmeetings/manual-conference.htm>.

This conference brought together and encouraged discussion between the research representative from the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, the Canadian Academy of Manual Therapy, the American Orthopaedic Manual Therapy Association and the American Physical Therapy Association. The prior contact about setting up Education Committee Americas, by Michael Ritchie, certainly encouraged open and early discussions of physiotherapys’ role in setting national and international research agendas. All in all, this was an exciting conference.

A workshop to develop a research strategy for Canadian Manual Therapy was held on March 2005 in Toronto, Canada. Preliminary Canadian strategic research priorities are:

- Build manual therapy researcher capacity
- Develop a manual therapy knowledge transfer strategy
- Establish a Canadian manual therapy research agenda

The following goals were given the highest priority in the short term:

- Submit a proposal to CIHR for Consensus Conference/Workshop to answer questions like:
- what are MT's strengths in terms of the evidence?
- where are the major (highest priority) gaps in the evidence?
- what can MT do for public health in terms of reducing the burden of illness?
- who are the leaders/teams in MT that could then develop a research institute
- Develop partnerships (e.g. CPA & IMHA) to support CIHR's pyramid model of funding and promote collaboration by for example linking small funds together so that small projects seed/foster bigger projects

There are EXCITING TIMES ahead ... I'll keep you posted.

Of special interest is 'The First Guideline to deal with Chiropractic Management of the Cervical Spine' posted on <http://www.ccachiro.org/client/cca/cca.nsf>. Have a look!

### **Denmark: Delegate – Per Kjaer**

In Denmark OMT is taught basically in courses outside the university. We have no specific PT education at the university at this moment. Updating manual therapists to a master level is possible by taking a Masters degree in Sweden (at Karolinska or Lund University) or in Denmark in multidisciplinary settings for example master in rehabilitation. The specialists in musculo-skeletal physiotherapy appointed in Denmark have either a master's degree from Sweden or a Masters degree in rehabilitation. It is a criterion that the major subject for the master's thesis should have relation to the field of the speciality.

The development in Denmark is that we have now for 4 years been working for a Masters in Physiotherapy. This work has mainly been done by our main organization Danish PT's. However, last year it was decided to change the plans and to establish a research unit in physiotherapy to serve as a base for the masters in physiotherapy. The agreement between university of southern Denmark and the Danish physiotherapy organization has been formulated and now a huge work on funding is being carried out. International contacts have been established to secure a network and also international capacities are ready to support the development of the research unit of physiotherapy at the University of Southern Denmark.

There are currently no changes in relation to the medical system or the healthcare system in Denmark. Since there is no official recognition of specialist or high qualifications, we still have to work with prescription from the medical doctors, and we are all paid the same despite differences in qualifications. It is, however, possible for employees in the official system to have extra salary for specific qualifications like within manual therapy.

Guidelines for the treatment of LBP are currently being updated in Denmark. A manual therapist is a member of an advisory group for the official representative from the PT organization.

The Danish OMT group this year, in collaboration with our parent organization and the manual medicine organization, held a 2 day symposium on the hip. We still have a lot of ongoing courses, which are very popular, and year by year the number of therapists passing the exams in OMT is increasing.

This year the Danish Manual therapy group have established a group to be working with finding the evidence behind the examinations and treatment methods that are taught within manual therapy. Two persons are in the group and the first aim is to outline a protocol, to establish national and international collaboration, and to further raise funding. Further information will be passed to the MO's and to the website regarding this project. Hereby, we invite all other MO's to joins us in this work. If you have a person with resources in this area please let us know and let's collaborate: send ane-mail to [denmark@ifomt.org](mailto:denmark@ifomt.org).

### **Finland: Delegate – Maarit Keskinen**

Two weeks ago Finland hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Nordic Congress on Orthopaedic Manual Therapy and Medicine with the theme of “Multidisciplinary Approach on Back Pain”. This conference offered much for both clinicians and researchers working in manual physiotherapy and medicine. In the very end the Congress was very international. Thank you to IFOMT and IFOMT-ECE delegates, and all who participated to our Congress in Helsinki.

The Congress Committee organised an interesting and successful congress. The conference had 280 registrants who represented 13 countries. Eleven abstracts were presented as free papers and 6 were presented as posters. The Nordic Spine Award was won by Ola Benjamisson from Sweden.

The sunny and warm weather in Helsinki did us proud also. There were 2 social functions. The opening cocktail party was attended by 260 people. The” Grand Old Man” of Manual Therapy Freddy Kaltenborn made a speech about the history of Manual Therapy. The Gala Dinner was an elegant occasion. The Palace of Nobility was historical and ceremonious with beautiful table settings. The program was versatile with speeches and music. Fun, relaxation and interaction with colleagues from other countries is invaluable.

The summer continues in Finland and we also have warmer weather than the beginning of June. Last Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> June we had the longest day of the year. If you want see more photos you can find them from our website [www.ifomt.org](http://www.ifomt.org)

### **Germany: Delegate - Fiona Morrison**

Activities of OMT- groups, internal or within the groups, if there are Umbrella groups;

The DFAMT now consists of 4 members: AG-MT, DFOMT, DGOMT and DVMT. Our activities currently include continual development of the various OMT programmes (also in preparation of the international monitoring), promoting OMT to Manual and Physiotherapists - firstly and secondly to the medical profession and to the general public. We are also in the process of developing a common OMT exam for all 4 members of our organisation. We are furthermore looking at improving the professional communication between the groups and aiming to get the theses publicised.

### **University subjects related to OMT:**

Currently there are no University subjects related to OMT in Germany. However the number of Bachelors and Masters of Physiotherapy being offered are rising and in line with the Bologna agreement, the aim is also to start OMT University subjects.

### **Relationship to the Physical therapy within the country:**

The relationship to Physical therapy is good.

### **Medical system:**

Doctors prescribe 'Krankengymnastik' (physiotherapy) or Manual therapy as well as various other modalities. The doctors have a prescription catalogue that tells them what and how much they can prescribe for each diagnosis.

### **Health care system:**

The health care system consists of several hundred public health funds as well as numerous private health funds. The majority of the population is insured by the public health funds. Treatment is provided mainly in a private practice setting, but is accessible for everybody. The government basically controls the health funds, the health funds control the doctors and the doctors control us. Although this is slowly changing with many health funds offering prevention packages.

### **Activities and Participation from OMT's within the circle of Physiotherapy and/or Medical/ Health Care System including Political fields:**

PR activities:

Promoting the specialisation of OMT. Organising a teacher forum for all OMT teachers.

### **Feedback/ Proposals from Members in Relation to our OMT – IFOMT Activities:**

Positive feedback from members about the development of the homepage.

### **International Activities and News:**

OMT activities across the border in relation to Physiotherapy and/ or other Professions in Relation to OMT;

Working with Austria and Switzerland in getting the various IFOMT documents translated into German

### **Course or conference activities from Lecturers:**

Institutional relationships, in the field of Universities or International Organisations like WHO/ Unicef etc.

Political changes which have influence on international/ national relations as for example in the Asian/ Pacific Region, the United States of America or in the European Union etc.

### **Process of recognition of other (international) OMT Courses:**

Upon applying for recognition of Manual Therapy / OMT from courses abroad, the appropriate MO delegate is contacted to receive information about course recognition in that country. If the course meets the IFOMT standards, recognition is approved.

**Greece (HMPA): Delegate – Kostas Sakellariou**

The courses are moving on. We had a Reha course with Fritz Zahnd in Athens on May 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, a course for the Teachers with Karel Lewit in Athens in March, and *two* courses on the Spinal Column in July. The HMPA also have a Mulligan course scheduled for October with Barbara Hetherington, and 2 more courses on the Spinal Column later in October and November.

We started 2 new groups - one in Athens and one in Hania, Creta. We are also in the progress of incorporating our educational program within the national body. We do expect some changes in the health system *increasing* the money paid for physical therapy and hopefully for Manual Therapy, which has not happened *now* for 15 years.

We informed all the Physios in the country through a huge mailing campaign about our activities and our full membership in IFOMT, inviting everybody who is interested to join us, to apply for membership in our organization (of course *those meeting* the IFOMT standards).

We are happy that one of our founding members, Mrs. Palina Karakasidou, is going to Australia for her PhD, and we expect 3 of our students to finish their Masters in Australia and come back by the end of this year, or in the beginning of the next.

**Hong Kong: Delegate - Agnes Chan**

Manipulative Therapy Specialty Group (MTSG) is one of the specialty groups in the Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association and is the only OMT group under the Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association at present. Short courses for continual education are organized by MTSG for practicing physiotherapists. The Hong Kong Polytechnic University offers a Masters course in Manipulative Physiotherapy.

Physiotherapy service is delivered via a referral system. In Hong Kong's hospital system, manual therapy is provided by physiotherapists. Outside the hospital system, there are other health professionals providing manual therapy such as chiropractors, osteopaths, Chinese bone-setters, Chinese manual therapists doing acupressure / massage and various types of manual therapy treatments. The manual therapy field is enriched with the inputs of various health professionals, however communication among them is rare.

**Italy: Delegate - Guido Frosi**

GTM/AIFI is actually involved in the following activities:

- Participation to the national project “Percorsi diagnostico terapeutici evidence-based delle lombalgie”, a multidisciplinary work for the diffusion of LBP guidelines, promoted by Italian ministry of health.
- Organization of GTM National Congress (within AIFI General Congress), scientific session: “The management of the patient with musculoskeletal disorders: evidence and clinical aspects” Tirrenia (Pisa-Tuscany), October 21, 2005 (see details in our website: [www.terapiamanuale.it](http://www.terapiamanuale.it))

- GTM policy aspects (actual):
  - Membership regulation (setting rules for membership)
  - Professional profile (to clarify if it's possible for us to work without medical prescription)
  - Relationships with institutions

### **Netherlands: Delegate - Will Bonneveld**

In the Netherlands we've worked hard over the last year describing the competencies of our profession as well as the end terms of the educational system. This was necessary because the methods of teaching and education are changing and we have to adapt to it. Our educational system was split up into professional education at so called "hogescholen" or colleges, and scientific education at Universities. Due to the BaMa developments in The Netherlands we are entering a situation in which a bachelor as well as a master education can be taught at either a "hogeschool" or a University. Students graduating from a University (Master of Science) will be able to do scientific research, graduates from a "hogeschool" (Master of Profession) will be able to put this research into daily practice routines.

This has a major influence on the manual therapy colleges. Two of them have applied for accreditation for Master of Profession level at the NVAO (Netherlands Flemish Accreditation Organisation). This organisation will visit and judge the colleges on a number of criteria such as curriculum, finance, corps of tutors, student guiding system and educational tools. Only after a positive assessment can colleges give the Master of Profession title to their graduates.

Aside from this, the University of Maastricht is trying hard to start a Master of Science academy. They also are busy applying for accreditation. The Dutch association for Manual Therapy NVMT has decided that from 2015 onwards all chartered members must at least have the Master of Profession title. Colleges will start educating at this level from 2010 onwards.

A society will be founded to initiate a further development of the scientific level of specialised Physiotherapy.

Our profile for professional competence will be translated into English and sent to IFOMT. Our guideline "manual therapy for patients with low back pain" has also been translated and is currently under scrutiny with IFOMT. Following the implementation of this guideline we have developed an educational module in order to make sure all manual therapists will act and treat accordingly. This module has been made obligatory for all chartered Dutch manual therapists

This fall we will start developing a guideline for patients with neck pain, together with the parent body.

On March 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> we organised our annual two-day scientific congress titled "Evidence Based Practice on the Shop Floor". Approximately 800 delegates attended one or both days, listening to both native speakers as well as speakers from abroad such as Deborah Falla, Lorimer Moseley and Ian Edwards (Australia), Ann Moore (UK), and Anita Gross (Canada).

This last year also saw a lot of attention given to the installing of the organisation to host the IFOMT 2008 congress in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. A foundation has been established which will have Erik Thoomes as its director. He has installed a congress committee consisting of scientific and organisational subcommittees, which he chairs. A congress logo has been designed and the committee has come up with a title and theme for the 2008 congress:

'Connecting "Science" to Quality of Life'. For more information and the call for papers we draw your attention to the website: [www.ifomt2008.nl](http://www.ifomt2008.nl)

A number of interesting results of Dutch research on the effectiveness of manual therapy, on coxarthrosis and shoulder problems, have been presented. Both research projects established positive data and results for treating patients with manual therapy. Dr. Peter van der Wurff promoted on a study on the validity of SIJ tests. This research is available on the research pages of the IFOMT website

This last year also saw turbulent times due to major changes in the health care system. Most of the reimbursements of Physiotherapy and Manual Therapy treatments have been cancelled from standard Health Care Insurance policies. Patients have to take out additional insurance policies to get some reimbursements. Health Care Insurance companies have all put together different insurance policy conditions, making it very unclear as to who should be paying for which treatment. Furthermore, the rules set by the Government setting the (fixed) rates for treatment have been released, although insurance companies still try to set (different) fixed rates for some of their policy holders. This increases the administrative load put on therapists.

A pilot studying the effects of direct access to Physiotherapists has been finished, clearing the legislative path for creating direct access to all Physiotherapists with relevant additional training in The Netherlands.

### **New Zealand: Delegate – Donna Hickmott**

The New Zealand Manipulative Therapist Associations major activities in the next year are as follows:

Our Scientific Congress, to be held in Rotorua next month, promises to be a great event. The theme for the congress is 'Getting Connected - Bone and Tendon', with the following keynote speakers: Dr Bill Vicenzino from the University of Queensland, Dr Steve Edmondston from Curtin University, Dr Jill Cook from La Trobe and Dr Meena Sran from Vancouver. There was to be an Asia / West Pacific Education Committee meeting held during the conference, but due to lack of regional delegates attending the conference it has been cancelled.

Several manipulative physiotherapists have been involved in producing guidelines for the assessment and treatment of acute low back pain, soft tissue injuries of the knee, the shoulder. These guidelines are available by visiting the New Zealand Guidelines Group website, and the link can be found on the IFOMT research sub menu. They have also been involved in producing a summary of recent research on managing soft tissue ankle injuries for the Accident Compensation Corporation.

The NZ College of Physiotherapy accredited membership courses (CAMC), run by NZMPA, continue to be popular with courses running concurrently in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. There are 25 - 30 physiotherapists attending these courses run in the weekends every two months. These courses offer registered physiotherapists the opportunity to up-skill in all areas of musculoskeletal management and treatment. Complimentary courses on exercise prescription and Movement Systems Balance are run in conjunction with these courses, for both graduate members and associate members.

This year New Zealand has passed legislation linking annual practicing certificates to continuing professional development over a three-year period. Our Association welcomes this, and we envisage a greater demand for our courses, and those provided through our two universities.

Both the Auckland and Otago Schools of Physiotherapy are actively involved in many areas of research. At the Auckland University of Technology, their current areas of interest are clinical interventions,

applied muscle physiology and mechanics, motor performance in older and disabled adults, viscoelasticity of soft tissue, and ergonomics. At Otago University, research directions within the School of Physiotherapy include spinal kinematics, hamstrings injuries, stress fractures in triathletes, falls prevention, and rural research, particularly in the field of occupational biomechanics / ergonomics.

**Norway: Delegate - Heather Nicol**

The Primary Contact or Referral Trial with Manual Therapists and Chiropractors was completed 18 months ago. An independent external research group, (SINTEF), evaluated the results. They concluded that there had been a significant reduction in sick leave during the time of the trial. The patients were also positive to coming to treatment quicker than was possible when they previously had to wait for a Medical doctors consultation /referral before coming to treatment. Finally, the project has been voted on in the Norwegian parliament and it has been decided to introduce the project nationally. This is a huge step forward for us, as treatment providers in the Norwegian health system. Patients will be able to come directly to the fully qualified Manual Therapists, without having to go to their Medical doctor first.

We will be able to send the patient on (if necessary) to radiology, laboratory tests, to consultation with Medical Specialists and give up to maximum of 8 weeks sick leave. We are looking forward to our new responsibilities, as our colleagues who have been involved in the project and have now had 4 years of experience of working this way, do not want to go back to their old form of practise. They report many positive aspects of working in this new manner. Further information is found at: [www.manuellterapi.com](http://www.manuellterapi.com)

**Portugal: Delegate - João Filipe Vasconcelos Abreu**

The training on manual therapy is the main activity of the interest group. We not only invite foreign expert tutors, but also Portuguese tutors with relevant knowledge on the required subjects. The interest group promotes courses and workshops in several hospitals spread through the country and supported by European social funds. There are no “umbrella groups” in Portugal.

The interest group is a member of the Portuguese Association of Physiotherapists (A.P.F.) and all the activities we promote are achieved as such.

The Portuguese physiotherapists can work under the recommendation of any physician. In hospital facilities or equivalent institutions physiotherapists work under the prescription of an expert physician on physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

Every Portuguese citizen is entitled to social security. However the payment of a tax, varying according to the age and health of the user, is required. Whoever wants to have insurance covering private health care may do so.

The interest group has an active participation in every aspect of A.P.F. activity. The physiotherapists with manual therapy training and working in the public health system collaborate in all physical therapy and rehabilitation units as well as public and private physiotherapy centres. They may also have their own physiotherapy centre. The Portuguese Manual Therapy Group organizes every two years, in conjunction with the Spanish Manual Therapy Group, a small congress in manual therapy.

## **INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Every two years the Interest group organizes, in collaboration with the Spanish Association, a congress in manual therapy, one year it is in Portugal and next year in Spain and vice versa.

Some members of our group are doing a Masters and P.H.G. in Portuguese Universities and abroad. The Bologna convention was approved in our Parliament a month ago. With that change in high education we will start with masters in manual therapy, or they will be done in a Polytechnic Institute or with the collaboration of one University.

### **South Africa: Delegate - Lorraine Jacobs**

No report received.

### **Spain: Delagate - José Miguel Tricàs Moreno**

*Activities of OMT- groups, internal or within the groups, if there are Umbrella groups;*  
OMT-Spain was recognized as IFOMT MO in the Special Meeting. We have continued with the development of our educational program according to IFOMT standards in our Master university program.

*University subjects related to OMT;*

Our educational contents are introduced in a university Master. Apart from the master, we have organized courses in the field of manual therapy: diacutaneous fibrolysis, trigger point formation, craneofacial formation with Professor Von Piekartz and other courses.

We have introduced OMT basics in the pre-graduate formation of the physical therapist. Furthermore, we have arranged a four-month seminar for the students. Professor Kaltenborn was working with us to prepare the introduction of traction-manipulation in the resting position in the pre-graduate formation in order to improve the speed of the thrust since the beginning of the formation.

*Relationship to the Physical therapy within the country;*

Professor José Miguel Tricàs Moreno has been elected as national representative in IFOMT issues for OMT-Spain. Furthermore, Professor José Miguel Tricàs Moreno has been recognized as national representative for OMT issues and Gines Almazan is the representative for Osteopathy in our Parent Body.

*Medical system; Health care system;*

Our goal is to introduce IFOMT working with the rest of health professionals and we have published IFOMT: history, goals, functions, news in the parent body newsletter and our idea is to cooperate with the rest of disciplines.

*Activities and Participation from OMT's, within the circle of Physiotherapy and/or Medical/ Health Care System including Political fields; PR activities;*

We have sent an invitation to all physiotherapy universities in Spain inviting them to send one or two

teachers to fulfill IFOMT Standards. In this way they can start to develop OMT in the pre-graduate formation of the physiotherapist in different universities.

*Feedback/ Proposals from Members in Relation to our OMT - IFOMT Activities;*

IFOMT was not very known among physiotherapists in Spain so we have started to show IFOMT and physiotherapists are getting more interest in IFOMT and our activities.

*International Activities and News:*

*Course or conference activities from Lecturers;*

We have attended national congresses in O.N.C.E. (Madrid) School for blind physiotherapists in which we made two official communications "Manipulation and pain" and "Manual therapy in the acute pain management" for the "physiotherapy and Pain Congress" and we have organized a Congress about "Physiotherapy and Sports" in Logroño in which we showed several OMT aspects. Also we will attend the Nordic ECE Congress.

*Institutional relationships, in the field of Universities or International Organisations like WHO/ Unicef etc;*

The University of Zaragoza and the University of Santiago of Chile have an agreement about educational aspects. They are interested in making our Master in Chile.

**Sweden: Delegate - Ingela Lundholm-Ågren**

No report received.

**Switzerland: Delegate - Renée De Ruijter**

At the moment 20 highly motivated students are in the second year of their OMT programme. Over the past few courses the programme was adapted slightly. In the current course a greater emphasis was laid on practical skills, by means of a techniques-portofolio: the student asks various supervisors to judge on a given set of techniques. This parallels to clinical placements and clinical reasoning protocols.

Another new aspect is that the students are making several critical appraised topics (CAT's) serving to our national PT database called 'Fidos' where CAT's are being published and available for further background reading.

The next OMT-course will start in autumn this year. There are only a few places left for this course, which is basically held in the German language. Please contact [www.svomp.ch](http://www.svomp.ch) for detailed information.

The most important change to mention in Physical Therapy in Switzerland is that it was decided upon that the undergraduate PT education has to be upgraded to become a university-type called 'Hochschule', leading to a bachelors degree with the possibility to obtain a masters degree in a further stage. People on the educational board of our OMT programme are working hard to establish our OMT programme within this new system in the future.

## United Kingdom: Delegate - Linda Crocker

### STRATEGY REVIEW

In April we had a Strategic Review day attended by the Executive Committee, a few invited members, and a patient representative. The aim of the day was to agree on the organisational themes, develop a mission statement, develop and prioritise the organisational strategy for addressing the political agenda and other areas, and finally agreeing the way forward to further develop the Strategy for the next 5 years. The day was long and intense, but we covered an enormous amount and identified elements of the following Strategies to be developed:

- Political Agenda
- Marketing Strategy
- Education Strategy
- Strategy to enhance Research and Clinical Effectiveness
- Financial Strategy.

We are now divided into small groups to develop our strategies and report back at the next Executive meeting.

### MEMBERS DIRECTORY

We are currently working on a new updated members directory which should be available by the end of 2005.

### WEB SITE

We are working with a web company to rebuilt our web site. We hope to launch the new site in September 2005.

### CONFERENCE/AGM

We are holding our AGM and conference in September 2005 in Edinburgh. Details are as follows.

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Movement Dysfunction**

**“Pain and Performance:**

**Evidence & Effect”**

*(23<sup>rd</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> September 2005).*

Following the success of the 1st International Conference on Movement Dysfunction, Kinetic Control and the MACP will be hosting the 2nd International Conference on Movement Dysfunction

This second conference will present a theoretical background of neuromusuloskeletal dysfunction. The conference will give a balanced overview of neurophysiology and biomechanics and its influence on pain and performance. Evidence of dysfunction and effect of intervention will be explored with up to date presentation from key researchers in the field. Clinicians will demonstrate effective management strategies. The aim of this conference will be to present the current available scientific and clinical knowledge on neuromusuloskeletal dysfunction, with a focus on pain and performance, evidence of dysfunction and effect of intervention.

Conference format will include keynote and guest lectures, free paper sessions, practical demonstrations and breakout sessions. Pre-conference courses will also be held.

***Bookings are now open do take advantage of the early bird prices.***

***The latest programme with additional speakers will be on the website by the end of February 2005. There have been 145 free paper submissions from physiotherapists world wide.***

For full details see conference website: <http://www.kcmacp-conference2005.com/>

## **USA: Delegate – Chris Showalter**

The American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists (AAOMPT) will hold its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, UT, USA, on October 14-16, 2005. Keynote Speaker, Gwendolyn Jull, will present original research that promises to be both thought provoking and informative. Numerous workshops and breakout sessions are planned to make this a memorable conference. More information can be found at [www.aaompt.org](http://www.aaompt.org)

MO USA is working closely with IFOMT President, Michael Ritchie, to evaluate the potential for the formation of EC Americas, to foster and support the continued growth of OMT in the Americas.

MO USA looks forward to continuing to work with IFOMT and other MOs to promote the practice of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapy internationally. Sharing our common resources and experiences can only serve to strengthen us all.

MO USA looks forward to continuing to be actively involved in the important work of IFOMT.

## **RIG REPORTS**

### **Hungary**

The Hungarian Manual Therapy Group organizes postgraduate courses inside the Association for the Hungarian Physiotherapists. The courses are at the level of mobilisation - that's the professional level that Hungary has reached by the support of the Norwegian OMT Group. The Hungarian PT Association also plans to invite foreign instructors to teach manual therapy courses: nerve mobilisation, Maitland courses etc.

In November, 2005, Agneta Lando is going to be invited to the Hungarian Physiotherapy Conference as a main speaker and as a special guest.

Future plan:

- to become full membership of IFOMT
- to create an educational program in MT at a university leading to Master degree

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

**WCPT:** The provisional dates for the next congress in Vancouver will be 3rd – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

**IFOMT:** Next Conference Rotterdam, the Netherlands June 8-15, 2008

Contact: Erik Thoomes [ejthoomes@wxs.nl](mailto: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](http://www.ifomt2008.nl)



MO delegates from left to right: Ragnar Falleij (Sweden), Maarit Keskinen (Finland), Per Kjaer (Denmark), Kostas Sakellariou (Greece), Marcel Nieuwenhuis (Netherlands), Renée De Ruyter (Switzerland), Gwen Jull (Australia), Fiona Morrison (Germany), Lothar Joerger (hidden Exec. member), Jutta Bauer (Austria), José Miguel Tricás Moreno (Spain), and Annalie Basson, Marina Wallin and Duncan Reid from the Executive Committee at the gala dinner in Helsinki, 10 June 2005.

Kind regards

Vicki Reid  
IFOMT Executive Administrator