

The IOPTP Newsletter

The International Organisation of Physical Therapists in Paediatrics

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President's Message

Barbara H. Connolly PT, DPT, EdD, FAPTA USA

Hello IOPTP member countries

Our big news is that we have 4 new member elect countries in the IOPTP! The following organizations who represent the paediatric group within their WCPT member country have been approved as member elects:

Professional Network on Paediatrics (Physio Austria)

**Japan Society of Physical Therapy for Pediatrics
(Japanese Physical Therapy Association)**

**Grupo de interesse de Fisioterapia em Pediatria
(Associacao Portuguesa de Fisioterapeutas)**

**Paediatric Subgroup of Turkish Physiotherapy
Association (Turkish Physiotherapy Association).**

These four organizations join the paediatric groups from Korea and Nigeria as member elects. All of these organizations will be voted upon as full members at our general meeting which will be held during the WCPT Congress. The IOPTP will be accepting applications for membership until March 2015. Please contact me if the paediatric group in your country is interested in joining and the application steps will be sent to you.

We are in the midst of many preparations for the 2015 WCPT Congress which will be held in Singapore . Every week there seems to be more and more information on the WCPT website and emails that I have been forwarding to all of you via your paediatric organization chairs/presidents.

Of particular interest to physical therapists working in paediatrics are the following sessions which are sponsored or co-sponsored by the IOPTP :

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For submissions or questions regarding the newsletter please contact the newsletter editor Erin Wentzell PT, DPT, PCS at ewentzell@gmail.com

Coordinating Postural Stability with Breathing, Talking, Eating and Continence. A post congress course co-sponsored by the IOPTP on May 5, 2015. The speakers are Mary Massery (US) and Paul Hodges (Australia).

IOPTP Education Session (date to be announced).

The IOPTP will be holding an education session during the congress which will present a global perspective on best practices in paediatric evaluation tools and therapeutic interventions used with infants and children with motor impairments. This session represents the first efforts of the IOPTP in addressing paediatrics in relationship to the current WCPT guidelines on physical therapist professional entry level education . The topic of common knowledge bases needed in paediatrics will also be one of the topics at the IOPTP networking session which will be held on May 1st or 2nd during the Conference.

IOPTP Networking Session (date to be announced)

The networking session will allow for discussions on numerous topics among physical therapists in paediatrics. The proposed topics include basic paediatric content in entry level physical therapist educational programs, fostering international research collaboration, international service opportunities and family centered. *We are still working on **adding topics** so please email me with suggestions that you might have.*

The WCPT is looking for abstracts of research or special interest reports for presentation at the 2015 Congress. Please go to www.wcpt.org to get more information on how to submit your abstracts. Deadline for submission is October 31, 2014.

We look forward to seeing many of you in person in Singapore in 2015 and encourage you to interact with the IOPTP through our committees and through our Facebook pages.

Best Wishes to all of you!

Barbara H. Connolly DPT, EdD, FAPTA

President, IOPTP



The IOPTP FACEBOOK page is a great resource for upcoming events and information on the IOPTP and the WCPT Congress. It is also a great resource for information on pediatric physical therapy with an international perspective on research, practice and advocacy.



Clinical Spotlight: Assistive Technology

Toy and Technology Lending Libraries



The Toy and Technology Library (TTL) is an exciting, nonprofit resource for Ohio's children with disabilities, their families and the professionals who serve them. The TTL is a free resource for families. The goal of the Library is to enhance the development and play skills of children with special needs and to provide resources to parents and professionals regarding assistive technology and play. The Toy and Technology Library is a nonprofit program of the Nisonger Center, a University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities located at The Ohio State University.

The TTL has over 1500 different items available for loan including: specially chosen toys to support specific development and play skills, switch-activated toys, switches, and simple communication devices. Additionally, the Library has computer technologies available for families and professionals to preview including: switch interfaces, adapted keyboard, mouse alternatives, specialized computer software and iPad apps. These items allow families to explore different options before making purchases. Because training is offered on how to use the various assistive technologies, many families and professionals access the TTL to learn how to use hardware and software they have already purchased.

The Toy and Technology Library has a satellite at Nationwide Children's Hospital. This allows families at NCH to access all the available items at the Library without having to actually travel to OSU. This has been a tremendous support to families that are juggling so many appointments and therapy sessions for their child.

The TTL staff provides presentations regarding assistive technology to parent groups in Central Ohio. In addition, presentations are given to both graduate and undergraduate students on a wide range of assistive technology related topics. Mary Jo Wendling, OTR/L, manager of the TTL has presented at both state and national conferences on assistive technology topics including: access to the visual arts, access to the general curriculum, and access to play. The TTL has partnered with the Green Engineers Student Group at OSU to assist them in learning how to adapt toys, making them switch accessible.

To learn more about the Toy and Technology Library, please visit our website:

<http://nisonger.osu.edu/ttlibrary> or contact Mary Jo Wendling, OTR/L at mary.wendling@osumc.edu

Lekotek- Toy Libraries, Education and Play



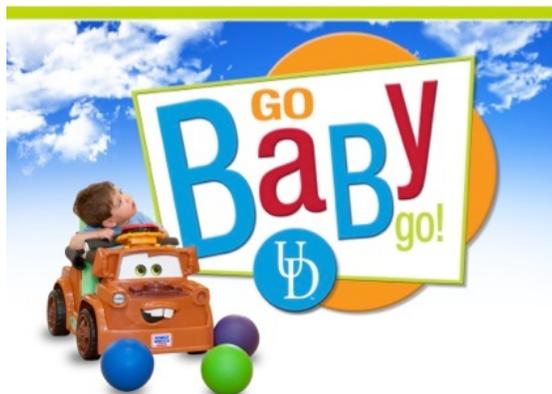
Lekotek

A division of Anixter Center

Lekotek is another example of a toy lending library. The company believes that play is a crucial part of childhood and needs to be developed and cultivated with the right toys. Toys are chosen to fit the needs, age and ability of the child in order to foster growth and play. “Lekotek provides partnership programs for professionals in the community, including toy lending, continuing education and family referral.” For more information on Lekotek visit: <http://www.lekotek.org/general-info/about-lekotek/what-the-heck-is-lekotek>



GoBabyGo- Researching how to move kids forward with a new take on assistive technology



Some may say our lab is more of a toy store than a research facility, and it may seem that way at first glance. While our devices are aimed towards play, our goal is to make it possible for special needs kids to be just as wild and independent as typically developing children. As humans, it is a basic right of ours to move freely and make decisions by ourselves. However, when you reduce or remove the ability of a person to move, you also greatly reduce the ability to make personal decisions. Through a mash up of child development, engineering, and physical therapy knowledge our lab strives to create equally rehabilitative and fun devices that put the freedom of decision making back in these childrens' hands.



GoBabyGo is the answer for many families with disabled children. Power wheels in familiar character forms are bought off the shelves at toy stores, and are modified to fit each child's specific needs. If a child lacks control of his/her arms, we modify the car to be controlled via a head switch. Likewise, if a child has trouble standing, we can modify the car so that it only works when the child stands. This kind of modification encourages the child to stand, making the car a form of physical therapy.

We release how-to manuals for each toy car, and encourage people from around the world to modify their own cars. This has led to an overwhelming amount of support and interest, and it has even resulted in several satellite GoBabyGo groups around the world!

For more information on GoBabyGo visit: <http://www.udel.edu/gobabygo/>



Additional articles featuring the amazing work of the GoBabyGo Team can be found at these links:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/02/24/toy-store_n_4847954.html

<http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2014/jan/nsf-infant-mobility-011314.html>

<http://www.udel.edu/udaily/2013/jun/gobabygo-global-061113.html>

Member Spotlight: Celebrating the Work of Amazing Therapists Around the Globe.

Today we recognize Lori Baxter. Thank you Lori for what you bring to our profession, your patients and the community!



"Lori exercise class"- teaching an exercise class after educating them on the importance of health and wellness to children in a Mayan village

Lori Baxter, PT, DPT, MPH, is an exemplary PT in our community and around the world. After receiving her Bachelors of Arts in Exercise Science at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, Lori completed her dual degree Doctor of Physical Therapy and Masters in Public Health from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. Lori's background as a Teach for America Bilingual Elementary School teacher sparked her interest in working with children, and she later practiced pediatric physical therapy at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. Her passion for serving others and ensuring quality rehabilitation and health services to all individuals led her work with adult and geriatric populations and to travel extensively to better understand the public health needs in underserved communities around the world. As a result, Lori took a position as Rehabilitation Director at Hillside Health Care International, which provides free medical services and health education to the people of Southern Belize (www.hillsidebelize.org).



"Lori mobile clinic"- providing physical therapy and rehabilitation services in a remote village. With the mobile truck Lori used to forge rivers and access remote villages to provide free health services and education on community on injury and disease prevention.

In addition to her daily work of delivering rehabilitation services to patients and families in the local clinic, in their homes, and in their remote villages, Lori manages the Rehabilitation Department and teaches and mentors PT students from around the US during their clinical affiliations in Belize. Lori has created multiple initiatives and community outreach services and programs to educate individuals in the community. These include workplace injury prevention, neck and low back pain prevention and management, disability awareness, water wellness aquatic therapy classes, local radio station public service announcements, and much more. Lori uses great creativity to motivate and connect with her Belizean patients and community that are comprised of several diverse cultures including Mayan, Mestizo, Creole, Garifuna, and East Indian populations.



"Lori water wellness"- teaching the water wellness aquatic class after educating them on the importance of health, fitness, and wellness to local Belizeans. Lori is pictured with a PT student and the Hillside Belizean staff who Lori trained to help her lead the class. The participants and other individuals in the community have already been requesting additional future classes!

Due to her dedication, thousands of individuals are receiving care and learning to improve their health and wellbeing to better themselves, their families, and their communities for years to come. In both her professional and personal lives, she demonstrates exemplary qualities as a PT, an educator, and a citizen of the world. No matter what obstacle or challenge Lori has faced in order to serve her communities, she continues to share her personal warmth and contagious smile. We look forward to following her journey of service in our backyard and around the world.



Lori was nominated by fellow physical therapist Caroline McClain.

Do you know a pediatric physical therapist who is doing amazing work that you would like to recognize? We will be highlighting the accomplishments of our members every newsletter. Please contact:

Erin Wentzell at: ewentzell@gmail.com

WCPT News...

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress is fast approaching



Where the world of physical therapy meets

Registration is now open for the world's largest and most influential international physical therapy gathering.

With a month before the **early bird deadline of 2nd October 2014** register now to save up to 20%!! For information about registration go to: www.wcpt.org/congress/registration

To see the most recent information about the WCPT Congress read the latest edition of the Congress Update at: www.wcpt.org/congress/update

September 8, 2014 is World Physical Therapy Day



How did you celebrate? Share what you did to spread the message of fitness and health for everyone. For more information about World PT Day check out the Tool Kit from the WCPT at <http://www.wcpt.org/wptday-toolkit>

World Confederation for Physical Therapy
CONGRESS 2015
Singapore

1-4 May 2015



Registration now open!
Early bird deadline 2 October

www.wcpt.org/congress

Host:
Singapore Physiotherapy
Association



**World Confederation
for Physical Therapy**

Representing physical therapists worldwide