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## June 2010 Newsletter

*Dear Member Organization & Registered Interest Group Delegates and Special Friends*

### President's Report

It is hard to believe that the first half of 2010 is past. In South Africa we are waiting in great anticipation for the FIFA World Cup kick off on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

The international physiotherapy community were all saddened by the passing of Geoff Maitland in January. IFOMPT has decided to create a Geoffrey Maitland award in advancement of clinical practice to honour the contribution he has made to physiotherapy, especially OMT practice. Ken Olson has been working on guidelines and criteria for this award and we will be sending it out for comments soon.

Michael Ritchie has been working extremely hard on our new website [www.ifomt.org](http://www.ifomt.org) / com and we are very proud of the end product. I would like to thank him on behalf of the Executive Committee and all the MO's. He has spent a huge amount of valuable personal time to complete this important project. We would appreciate any suggestions and feedback in order for us to continuously improve on this project. Send us photos or news from your region to upload on to the website. Hopefully we will have some of the forums up and running soon.

We are happy to announce that the IFOMPT will be visible at the WCPT conference in Amsterdam. Two focused symposia, as well as a satellite program have been accepted. Thank you to all the contributors to these projects; it is no mean feat to be accepted.

You should all have received the budget for the next few years as well as the last financial statements. We are very thankful to be in a better financial situation than expected. This is partly due to the help from MO's in sponsoring meetings. We appreciate the willingness to help IFOMPT in this way. Thank you to Erik and Vicki for keeping our finances in such good shape.

We are looking forward to the Teachers Symposium and conference in Zaragoza, Spain, at the end of November. We hope to see a good representation of delegates and OMT lecturers. This meeting will give us time to prepare for the meeting in Amsterdam. It will also be an opportunity for lecturers to exchange information and experiences with the international monitoring process.

I wish all of you in the Northern Hemisphere a sunny and happy summer and for the others preparing for winter – good luck!

*Annalie Basson*

### Treasurer's Report

As we have recently sent out an updated version of the budget, I will keep this a short news item. I was happy to receive positive feedback on the budget from some of you and I will continue to send you updated versions on a regular basis.

With the upcoming European Education Conference (ECE) which will be hosted by the Spanish Member Organisation in Zaragoza, Spain in November 2010, I would like to draw your attention to the **IFOMPT EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT FUND** of US \$ 1000 for any RIG member, recognized by his/her MT-organisation and known to be active in the academic and lecturing field. Applications can be made through the IFOMPT office.

I want to again thank the MO's who have graciously sponsored **all** of the members of the Standards Committee as well as Duncan Reid from the Executive Committee, so that now only Annalie Basson and myself will have to rely on the IFOMPT budget to cover our travel expenses to Spain.

Previously I have been working with a group of MO-delegates from Germany, Australia, Denmark and the UK on a draft document outlining the proposed changes to the Application, Voting and Award procedures for future IFOMT Conferences. Now that the new website is up and running this should be one of the first items up for discussion on the forum.

I have also been working with this same group of MO delegates on a draft version of criteria and qualifications for proposed candidates for the IFOMPT Executive Committee. We hope to put a finalised draft version up for discussion by October 2010.

*Erik Thoomes* [erik@thoomes.com](mailto:erik@thoomes.com)

## Website Report

IFOMPT.COM went live the end of April of this year. It is a new look, a new navigation, a site that is more modern with a more forward appearance. I have decided to keep the old site, [www.ifomt.org](http://www.ifomt.org) live for a few more months to allow all of you to review it to make sure that all content has been copied to the new site. Please note that you can get to the site either through [ifompt.com](http://ifompt.com) or [ifompt.org](http://ifompt.org), we own both domains, they just go to the same site. Over the next couple of months, I will review [ifomt.org](http://ifomt.org) as well, and then will shut this site down. If any of you discover anything that should be moved to the new site, please let me know. When the site gets shut down, we will continue to own the name [ifomt.org](http://ifomt.org), and will simply point that name to the new site, so that those who have their favourites folder already set to [ifomt.org](http://ifomt.org) you will still get to the new site.

I will post news as I get it, please forward any news items directly to me, at [ritchiemichael@eastlink.ca](mailto:ritchiemichael@eastlink.ca) The same goes for events that you would like posted on the website. I am very pleased with our new web designer, Zeald, whose website is [www.zeald.com](http://www.zeald.com) I encourage any MO who is looking for a redesign to contact them, they have been a real joy to work with, and very reasonably priced. The CMS (Content Management System---the software used for web editing) is very wysiwyg (what you see is what you get), user friendly.

Over the next several weeks we will be preparing the forum for various discussions, so look forward to putting your ideas and comments to your colleagues. I am presently the only editor for the site, it took a great deal of time to design the site and organize it to this stage, and I have wanted to feel comfortable with the editing process. Over the next several months, I will be asking for assistance with editing. Right now I am spending about 5-10 hours per week on the site, simply because of learning the system. However, I can see this reducing to half that time. Once I have a few volunteer editors, inputting such things as news, events, advertising, etc onto the site, then this will free up time for me to be a more active participant in IFOMPT executive activities. Right now, my time is dedicated to the website, and the rest of the executive are taking over some of the other duties that would normally fall to me. By September I am hoping that this situation will change, but I will continue to be heading the website project.

One other item that I would like to introduce is commercial partnering. With a more updated and user friendly site, I expect visits to be greatly increased. That increase in web traffic will make our site attractive to advertisers wishing to present their products and services to our website visitors. Because I am being more active with regards to keeping news, etc, up to date, I am hoping that you will visit the site often, and encourage your colleagues within your MO to do the same. This will increase our "hits" and once again increases our chances of attracting advertisers. The revenue from the site will help with our budgeting. Please note that the new site is free of "GoogleAds". This was a good idea, unfortunately since we were not

able to select the advertisers within the ads on our old site, we got some pretty inappropriate advertising. It did produce some revenue, but for the most part did not work out as planned. The new site reflects a cleaner, more professional appearance clean of this content.

We will be scouting for a website sponsor as well, a major company producing physical therapy products or offering physical therapy support services in the next few months, giving them a constant presence on our homepage. Once again, we cannot do this until we have increased our website visits. I am open to any and all suggestions by the MO delegates, please contact me directly. I look forward to your feedback and your support. Please consider volunteering to assist with the website editing, if you are interested and commit to a few hours per month, please contact me directly, and copy the office in.

*Michael Ritchie*

## **Communication**

I have continued work on the constitution revisions, which were recently sent out to all MOs for consideration and plan to assist with leading a forum discussion on the constitution in the next few months.

I have also been working on development of criteria for a new IFOMPT award in honor of Geoffrey Maitland, which is proposed to be titled the "Geoffrey Maitland Award for advancement of clinical practice in Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapy". Once the criteria are approved by the Executive Committee, further input will be sought from the MO delegates, and the MO delegates will need to vote on approval of the award and the proposed criteria. Feel free to contact me with any comments regarding the constitution at [Olsonpt@comcast.net](mailto:Olsonpt@comcast.net)

*Ken Olson*

## **Report from Standards Committee**

The Standards Committee (SC) is continuing to work on key educational issues and to act as a resource for MOs and RIGs, particularly in assisting development towards International Monitoring for MOs, and advising potential new RIGs.

### ***International Monitoring (IM) and the Standards Document 2008***

The SC continues to be busy with the processes of IM. IM of Sweden (2008) and New Zealand (2009) is now complete, and Netherlands (2009) are continuing to work hard to complete their process. We are currently reviewing submissions from Finland (first occurrence, 2010), Australia (second occurrence 2010), and UK (second occurrence, 2010). We are awaiting the submission from Denmark (first occurrence, 2010) and the submission from Hong Kong (first occurrence, 2010, agreed extension until 30/9/10).

A gentle reminder re the MOs working towards submission IM in for 2011 (deadline 31.3.10):

First occurrence:      Germany  
                                 South Africa  
                                 USA  
                                 Ireland  
                                 Japan  
                                 Switzerland  
Second occurrence :    Canada  
                                 Norway  
                                 Sweden

A letter providing further information regarding the IM processes through examples of feedback provided to MOs thus far was circulated at the end of 2009. We hope that this was useful to everyone and especially those MOs who are busy working on their initial submissions. Unfortunately, although we have asked, we have not received any feedback from MOs regarding their experience of the process to date. This may be because this feedback is shared informally whenever we meet, but if any MO has any comments, please let us know.

*Reminder:* As you are all working on international monitoring submissions, please remember that until 2011 all submissions need to include a plan for implementation of the new Educational Standards (2008). For submissions from 2012, onwards MOs will need to demonstrate full integration of the Educational Standards (2008).

### ***Glossary to Standards Document***

The glossary is now complete and on the website for everyone to access. We hope that you find it a useful resource.

### ***IFOMPT International Standard for screening the cervical region prior to Orthopaedic Manipulative Physiotherapy (OMT) intervention***

The working group is still working hard to agree a first draft for circulation to MOs for comment. The process is taking longer than originally planned owing to the busy diaries of the group, and the complexity of the issues involved within the document.

### ***Reciprocal Recognition***

We now have feedback from all MOs re taking reciprocal recognition forwards and are in the process of analysing the issues that remain.

### ***Submission of WCPT symposia***

The SC symposium to the 16th International Congress of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy in Amsterdam from 20-23 June 2011: Developing and advancing international post-professional educational standards in physical therapy, was accepted and we are looking forward to our Educational Standards being a focus within the WCPT conference. The presenters are: Alison Rushton, Karen Beeton, Jan Pool, Darren Rivett and Jackie Sadi.

### ***History of IFOMPT Educational Standards***

This document is currently under development to ensure that the history of the development of educational standards is carefully recorded. Estimated completion and upload onto website as a resource September 2010.

### ***IFOMPT website***

We hope that you have all had an opportunity to visit the Standards area of the new website and that you are finding it a useful resource. If anyone has any suggestions about how to improve this area further please let us know?

### ***Resource of the Standards Committee***

Please remember that the SC is here for advice and guidance on all educational issues and in particular to provide support to assist your development as an MO.

Best wishes for a lovely summer (and winter)!

*Dr Alison Rushton* (on behalf of the Standards Committee)

## **Member Organisation Reports**

### **Australia: Delegate – Darren Beales**

Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Australia (MPA)

In alternate years to our national conference, MPA has successfully run a national tour for our membership. We have been very fortunate in that we have been able to obtain prominent leaders in the physiotherapy profession for these tours. In 2006 we had Peter O'Sullivan, and 2008 Brian Mulligan. Their tours have been a mix of workshops and clinical evening lectures. In Brian's case we even managed to teleconference one of his clinical evenings around the country. 2010 will see Shirley Sahrman visiting our shores. Shirley has been to Australia a number of times, and influenced many clinicians in this country. We look forward to this being every bit as successful as our past tours.

Physiotherapy specialisation has been a hot item on our agenda over the last four to five years. MPA has been extremely supportive of having our members undertake this advanced level of clinical training through the Australian College of Physiotherapists. We now have over 100 specialist physiotherapists in Australia, with the majority of these being in the field of musculoskeletal physiotherapy. This has greatly assisted in defining a clinical career pathway for our membership. MPA now truly represents musculoskeletal therapists at all stages of their careers. We have undergraduate student members, Level 1 members who do not have formal post-graduate musculoskeletal training, Level 2 members who have formal post-graduate training (i.e. they have graduated from our accredited IFOMPT standard institutions), and Level 3 Specialist Musculoskeletal Physiotherapists. The success of the specialist program is recognizable in the fact that a number of international candidates have sat the examination.

The sad passing of Geoff Maitland has been well documented. A tribute can be found on the Australian Physiotherapy Association web site:

<http://physiotherapy.asn.au/index.php/news/1587-tribute-to-geoffrey-maitland-mbe>

For those interested, a history of MPA is also available from the web site:

<http://physiotherapy.asn.au/index.php/groups/musculoskeletal-physiotherapy/mpa-history>

### **Belgium Delegate – Axel Beernaert**

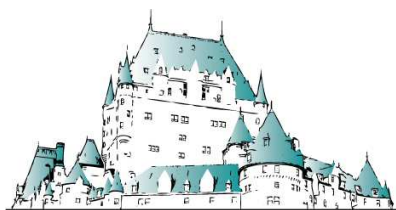
On the 1 of June 2010 the National Council for Physiotherapy had the proposal of the ministerial decree for manual therapy approved. The ministerial decree means a specific competence in manual therapy in the field of physiotherapy. The National Council for Physiotherapy is an advisory organisation to the Minister of the Department of Health Care. For Belgian Manual Therapy and Physiotherapy the approval is an improvement for our profession.

### **Canada: Delegate – Anita Gross**

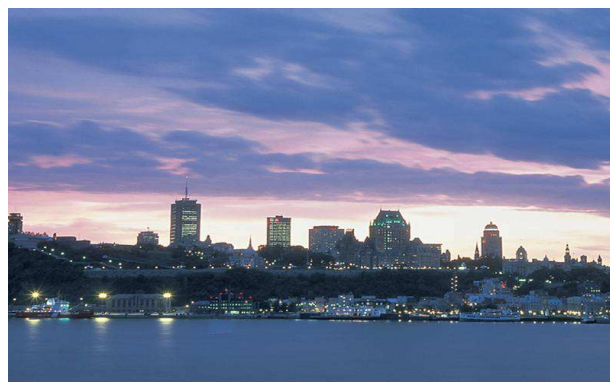
Our national symposium entitled “Physiotherapy Health Wellness and Innovation” will be held in partnership with the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA) National Congress and the Orthopaedic Division, which houses CAMPT’s national conference in St John’s, NL in July 22 to 25, 2010. Dr. Kuhl will be our keynote speaker and has written two books – *What Dying People Want: Practical Wisdom for the End-of-Life* and *Facing Death Embracing Life, Understanding What Dying People Want*. We look forward to a wealth of research exchange. CPA has piloted the CPA Guidelines for Clinical Specialty Program; this will have positive implications for CAMPT in the near future.

The first Canadian University-based of orthopaedic manual therapists (OMT) that opened in 2008 is running at capacity each year and has produced not only excellent OMT clinicians but important new research. We currently have two systems, one under the CPA umbrella and the other within the University of Western Ontario. To achieve research requirements for the CPA – Orthopaedic Division Program, this program has linked with on-line research courses at the University of Toronto as well as other universities from across Canada. These research courses have been tailored to OMT and IFOMPT-standard and needs. This web-based system allows equal access to OMT research training for physiotherapists from across our country.

The Canadian Academy of Manipulative Therapy has changed its name from CAMPT to be consistent with IFOMPT. We have a new initiative to support the advancement of knowledge translation by sending eblast article summaries and critiques to each of our members; these are also available on our website.



**IFOMPT 2012**  
*Rendez-vous* of Hands and Minds  
September 30th to October 5th, 2012  
Québec City, Canada





**Rendez-vous in Québec City, CANADA** for IFOMT 2012 where research, knowledge translation and clinical skills meet! Our keynote speakers will be Gwen Jull, David Butler, Shirley Sahrman, Annelies Pool-Goudzwaard, Jaap van der Wal, Karim Khan, and Gray Cook. We continue to be making great progress. We have had ongoing meetings of the different planning committees. We have sent promotional post cards to IFOMPT countries requesting them and have a power point slide available on the IFOMPT website - <http://www.ifompt.com/About+IFOMPT/2012+IFOMPT+Conference.html>

**Denmark: Delegate – Inge Ris**

After a long and cold winter, spring finally has arrived in Denmark! These last months we have been busy with following subjects:

- Our mother organisation is working towards a new organising structure. The political part will be taken care of, as before, by our main organisation. The professional part will be organised into different subgroups. One of these will be the Danish Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy Association. This reorganisation is going to take quite some time. We look forward to having a sharper professional profile towards the Danish Society and to gain a higher responsibility for the professional development of musculoskeletal physiotherapy in Denmark.
- We are working hard to establish a master of science in Physiotherapy at the University of Southern Denmark. There will be modules on musculoskeletal topics, but the master is meant to cover physiotherapy more in general. We are working closely with the University on this master and trying to influence the process as much as we can.
- We have had our annual meeting together with the Danish Association in Mechanical Diagnosis and Therapy (McKenzie Institute Denmark) and Danish Association for Clinical Practitioners. We had Susan Mercer from down under to present her studies. One of the other topics was clinical diagnosing of central pain mechanism. Tom Petersen from Copenhagen introduced a proposal of clinical signs and symptoms, very much like the study in Manual Therapy, Vol. 15, issue 1 by Keith Smart. We were also able to introduce our clinical guidelines for examination of persons with nonspecific neck pain. These guidelines will be finished before summer this year. This autumn, we will travel around the country, offering workshops for implementing these clinical guidelines in clinical practice.
- We have now switched towards our new organisation of our education. The experiences until now are very positive. One of the major changes is that we start clinical supervision much earlier. This gives us the opportunity to implement theory and techniques earlier in the clinical practice of our students.
- Last but not least: we did meet some of our international IFOMPT-family members in Nottingham. That was nice seeing familiar faces again!
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Wishing you all a nice summer on the northern hemisphere and a nice winter on the southern,  
Friendly greetings Inge Ris, delegate for Denmark.

**Finland: Delegate – Olli Aranko**

2010 got off to a good start when a group of 24 new students begun their OMT course. They have a busy 3 ½ years ahead and we, as the organizers, are doing our best to keep their studies to the highest level of manual physiotherapy.

We are also working hard to get a masters degree program at one of our Universities which has just united with another University, as the Finnish government tries to cut costs in the education system. So, it's a big challenge, but we have had some positive signs from the Dean of Health Sciences. So far we've been active mainly in inviting teachers and researchers to give courses in Finland, but now we are organizing an international course in spinal manipulation according to Kaltenborn-Evjenth concept's clinical reasoning model in August 2011. More information and registration can be seen on our web site. We hope to see many colleagues from other IFOMPT MO's attending the course. Of course there is a prerequisite to have a HVT manipulation level education from one's own MO.

Since we are going towards summer, though the weather at the moment doesn't really look like that, we are going to have our holidays enjoying all the nice activities and festivals that our short but intensive summer season offers. After that there is again lots of work to do spreading the know-how of good physiotherapy practice all over the society. Happy holidays!

**Germany: Delegate - Fiona Morrison**

Our monitoring process is approaching the final phase. Our monitoring group has done lots of work and now it is up to the four groups to implement the recommended changes. Our marketing concept has been developed and we are now in the process of activating the various recommended steps towards achieving more recognition for OMT.

**Hong Kong Delegate – Agnes Chan**

The Hong Kong Manipulative Therapy Specialty group runs short courses for continuing education for practicing physiotherapists. The short courses involve local and overseas specialists. Hong Kong Polytechnic University offers the full time and part time courses in Master in Manipulative Physiotherapy. The courses are well received.

**Ireland Delegate – Niamh Moloney**

Membership Levels to the Chartered Physiotherapists in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy: 2009 saw the rolling out of Level II membership within the CPMT. Automatic qualifications have been awarded to many. Two alternative pathways are also available to achieve Level II membership depending on applicants' previous experiences and academic qualifications. Level II members are permitted to use of the title "Chartered Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist". 2010 will see moves to promote the Level II membership more fully, throughout physiotherapy and medical circles.

Education: Much of the work of the CPMT involves organising courses and evening seminars throughout the country. The CPMT have continued to run the CPMT spinal series of courses aimed at recent graduates or those new to musculoskeletal physiotherapy. A number of international speakers were also hosted including Neil O'Connell, Chad Cook and Wim Dankaerts.

Research: Bursaries are available to those participating in research in the field of musculoskeletal physiotherapy and awards for research projects, presentations and publications are made annually. All applications are assessed externally by international reviewers.

**Italy: Delegate – Davide Albertoni**

Over the last months our Group has been really busy. We are following two important projects: the Bridge Course and Our National Congress. After 3 years of discussion between our Association and the Kaltenborn and Maitland Group, finally we are ready to accept registrations for an exam that will recognize the education and experience in Manual Therapy and will give the chance to attempt a short course at University to fill the gap to become an OMT. The colleagues that already did a good-level course in Manual Therapy, as a II level Kaltenborn or Maitland Course, should pass the exam and could attempt a short Master at the University of Genova, getting the title of Professional Master – as every OMT in Italy. This solution should join different manual therapy groups in Italy and standardize the education in Manual Therapy in our country. The registrations will end on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June and the University course will start next year.

The second important project is the National Congress that will take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of October in Rezzato, near Brescia in the North of the Country. The theme of the Conference is the role of Manual Therapy in joint and tendon pathology, and we will have 4 international speakers: Prof. Matt Morrissey from Lubljana University (Slovenia – but in this period he is still in London, at the King's College), and Massimo Barcellona (PhD student of Prof. Morrissey) who will talk about ACL rehabilitation, with open and closed kinetic chain exercises. Ingrid Hulthenheim Klintberh, from Sweden, will talk about different approaches in conservative and postsurgical rehabilitation of rotator cuff and impingement pathology, and Martin J.Kelley, from the United States, will have two lectures about the algorithm of examination of the scapular dyskinesis and the algorithm of treatment of a frozen shoulder.

The second day we have scheduled three parallel workshops about knee-ankle, shoulder-elbow and lumbar spine-pelvis, with the same speakers and some Italian colleagues.

We have changed our internet site, trying to improve services to colleagues, which is an easier way to update their details, and in the future we will link our site to Facebook and Twitter. Sincerely, I do not like so much these social networks, but if a lot of people are there, we cannot be missing!

We hope that our Congress will be a success, trying to improve the number of subscribers of our Association. The conference is not thought to be open to physiotherapists from abroad, but if some OMT of your countries are interested in attending the conference you could contact me, because we could translate from Italian to English, and we consider OMTs coming from other MO full member IFOMPT countries as our OMTs, with the same prices for registration. You can look at the program of the Conference on our site in a few days: [www.terapiamaniale.it](http://www.terapiamaniale.it)

## **Japan** **Delegate – Isamu Sunagawa**

JFOMT has been building an organization to promote the OMT education as a professional association, affiliated with the Japanese Physical Therapy Association (JAPT), since it became an IFOMPT's full member at the general meeting held in Rotterdam in 2008.

We focus on the education support project in the initial stage. We divided our members into two categories. The first category is for general members, and it is made up of about 450 physical therapists who are JAPT members and interested in OMT. The second category is international members, and it is made up of 40 physical therapists who satisfy IFOMPT's education criteria. We deliver support for the post-graduate OMT education to them.

In this education project, JFOMT's international members give more than 10 short-term seminars annually as lecturers. We held OMT publicity seminar in the national convention held under the auspices of the JAPT in 2009 and 2010, and we plan to hold the same seminar in 2011 again.

We will set up the examination committee consisting of the international members to cope with an increase of JFOMT members and make further efforts to maintain and promote the OMT education in Japan.

## **Netherlands** **Delegate – Annelies Pool**

In this letter I would like to report some activities the board of the NVMT (Dutch Manual Therapy Organization) has undertaken in the field of PR, professional quality and education, which might be of interest for other countries.

Concerning PR: A book was written about several members of the NVMT. These Manual Therapists (MT's) are considered to be experts in special fields like incorporating science in the MT profession, writing educational master programs for MT students or management of several clinics as a MT. This book is spread to all members and partners of the MT to inform as well as to inspire them. Furthermore a promotion film was developed and spread to members to be used in waiting rooms of MT clinics to inform patients about MT.

Concerning professional quality and education: Currently in The Netherlands, every MT is rewarded financially 1.5 more than a Physical therapist. This has led to an enormous growth in MT students (300 a year) as well as schools (7). With this growing amount of MT's there is a need for quality assessment of members, both new and old. Since schools are accredited by the Dutch Flemish Accreditation Organization the NVMT has hardly had any influence on the quality of the educational programs. Even more, this accreditation does not take into account the requirements of the Standards Committee of the IFOMPT. To be able to test the quality of members, the NVMT has developed a Standard of Practice according to the American Standard of Practice. The next step is to develop measurement tools and assessment criteria for members and clinics. The NVMT is considering setting up extra criteria for the schools fulfilling the criteria of IFOMPT in order for students to become members of the NVMT. Another project concerning quality is the start of a committee discussing the obligation to sign an informed consent when HVT techniques in the cervical spine are used from both a scientific as well as ethical point of view.

Last, but not least, we are looking forward to the upcoming WCPT congress in Amsterdam and will try to arrange an informal meeting with all MO's. Hope to see you in Spain and of course in Amsterdam!



**New Zealand: Delegate – Wayne Hing**

The School of Physiotherapy at the University of Otago offers a number of Postgraduate Programme options in the area of Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy and Manipulative Physiotherapy with provision to staircase your qualifications from a Postgraduate Certificate, to Postgraduate Diploma and on to Masters level. The option to study either part time by distance or full time residential at our Dunedin campus, adds to the flexibility of the programme. Enrolment on a part-time basis in the distance learning papers will enable clinicians to continue with their professional commitments, whilst enjoying a course that develops their clinical skills and thinking through to Masters level.

The Master of Physiotherapy endorsed in Manipulative Physiotherapy is designed to advance the practical and clinical reasoning skills of physiotherapists managing patients with disorders of the musculoskeletal system, such as chronic spinal problems. The programmes emphasise an integrated clinical approach, using concepts and techniques from a variety of approaches to manual therapy, manipulation and exercise, underpinned by an understanding of clinical anatomy, medical specialties and other relevant disciplines.

Contact Information: Steve Tumilty, Clinical Lecturer (course coordinator), 0064-3-479-7460  
[Steve.tumilty@otago.ac.nz](mailto:Steve.tumilty@otago.ac.nz) <http://physio.otago.ac.nz/postgrad/musculo.html>

**Norway Delegate – Heather Nicol**

**New IA agreement from the Ministry of Labour.**

Since 2006 there has been an “Agreement on a more inclusive Working Life” (IA agreement).

The government and the employer /employee organisations have agreed on an extensive economic stimulus package to reduce sick leave and a new and more goal- oriented IA agreement. The agreement has been renewed until 2013.

The agreement involves a close follow up of the person on sick leave by the doctor, Nav ( Norwegian Labour and Welfare Service) and the employer, plus facilitating return to work.

As manual therapists give up to 12 weeks sick leave we are also included in this agreement. New measures for us include:

- more cooperation between the Labour and Welfare Services, the Norwegian Medical Association and the Norwegian Physiotherapist Association, and other professional sectors to prepare proposals for professional support /guidance relating to granting sick leave
- regular feedback to persons granting sick leave regarding his /her sick leave practice compared to others.
- Stipulate requirements for mandatory sick leave training of persons granting sick leave.

It is clear that these additional responsibilities we manual therapists have been given also demand that we extend our knowledge and competence in these areas.

**South Africa: Delegate – Ina Diener**

A new logo for the OMPTG in South Africa has been designed, reflecting manual therapy and exercise for musculoskeletal dysfunctions, and interest in pain.



Currently, two post-graduate programs in OMT are presented in South Africa. A 2-year clinical masters program in OMT, according to the IFOMPT Educational Standards, is offered at two universities. It will be monitored by IFOMPT in 2011. About 21 physiotherapists have completed this degree since 2005. Secondly, a 130-hour OMT certificate course under the auspices of the OMPTG is offered in 6 South African provinces. More than a thousand clinicians have completed this program over the years.

The OMPTG membership is increasing, with a third of the South African Society for Physiotherapy members being included. A category for members residing overseas will be available from 2011. Our newly developed website is popular, on which members may access evidence-based information and articles, and patients can locate a manual physiotherapist in their area. The award 'Special Interest Group of the year' was granted to the OMPTG in April this year.

**Spain**                      **Delegate:**            **Prof. Dr JM Tricás**

### **IFOMPT ECE Meeting in Zaragoza 25-28<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

OMT Spain will host the next ECE-IFOMPT Meeting from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in Zaragoza (Spain). The event will try to link scientific and practical manual therapy activities with social activities. The Teachers Symposium details are now on the IFOMPT website – we look forward to seeing you there.

### **Web IFOMPT and OMT Spain web**

OMT Spain (OMT-E) is working on promoting the spreading of knowledge about IFOMPT amongst Spanish speaking physiotherapists, with the translation of IFOMPT's website into Spanish. General information, like the IFOMPT Constitution, is being translated and reviewed. Also, OMT Spain is translating clinical guidelines that are available on the IFOMPT website. After reviewing the information, we will ask for permission from the organizations, and authors of the clinical guidelines before spreading in our OMT –E and IFOMPT website for Spanish physiotherapists. Also the group is translating several manual therapy books into Spanish to facilitate dissemination of knowledge in Spanish speaking physiotherapy.

This last year, OMT Spain has developed its web site (it can be visited at <http://www.omtspain.es>). The website contains information in Spanish about Manual Therapy, IFOMPT and OMT Spain. We have also created a section called *Education* in which the IFOMPT Educational Standards is shown and we gather the data about the courses on OMT that are taught in Spain. The purpose for next year is to translate the site to the English language, to create a section on Manual Therapy Research and to write brief articles to inform patients and physical therapists about Manual Therapy. Next, 2010 IFOMPT ECE Congress information will be available very soon on this website.

### **Spanish-Portuguese Manual Therapy Congress**

The VI Jornadas Hispanolusas de Terapia Manual took place on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The event was organized by the ICOFA with the Asociación Española de Fisioterapeutas (AEF) and the Asociación Portuguesa de Fisioterapeutas (APF), and gathered some national and international important figures. (it can be visited at <http://www.jornadashispanolusasterapiamanual.es/>)

“Razonamiento Clínico en Terapia Manual; Evidencia Clínica y Científica”- “Clinical Reasoning: Clinical and Scientific Evidence” was the title and it took place in the Auditorio de Zaragoza. The event was supposed to be a reflection period for those who are interested in physical therapy, especially in Manual Therapy: it was a growth and reaffirmation period that necessarily needs to be linked to science. The assistants, 200 people approximately, were able to enjoy a large number of high quality communications. There's no doubt that in addition to the scientific knowledge updating, the unquiet attendees were guided through reflection.

### **Day 1 - Opening ceremony**

The event started on the morning of November 20<sup>th</sup> with the opening ceremony in which **José Miguel Tricás Moreno**, ICOFA's dean and organization committee's president; **Antonia Gómez Conesa**, AEF's president;



**Isabel Souza Guerra**, APF's president; and **Elena Estébanez de Miguel**, ICOFA's secretary and Scientific Committee's president, took part. After the opening speeches and before the scientific program started, the OMT-España as a collaborating entity, acknowledged **Freddy Kaltenborn** as a honorary member of the association.

#### **Table 1. Scientific publications and their impact in the clinical scope**

The table was chaired by **Elena Estébanez de Miguel** and it was an approach to the existing problem in the scientific publication scope, the difficulty of publishing in the scientific journals particularly, and the low repercussion they have in the clinical scope.

Ann Moore, Manual Therapy journal's executive editor, was the first speaker and she approached the problem from the editor's view. She gave some interesting advice that without any doubt will help in research and its publication. The AEF's president, **Antonia Gómez Conesa**, followed with a deep review about the meta-analysis as the best method to offer the clinician the best scientific evidence that is available.

**César Fernández de las Peñas** was the next orator in this table. He is one of the Spanish physical therapists with more scientific productions, and that was his approach to the clinical adaptability of the basic research in Manual Therapy. He emphasized the compatibility of the clinical and the researcher physical therapist. After the first three speakers **Freddy Kaltenborn** was the lecturer closing the first table, his communication was named "*Manipulation in the Manual Therapy History*", and he gave a historical review about manipulation and the root and development of Physical Therapy and Manual Therapy. The professor Kaltenborn used the moment to remember the importance of the work and experience in the clinical scope as the way to improve research.

#### **Table 2. "Diagnostic Reasoning in the clinical scope: practical application in the upper quadrant"**

The second table was chaired by **João Vasconcelos Abreu**, Portuguese Manual Therapy coordinator of the APF. The first speech was by **Rafael Torres Cuco**, an expert physical therapist in the pain and neuroscience area, he highlighted the importance of good clinical reasoning to approach the physical therapy diagnosis of cervical pain. He also emphasized the need for using neurobiological and psychosocial models as an essential complement in order to treat chronic pain. The next orator **Ana Rita Cruz** presented a literature review her working group had made and that seems to endorse the Manual Therapy treatment effectiveness for the cervicogenic headache, especially when it is combined with therapeutic exercise.

The Swedish **Ragnar Faleij**, OMT professor and physical therapist, talked about his experience in the use of the rating scales as the assessment tool in patients with cervical persistent dysfunctions, especially in the red and yellow flag detection and in the way of guiding the clinical reasoning process in this patients treatment. **Francisco Neto** was the last speaker, he gave an example of evidence based practice, and he showed the way of designing a physical therapy intervention in a cervicogenic headache case, basing both the assessment and the treatment in a clinical reasoning process based on the best scientific evidence available.

#### **Day 2 - Table 3. "Diagnostic test validation"**

This table was chaired by **Isabel Souza Guerra**, the APF president. **César Hidalgo** was the first speaker from this table; he is a physical therapist member of the Unidad de Investigación en Fisioterapia (UIF) in the Universidad de Zaragoza. He presented the favorable results of a reliability and validity study of the caudal traction technique in the coxofemoral joint for the detection of hypomobility in patients with coxarthrosis.

The next speech was by **Pedro Rebelo**, he exposed the results of a study that tried to determine the relationship between the evaluating position and the force the muscle is able to perform, measured by dynamometry. Next, **Elena Bueno** the physical therapist, also member of the UIF in the Universidad de Zaragoza, presented a study made by the Norwegian Roar Robinson, OMT physical therapist; it was about the inter-tester reliability and validity of a surface palpation of the C7 and L5 spinous processes. Last but not least, the Portuguese **Henrique Relvas** made a deep reflection about the problems deriving from the poor reliability and validity of the palpating techniques, and the importance of developing a learning and training method to apply in the physical therapy schools.

#### **Table 4. "Diagnostic reasoning in the clinical scope: practical application in the lower quadrant"**

The fourth table was chaired by **Javier Gonzalez Iglesias** and it had just two speakers. The first speech was by **João Vasconcelos Abreu**, the Portuguese Interest Group on Manual Therapy president. He presented the effects of an intervention program based on the Maitland and Butler concepts in a unilateral LBP and sciatic pain patient. Next, **Orosia Lucha**, an UIF member and teacher in the EUCS in the Universidad de Zaragoza, exposed her speech on the way of indicating the hooking technique following the clinical reasoning processes that are usually used in Orthopedic Manual Therapy. After that she made a review of the treatment of the most important compressive syndromes in the lower limb with this technique.

#### **Table 5. “Evidence based treatment: clinical guidelines”**

**Ginés Almazan** was the chair of this table where the main theme would be the utility and validity of the clinical guidelines in Manual Therapy and their practical applicability. **Daniel Simao** was the first speaker in this table, a Portuguese physical therapist who exposed the results of a systematic review on the effectiveness of the stabilizing exercises in pain reeducation and in the functional improvement in patients with chronic cervical pain.

Next, **Fermin Valera**, with the “*Practical Guidelines: a tool to integrate the scientific evidence in the clinical practice*” speech, explained what the clinical guidelines are and that they are based on flexible protocols and recommendations. He also enlightened that they merge the clinical and the scientific evidence to ease the physical therapist’s work when decision making, allowing a better attention quality of the patients.

#### **Table 6. “Future research lines in the clinical practice on Manual Therapy”**

This last table was chaired by **Antonia Gómez Conesa**, the AEF president. The first orator was the physical therapist **Martin Barra** that was replacing his college **Carlos López de Celis** in the presentation of the “*Evidence Based Clinical Practice. A challenge for the Manual Therapy’s future*” speech. After a first self-critical view of the current research in Physical Therapy, a number of interesting actions were collected in the speech in order to improve in the research field. Actions such as a research specialized education, the more specific and accessible database creation or the cooperation between the Manual Therapy experts in the research.

Next in this table **Catia Silva**, exposed a systematic review as the last Portuguese representative. It was about the efficiency of the therapeutic exercise in the “mechanical neck disorders” treatment. Finally and closing the last table, the dean of the ICOFA, **Jose Miguel Tricás Moreno**, MO representative for Spain in IFOMPT, also teacher in the EUCS and the UIF coordinator in the Universidad de Zaragoza, presented his communication: “*Future research lines in the Clinical Practice on Manual Therapy*”. He made a thorough and constructive critique of the contemporary scene in Physical Therapy and especially on Manual Therapy in relation to the poor connection between the existing scientific production and its clinical applicability. At the same time he also proposed a set of guidelines that every clinical physical therapist and researcher must remember in the future in order to go on their activity, to facilitate the college’s job, to improve the attendance quality and to bolster the Physical Therapy and the Manual Therapy bases.

After these speeches and after an extensive debate that arose in the colloquium of this last table, some of the listeners made some proposals mainly directed at the AEF’s president and the ICOFA’s dean and the scientific program of the event was terminated.

#### **Closing ceremony**

It was nearly Saturday night when the little closing ceremony took place in the VI Jornadas Hispanolusas de Terapia Manual. After some brief words of thanks to all participants, each of the representatives made their particular summary of the event. All of them were satisfied with the conference and they had the feeling of having lived up to the expectations. They also agreed that there had been very high level of communication and that the conclusions drawn would, without any doubt, help Manual Therapy moving along its clinical and scientific aspects. On the other side, the high proportion of young people among the attendees was highlighted, this proved the enterprising nature and the illusion every profession in the growing process needs.

After the closing words of every representative, the Scientific Committee’s president proceeded to read the names of those awarding the best communications in the different categories. Then, after the awards, the

ICOFA took the opportunity to acknowledge **Jesús Sánchez Arellano** and **Blas García Rivas** as honorary members of the association, for the job they had carried out along their life in the Physical Therapy development in Aragón. After this acknowledgment, the AEF's president **Antonia Gómez Conesa** adjourned the VI Jornadas Hispanolusas de Terapia Manual. This congress has been a good opportunity to prepare next IFOMPT- TEACHERS MEETING 2010 in November. We will inform about this later in the newsletter.

**Sweden: Delegate – Ragnar Faleij**

The Section for Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapy and the section for Sports Medicine within The Swedish Association of Registered Physiotherapists joined forces in a combined section annual conference in February 2010, with about 230 physiotherapists participating. Before the congress a course was held on Myofascial Pain and Dysfunction with teacher Richard Weissmann from Switzerland. After the congress a one day course on the same theme was held as CPD for the OMT-sections teachers. In 2011 the section for pain and acupuncture will join in and we expect a very nice congress for physiotherapists interested in the *neuromusculoskeletal* system on the theme, 'Movement – from fear to joy'.

The Swedish Association of Registered Physiotherapists is working on an update of the regulation of the title Certified Specialist (CS) in Sweden. The Section for Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapy is participating by updating the information for the CSOMT title, according to the new standards of IFOMPT.

**Switzerland: Delegate - Harry Herrewijn**

We have had some interesting months in Switzerland the last half year. In February our symposium, with the title 'Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy – a question of mobility', took place. There were some interesting presentations on a variety of subjects throughout the day. We were very glad that we could present some excellent keynote speakers like Vice president of IFOMPT, Duncan Reid, and Prof. Ann Moore. We closed the day off with an interesting podium discussion about the international educational situation and future of physiotherapy. All in all, an event which we will try to continue in the future.

Our Masters programme started in February with 60 students. In two years we will also have people who have finished a MAS in Physiotherapy in Switzerland. This is a very important step towards better recognition and awareness of our profession here.

**United Kingdom: Delegate – Laura Finucane**

The MACP are also undergoing a new website design and this will be launched in July. We hope it will look as good as the new IFOMPT website! Please take the opportunity to have a look [www.macpweb.org](http://www.macpweb.org)  
We have recently re submitted to the Standards Committee for re-validation.

Our AGM and one day conference will be titled 'The Great Debate', being held on September 25<sup>th</sup> 2010. Hot Topics will be debated in Neuromusculoskeletal and Manual Therapy. The day will include clinical master class sessions, case study presentations and debate sessions. Please see the website for further details.

**USA: Delegate - Tim Flynn**

**Registered Interest Groups:**

**Hungary Delegate – Andrea Rigo**

The new 'Association of Hungarian Manual Physiotherapists' was established in December, 2009. It's an independent association, and is supported professionally by the Hungarian Physiotherapy Association.

The Maitland courses are continued in Hungary with instructors John Langendoen and Kevin Banks. That means that more and more Hungarian physiotherapists get the chance to know the Maitland Manual Therapy Concept. It's also good news that manual therapy is planned to be a part of the total physiotherapy master program at the Semmelweis University in Budapest, which will start in the near future.



**Poland:** **Delegate - Zbigniew Wronski**

The main goal for our association in 2009 was to complete the registration process, start a new website and divide responsibilities in the organization.

We are proud that in September 2009, after 6 months hard work, we obtained RIG status within IFOMPT. Our main goal for 2010 is to prepare our curriculum. We hope we will finish in this year.

In June 2009 we (OMT Poland) sent an official letter to the PTF (Polish Physiotherapist Association), which is a member of WCPT, to recognize our organization as the organization representing Manual Therapy within IFOMPT. Until now we didn't get the answer.

Additional goals for this year are: to get more members, and to increase knowledge about Manual Therapy in Poland.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**ECE & Teachers Meeting:** We look forward to seeing many of you in Zaragoza, Spain on the 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> November 2010. Further details will be sent as the programme is developed.

**IFOMT Collaboration:** As a recognized journal of IFOMT, JOSPT is currently working with IFOMT member organizations to provide their individual members a discounted rate on online access to the Journal. Contact JOSPT's Editor-in-Chief, Guy Simoneau, or the Executive Director/Publisher Edith Holmes for more information at [www.jospt.org](http://www.jospt.org)

Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy  
**JOSPT**

As a recognized journal of IFOMPT, Manual Therapy is delighted to offer all IFOMPT member organizations the opportunity to provide their individual members a discounted rate to the journal, including online access to archive material. Contact Sarah Davies ([s.davies@elsevier.com](mailto:s.davies@elsevier.com)) for further information.

**Website:** As previously advised we are really encouraging MOs to list their Learning Institutions on the new website, so please contact your respective Universities / programme leaders and ask them to contact me for further information about listing. We feel the fee of US \$100.00 for an annual listing is very reasonable.

**Office:** Vicki will be on annual leave from 18<sup>th</sup> June until 22<sup>nd</sup> July, so will have limited access to emails. The office will be covered by temporary staff during this time.

*Vicki Reid*  
*IFOMPT Office Manager*