

OPERATIONAL PLAN 2023-2027



STRATEGIC PLAN 2023 - 2027



OUR VISION

To empower physiotherapists with an interest in paediatrics to provide effective physiotherapy services for children throughout the world



OUR PURPOSE

To represent and advance paediatric physiotherapy internationally, acting as a knowledge hub, facilitating connections and networking among members

OUR VALUES



CONNECTING

We bring our community together through our member organisations, regions, and the wider paediatric physiotherapy profession



EMPOWERING

We support our member organisations, and regions to work in the service of others and create lasting change and impact for children and families



BELONGING

We recognise and embrace the diversity in our paediatric physiotherapy community and our actions create a sense of belonging



COLLABORATING

We partner with our member organisations, regions, and other stakeholders who share our values and goals

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



SUSTAINABLE, REPRESENTATIVE AND EVOLVING

The IOPTP is a mature, financially sustainable organisation, with a tailored member offering that supports and builds the capacity of member organisations and regions



ADVANCING PRACTICE

The IOPTP encourages and supports research and education to enhance evidence-informed and family-centred practice, promoting safe and effective outcomes for children and families globally.



FACILITATING CONNECTIONS

The IOPTP works collaboratively with member organisations, to facilitate interactions between and within specialty groups and external organisations to improve access to paediatric physiotherapy globally and to achieve shared objectives.

FEB 12 2025

Authored by: The Executive Board of the
**INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS IN PAEDIATRICS**

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The Operational Plan - to address the strategic priorities and goals identified in the IOPTP Strategic Plan (2023 – 2027)

Preface

The purpose of the International Organisation of Physiotherapists in Paediatrics (IOPTP) is to represent and advance paediatric physiotherapy internationally, acting as a knowledge hub, facilitating connections and networking among members.

The operational plan outlined in this document has been thoughtfully developed by the Board members of the IOPTP after considering the needs, feedback and desires of our members from communications and data captured across 2023 and 2024. The operational plan sets out targeted and strategic activities, resources and timelines to address our strategic priorities and associated goals.

Our VISION

“The IOPTP will empower physiotherapists with an interest in paediatrics to provide effective physiotherapy services for our children throughout the world”





The IOPTP seeks to be inclusive and accessible for all paediatric physiotherapists globally.

PRIORITY 1: SUSTAINABLE, REPRESENTATIVE AND EVOLVING

The IOPTP is a mature, financially sustainable organisation, with a tailored member offering that supports and builds the capacity of member organisations and regions

	Education Committee	Led by Donna Cech, Yasser Salem and Barbara Connolly	
	Practice Committee	Led by Natalie Benjamin-Damons, Durga Shah and Karen Hurtubise	
	Program Committee	Led by Carissa Wengrovius and Dale Scalise-Smith	
	Research Committee	Led by Kine Johansen, Kirstin Macdonald and Nikki Milne	
	Communication Committee	Led by Cherie Zischke and Li-Chiou Chen	
	Executive	Led by Karen Hurtubise (IOPTP President)	

GOAL 1: To ensure the IOPTP is sustainable, relevant and representative of its member organisations

Ref #	Strategy	Responsible Group	Target Date	Status IP = In progress D = Deferred C = Complete Comments
1A	To create a document repository to ensure all IOPTP documents are available to all IOPTP Board Members (e.g. IOPTP TEAM)	Executive – Nikki Milne	End 2023	C – requires maintenance monitoring.
1B	In IOPTP Team, create folders for each IOPTP Committee, and provide access to all committee members	Executive – Nikki Milne	End 2023	C
1C	Undertake an annual audit of IOPTP Members to ensure compliance with IOPTP Governing Rules and Policies and Procedures documents.	Executive – Nikki Milne	Nov 2024	IP
1D	Acquire an IOPTP zoom license	Executive – Barb Connolly	Oct 2024	C
1E	Create IOPTP specific email addresses to reduce personal email archiving of information relevant to IOPTP	Executive – Barb Connolly	End 2024	C – Executive IP – Board
1F	Develop an IOPTP Organisational Chart for distribution to committees and website (aligned to World Physiotherapy language)	Executive Communication	April 2024	
1G	Create an annual activity wheel (ensuring calendar invites are sent for all meetings at end of year for following year)	Executive – Nikki Milne	March 2025	IP
1H	Update Policies and Procedures documents to ensure new forms align with strategic activities and working practices (including work groups and Webinar procedure)	Executive – Nikki Milne	March 2025 (Annually)	IP
1I	Create opportunities for member organisations to contribute to IOPTP global communications (e.g., newsletter, social media posts and website content)	Communication	End 2025	IP
1J	Inclusion of a 'contact us' section on the new IOPTP website to allow member organisations to contact the IOPTP	Communication	End 2024	C

1K	Collaborate with membership liaison to identify initiatives for positively impacting membership and participation for low resourced countries in IOPTP and under-represented regions of World Physiotherapy (e.g., mentor/mentee program).	Executive – Dale Scalise-Smith	End 2026	IP
1L	Continue to grow committee membership and create structure for engagement.	Communication Practice Education Research Program Executive	Ongoing 2023-2027	IP
1M	Publish the annual meeting schedule on the IOPTP website	Communication Executive	Feb 2025	
1N	Monitor World Physiotherapy initiatives, participate as required, and ensure alignment of IOPTP activities as appropriate	Executive	Ongoing 2023-2027	IP



PRIORITY 2: ADVANCING PRACTICE

The IOPTP encourages and supports research and education to enhance evidence-informed and family-centred practice, promoting safe and effective outcomes for children and families globally.

	Education Committee	Led by Donna Cech, Yasser Salem and Barbara Connolly	
	Practice Committee	Led by Natalie Benjamin-Damons, Durga Shah and Karen Hurtubise	
	Program Committee	Led by Carissa Wengrovius and Dale Scalise Smith	
	Research Committee	Led by Kine Johansen, Kirstin Macdonald and Nikki Milne	
	Communication Committee	Led by Cherie Zischke and Li-Chiou Chen	
	Executive	Led by Karen Hurtubise (IOPTP President)	

GOAL 2: To encourage evidence-informed and family-centred physiotherapy practice in paediatric care globally

Ref #	Strategy	Responsible Group	Target Date	Status IP = In progress D = Deferred C = Complete Comments
2A	Identify needs of paediatric physiotherapists in member associations (via member survey and networking session)	Practice Executive Education	End 2025	IP
2B	Facilitate creation of work groups focused on special interests (e.g., School-based practice, Infant and early childhood interventions, ICF and Health promotion, Complex care / chronic pain, Mental Health)	Practice Research	End 2026	
2C	Identify resources/practice guidelines for high priority topics identified through the survey	Practice Research Education	Nov 2024	
2D	Identify resources available through member associations (fact sheets, clinical practice guidelines, and publications) and post on website. Post links to all guidelines and share fact sheets on the IOPTP website if IP granted to do so (otherwise share links)	Practice Research Education	Nov 2024 initially, then ongoing	
2E	Develop an IOPTP YouTube, LinkedIn and Instagram site to share resources outlined in 2D	Communication	End 2023	C
2F	Create opportunities for member organisations to share evidence-informed and family-centred physiotherapy practice resources.	Communication Executive	End 2026	Not started
2G	Inclusion of links to external evidence-based resources and websites that promote family-centred practice on our new IOPTP website.	Communication	End 2026	IP

2H	Share updated evidence informed resources with IOPTP members via the website.	Practice	Annually	IP
2I	Advocate for and support inclusion of paediatric content in professional entry-level physiotherapy education globally by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly updating recommended content areas to educational programs in IOPTP member countries Developing guidelines for paediatric clinical education standards in entry-level education Creating a supplement to current essential and recommended content areas in entry-level education with examples of learning strategies related to the content areas Identify suitable modes of assessment for paediatric curriculum. 	Education	Initially by end of 2025 and then reviewing each IOPTP Executive 4-year cycle.	IP – Research project completed to inform this project (4-Round International Delphi Survey complete and currently in analysis and write up mode).
2J	Seek and share information on post-entry level programs, residencies, fellowships and specialisation pathways in paediatric physiotherapy by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publishing details on the IOPTP Website from the most recent survey. Present webinar on clinical specialisation in paediatric physiotherapy. Explore other opportunities following the webinar 	Education	End 2026	
		Communication		
		Program		



GOAL 3: To provide programming, mentoring and education to support safe and effective paediatric physiotherapy

Ref #	Strategy	Responsible Group	Target Date	Status IP = In progress D = Deferred C = Complete Comments
3A	Plan programming for World Physiotherapy conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify priority topics and speakers Focus on topics that engage multiple subgroups Focus content on World Physiotherapy and WHO priorities Encourage proposals for posters and presentations Communicate the importance of delivering content across varied modalities: Indaba, seminars, posters/ e-posters Work with World Physiotherapy in appropriate roles (e.g. review abstracts) Consider developing a poster for the IOPTP booth Include IOPTP programming and events at World Physiotherapy Congress in the newsletter and social media posts in the lead up to the event. 	Program	Jun 2025	IP
		Research		
		Practice		
		Communication		
3B	Disseminate educational resources developed and supported by the IOPTP (such as webinars, infographics, and research summaries) through our website and social media pages.	Communication	December 2026	IP
3C	Develop process for mentoring Paediatric Physiotherapists by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completing a survey of member countries and members at World Physiotherapy congress to identify if this mentoring is still of high priority for them. Identify individuals willing to serve IOPTP members as mentors (clinical, education or research). Develop process for linking mentors to learners Contact leaders of IOPTP member organisations to seeking established mentoring programs / processes that they may be willing to share with the IOPTP for replication or modification. 	Education	By end 2026	
		Research		



GOAL 4: To encourage scientific research and promote knowledge translation globally in the field of paediatric physiotherapy

Ref #	Strategy	Responsible Group	Target Date	Status IP = In progress D = Deferred C = Complete Comments
4A	Organise the IOPTP Research Committee (including the creation of work groups), updating membership lists and creating an annual wheel of regular activities.	Research	End 2024	IP
4B	Submit a clinical seminar submission for WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY Congress in Tokyo (School-based physiotherapy) (Spinal Manipulation with IFOMPT).	Research	Aug 2024	C – Accepted clinical seminar
4C	Submit a clinical seminar submission for WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY Congress in Mexico.	Executive Research		
4D	Develop, advertise and administer an annual IOPTP research grant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop new grant Expression of Interest (EOI) form Seek approval for grant amount from Executive Post call for proposals Review proposals Select and award grant for selected proposal 	Research Executive Communication	Jan – April 2025, 2026, 2027	IP
4E	Update the IOPTP Research Grant Guidelines for Applicants annually.	Research	End 2023	C - 2024
4F	Design questions for IOPTP member survey to explore the priorities of members.	Research	Aug 2024	C
4G	Promote understanding of the ethics around clinical research and clinical practice to ensure protection of humans and patient /clients and their records.	Research Practice Education	Jun 2025	IP
4H	Validate three clinical guidelines that have been identified by IOPTP surveys and that have yet to be validated using World Physiotherapy resource on developing guidelines and AGREE 2 for appraising guidelines.	Research	End 2027	
4I	Update and revise the position statement on evidence-informed practice.	Research Practice Communication	End 2024	IP
4I	Re-develop the IOPTP website for currency and ease of access to evidence-based practice and research opportunities.	Communication	End 2024	IP



GOAL 5: To foster and facilitate cooperation with and between members of the IOPTP to develop and share resources and information

Ref #	Strategy	Responsible Group	Target Date	Status IP = In progress D = Deferred C = Complete Comments
5A	Work collaboratively with the IOPTP Webinar work group to plan evidence-based content that addresses current issues and interest of member organisations, with the aim of offering up to 4 webinars per calendar year.	Research Practice Program Education	Ongoing 2023-2027	IP
5B	Seek input from other committees and member organisations to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular communications. Explore the possibility of highlighting member organisations. Identify days of interest, celebrations and events relevant to the paediatric physiotherapists. 	Communication	Ongoing 2023-2027	IP
5C	Increase social media presence and posts.	Communication	Ongoing 2024-2027	IP
5D	Formally communicate with members of the IOPTP via letter / email to request sharing of resources with IOPTP practice committee – so these can be published with their permission on the IOPTP website.	Practice Communication	Annually	IP
5E	Prepare and disseminate information shared by member countries regarding meetings, professional seminars, continuing education on IOPTP website and social media platforms.	Education Communication	Quarterly	
5F	Plan networking sessions at World Physiotherapy congresses (i.e., 2025 and 2027).	Executive	By end of 2027	



PRIORITY 3: FACILITATING CONNECTIONS

	Education Committee	Led by Donna Cech, Yasser Salem and Barbara Connolly	
	Practice Committee	Led by Natalie Benjamin-Damons, Durga Shah and Karen Hurtubise	
	Program Committee	Led by Carissa Wengrovius and Dale Scalise-Smith	
	Research Committee	Led by Kine Johansen, Kirstin Macdonald and Nikki Milne	
	Communication Committee	Led by Cherie Zischke and Li-Chiou Chen	
	Executive	Led by Karen Hurtubise (IOPTP President)	

GOAL 6: To assist and advocate for World Physiotherapy member organisations to develop and grow paediatric physiotherapy

Ref #	Strategy	Responsible Group	Target Date	Status IP = In progress D = Deferred C = Complete Comments
6A	Communicate with WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY Member Organisations (MO's) to identify paediatric affiliated groups.	Executive - Dale Scalise-Smith	2023 - 2027	IP
6B	Connect with WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY Member Organisations (MO's) to participate in country or regional meetings informing groups about IOPTP.	Executive - Dale Scalise-Smith	2023 - 2027	IP
6C	Identify strategies to support low resourced countries' membership in IOPTP.	Executive - Dale Scalise-Smith	End 2026	

GOAL 7: To promote interactions and collaborations between the IOPTP and other World Physiotherapy specialty groups and relevant external organisations

Ref #	Strategy	Responsible Group	Target Date	Status IP = In progress D = Deferred C = Complete Comments
7A	Engage programming representatives from other World Physiotherapy specialty groups to identify topics relevant to both groups for World Physiotherapy Congress and IOPTP Webinars	Program	End 2024	
7B	Explore partnerships that would facilitate the activities of IOPTP committees	Executive	End 2025	

GOAL 8: To facilitate meaningful goal-oriented partnerships within and between IOPTP committees

Ref #	Strategy	Responsible Group	Target Date	Status IP = In progress D = Deferred C = Complete Comments
8A	The IOPTP Executive Committee to create an operational plan and disseminate the plan to the IOPTP Committees	Executive	Jan 2025	C
8B	Committee chairs to report at Board meetings back on progress towards the strategic plan (at Board Meetings)	Research Education Program Practice Communication	3 Board meetings per year.	



For questions regarding content included in the [IOPTP Operational Plan](#), please contact The Executive Board of the INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS IN PAEDIATRICS via secretary@ioptp.org