

THE IOPTP NEWSLETTER

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS IN PAEDIATRICS

IOPTP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KAREN HURTUBISE

Greetings IOPTP Member Organisation Members,

As someone inspired by people's stories throughout my research, clinical and personal work, I have used three quotes to guide this Newsletter address.

Quote 1: "Communication leads to community"

As stated in my address in August 2024 IOPTP Newsletter, the IOPTP Executive Committee (EC) and Board focused on enhancing communication and keeping the presidents of our member organisations (and their members) updated on our activities. Through these initiatives, we are not only aiming to continue to build community globally, but also to ensure connection and to strengthen the paediatric physiotherapy globally.

BUILDING COMMUNITY

Twenty-five representatives out of 35 member organisations attended the IOPTP General Meeting on October 29th, 2024. At that time, we welcomed the Vietnam Society of Pediatric Physiotherapy (VSPP) as a new member organisation along with IOPTP's first associate member, from Namibia. Thank you to IOPTP Vice President, Dale Scalise-Smith and member at large Li-Chiou Chen who facilitated these individuals and organisations in the application process and who maintain correspondence with other organisations and individuals wishing to join our global community.



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ENSURING CONNECTION

IOPTP also launched a new website (link: <https://www.ioptp.org/>) (thanks Cherie Zischke, Chair of the Communication Committee)! You can find updates, position statements, including the Paediatric Manipulation and Mobilisation 2024 Evidence-Based Practice Position Statement Policy Brief and the 2024 IOPTP Statement on evidence-based practice, [clinical practice guidelines](#) (in multiple languages) (thanks to Durga Shah and Natalie Damons, co-chairs, Practice Committee), access to a recording of a new webinar entitled [Paediatric Spinal Manipulation: The Evidence, The Risks, & What Clinicians Must Know!](#) and the [new IOPTP strategic plan](#). Please enjoy browsing and exploring all that our new website has to offer, and return frequently, as there is still more content to come.

STRENGTHENING PAEDIATRIC PHYSIOTHERAPY GLOBALLY

Furthermore, the 2023-2027 IOPTP strategic plan was presented. As outlined in the August Newsletter, the EC and Board undertook an extensive collaborative process to develop this plan. It aligns our vision, mission, and values with those of World Physiotherapy. Moreover, it sets out three strategic priorities for the upcoming years:

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;
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; and
3. **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.

Eight specific goals have been articulated to guide the work. Thank you to Nikki Milne, IOPTP Secretary for all her work on this initiative. Please see [2023-2027 IOPTP strategic plan](#) on our website for the infographic and further details.

Quote 2. “The most important thing in communication is to hear what isn't being said”

The IOPTP EC and the Board have taken several steps to evaluate the relevance of its activities to the paediatric physiotherapy global community. As such, many IOPTP surveys were initiated in 2024 to capture the perspectives and needs of the IOPTP member organisations, as a means of providing opportunities “to hear what was not being said”. We are grateful to all member organisation representatives who took the time to accept our invitation to share your perspectives and provide feedback, opinions and ideas.

As you will note in the pages that follow, the membership survey needs clearly align with the IOPTP's three strategic priorities areas (as per our strategic plan).

VALUED ACTIVITIES

Survey results highlight the value member organisations have attributed to the IOPTP series. Moreover, additional recent upgrades on how we communicate with member organisations (e.g., updates to websites, extension of social media channels and reach, purchase of an IOPTP Zoom account, regular emails) align with their preferences and what they value.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS AND ASSOCIATED ACTIVITIES

The target areas which emerged from the survey results highlight a strong focus on advocacy for paediatric physiotherapy and recognition of the unique knowledge, skills and competency its practice requires, and the development of and support for accessible professional development and clinical education to sustain it. Focus on the following six areas were recommended:

1. Advocate for the recognition of paediatric physiotherapy
2. Support for low-income countries
3. Development of specialised training programs
4. Increase collaboration and resource sharing with and between member organisations
5. Translate materials
6. Enhance flexibility of the webinar schedule

The IOPTP has already begun to address some of these areas and will continue to do so in the months ahead. Further details are presented later in various sections of this Newsletter (e.g., 2025 webinar series update). Be sure to take note of the upcoming Webinar 10 - Specialisation: The **What, Why** and **How**, April 29th, 2025, 11:00 am to 2:00 pm UTC. Survey results have also been integrated into the recently approved 2023-2027 IOPTP Operational Plan (coming soon to our website).

Quote 3. "In order to stay relevant, you have to stay open to new trends and keep educating yourself"

While we have collected a lot of information over the past year and set the strategic course for the IOPTP, we continue to strive to stay relevant. In an effort to stay abreast of new trends, educate ourselves on updated evidence, clinical and practice changes, and innovations in the field of paediatric physiotherapy, the upcoming World Physiotherapy Congress provides a platform to allow us to do this. You can find a summary of the paediatric programming later in this newsletter.

Of note, once again this year, the IOPTP EC will be hosting a networking session (world cafe style) on Wednesday, May 29th, 2025, 9:30-10:30 am (Tokyo local time). All attendees interested in paediatrics are invited to attend and engage in discussion on key topics facing the paediatric physiotherapy. A summary of these discussions will be available in the next Newsletter.

If you have conflicts with our session or have more to share, please visit us at the IOPTP booth, Booth #5 in the Exhibit Hall. Come tell us about yourself - we look forward to meeting you!

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me (president@ioptp.org)

Take care.
Sincerely,



Karen Hurtubise, PT, PhD
President, IOPTP
Email: president@ioptp.org



Membership Needs Survey Results

Purpose: To understand the needs and preferences of various paediatric physiotherapy organizations worldwide

89% of member countries participated.



Highly Valued Activities

- Webinars
- List of publications related to paediatric physiotherapy
- Facilitated discussion forums on clinical practice
- Translation of material

Preferred Access to Content

- IOPTP website
- YouTube Channel
- Social Media Posts (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram)
- Email



Key Recommendations

Advocate for paediatric physiotherapy

Promote the legal recognition of paediatric physiotherapists in various countries to ensure standardized practices and professional acknowledgment.

Support low income countries

Provide additional resources and support to low-income countries to help them develop and sustain paediatric physiotherapy services and promote continuous professional development.

Develop training programs

Create specialized training programs for paediatric physiotherapists to enhance their skills and knowledge in specific areas of practice.

Increase collaboration

Foster greater collaboration among member organizations to share resources, research, and best practices.

Translate materials

Translate key materials such as practice guidelines, position statements, and social media posts to make them accessible to non-English speaking members.

Enhance flexibility of webinar schedule

Adjust the timing of webinars and online events to accommodate different time zones, ensuring broader participation.



welcome

NEW IOPTP MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

During the IOPTP Annual Membership meeting, held on Zoom October 29, 2024 one new member organisation and one associate member were approved as the newest members to the IOPTP. The new member organisation is the Vietnam Society of Pediatric Physiotherapy (VSPP), a subgroup of the Vietnam Physical Therapy Association (VNPTA). VSPP President Giao and Treasurer Doan were in attendance.

Ms. Zenra Buys, a member of the Namibian Society of Physiotherapy, was supported in her application as an Associate Member of the IOPTP. Ms. Buys membership was approved and she was welcomed to IOPTP at the Member meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dale Scalise-Smith, PT, DPT, Ph.D
Vice President, IOPTP



RESEARCH UPDATES FROM THE IOPTP

PEDIATRIC SPINAL MANIPULATION: THE EVIDENCE, THE RISKS, & WHAT CLINICIANS MUST KNOW!

PODCAST

Earlier this year, Dr Anita Gross and Dr Nikki Milne recorded a video podcast on paediatric spinal manipulation. You can watch this podcast by visiting our website:

<https://www.ioptp.org/webinars>



WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY CONGRESS 2025

The World Physiotherapy Congress 2025 will take place from the 29th - 31st May, 2025 in Tokyo, Japan.

Representatives and members of the IOPTP will be in attendance from across the globe. A summary of some of the key paediatric physiotherapy events are listed below:

Time and Location	Presenters/ Chairs	Session
May 29th 9:30-10:30 Hall A 6F Foyer Paediatrics (NWS-02)	Karen Hurtubise, Nikki Milne	Networking session: The networking session will be World Café style where participants will have the opportunity to discuss with colleagues from around the world issues challenging the field of paediatric physiotherapy (e.g., entry-level vs. specialisation vs. advanced practice recognition; practice guidelines; evidence-based practice approaches).
May 29th 11:15-11:45 ePO-117	Elanor Main	Paediatrics: ePoster
May 29th 11:45-12:15 ePO-117	César Sá	Paediatrics: ePoster
May 29th 12:15-13:15 Hall D1 (PL-49)	Manon Bloemen	Paediatrics: Cerebral Palsy (Platform Abstracts)
May 29th 12:15-13:15 Hall D1 (PL-46)	Barbara Connolly	Paediatrics (Platform Abstracts)
May 29th 16:00-17:00 Hall C Paediatrics (FS-04)	Chanan Goyal	Using technology with children with neurodevelopmental conditions (Focused Symposium)
May 30th 8:00-9:00 Hall D1 (PL-48)	Karen Hurtubise	Paediatrics: Cerebral Palsy (Platform Abstracts)
May 30th 9:45-10:15 ePO-116	Karen Hurtubise	Paediatrics: ePoster
May 30th 12:15-13:15 Hall B7-1 (PL-47)	Hua-Fang Liao	Paediatrics (Platform Abstracts)
May 30th 13:15-13:45 ePO-119	Harriet Shannon	Paediatrics: ePoster
May 30th 14:30-15:30 Paediatrics (CS-08)	Kirstin MacDonald	The scope of school-based physiotherapy (Clinical Seminar)

WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY CONGRESS 2025

Time and Location	Presenters/ Chairs	Session
May 30th 16:15-16:45 ePO-120	Alberta Amissah Nyarko	Paediatrics: ePoster
May 31st 9:00-9:30 ePO-113	Bart Vanthillo	Paediatrics: ePoster
May 31st 9:45-10:15 ePO-118	Nihad Almasri	Paediatrics: ePoster
May 31st 11:00-11:30 ePO-112	Hua-Fang Liao	Paediatrics: ePoster
May 31st 12:00-13:00 Hall B7-2 (CS-07)	Anita Gross	Spinal manipulation and mobilisation in paediatrics (Clinical Seminar)
May 31st 14:30-15:00 ePO-115	Christopher McCarthy	Paediatrics: ePoster



World
Physiotherapy
Congress 2025
TOKYO | 東京

[Register for congress](#)

29-31
May
2025





IOPTP COMMITTEE UPDATES

IOPTP EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The IOPTP Education committee has completed two surveys in the past year, gathering more information from member organisations related to recognition of advanced practice in paediatric physiotherapy in their countries (specialisation processes currently being used or being developed), and updating some information on entry-level physiotherapy education related to paediatrics. The information will be used for the webinar, “Specialisation: The What, Why and How” being presented on April 29, 2025.

The Education committee also continues to review entry-level education in paediatric physiotherapy practices across member countries and the IOPTP position statement “Paediatric Essential and Recommended Content Areas in Entry Level Professional Physical Therapy Education Statement”.



The International Organisation of Physiotherapists in Paediatrics
Invites you to our 10th INTERNATIONAL Webinar

Specialization: The What, Why and How?

April 29th 2025
CE Hours 3.0

11:00 am to 2:00 pm UTC*
7:00 am to 10:00 am EDT

*** To identify your time zone: <https://www.worldtimebuddy.com>**

SPEAKERS & MODERATORS

Donna Cech PT ,DHS,PCS (USA)

Yasser Salem PT, PhD, MS, NCS, PCS (USA)

and a Global Panel representing countries who currently have or are in the process of developing advanced pediatric specialization

I. PURPOSE

The Purpose of this webinar is to gain an understanding of advanced specialization in pediatric physiotherapy , the various models of specialization among member countries, and support member countries developing specialization

II. OBJECTIVES

- Identify the benefits of specialization in pediatric physiotherapy
- Identify the challenges to develop a specialization in pediatric physiotherapy
- Identify and utilize resources available to develop a specialization in pediatric physiotherapy

III. AUDIENCE

The primary audience for this session is pediatric physiotherapists, physiotherapy educators, and researchers.

Registration Deadline April 20

Registration Link and QR Code:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IOPTPWebinar10Registration>



IOPTP COMMITTEE UPDATES

IOPTP COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE

Over the past 12-months, the Communication Committee have been working hard on re-developing our new website. Head to <https://www.ioptp.org> to check it out!

Please follow us on our social media channels for updates about the IOPTP.



YouTube: www.youtube.com/@IOPTP



Instagram: [ioptp.physiotherapy](https://www.instagram.com/ioptp.physiotherapy)



LinkedIn: International Organisation of Physiotherapists in Paediatrics

SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Submissions are now being sourced for our next newsletter. If you have any updates or news stories that you would like to share with our readership, please contact the Chair of the Communications Committee, Cherie Zischke: communication.ioptp@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER COMPILED BY THE IOPTP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

For submissions or questions regarding the newsletter please contact the newsletter editor and Chair of the IOPTP communication committee:

Dr Cherie Zischke PT, PhD | communication.ioptp@gmail.com

