

The International Organisation of Physical Therapists in Paediatrics

2011

A Guide to the WCPT Congress for IOPTP Members



Schedule Snap-Shot

The WCPT Congress website (www.wcpt.org/congress) contains to see the details and all the events you can look forward to at the Congress, below is a quick look at events related to the IOPTP.

The website also identifies Paediatric specific topics with an overview of the Congress schedule at http://wcpt.org/sites/wcpt.org/files/files/WPT2011-Paediatrics_program.pdf

- Business Meeting: Tuesday June 21, 2011 from 9:00 to 11:00am
 - Designated delegates, officers, committee members and chairpersons of the IOPTP will attend this meeting. The agenda will include officer and committee reports, election of new officers and announcements. Minutes will be posted on the website for all members after the meeting.
- Board Meeting: June 21, 2011
 - During this meeting the officers and committee chairs will finalize the vision, mission and strategic plan for the IOPTP. This closed meeting will be a great step forward for the future of the IOPTP and once the documents are finalized we will share them with all the IOPTP members.
- Networking Sessions
 - Stop by to meet paediatric physical therapists from around the world, the WCPT Congress is a great opportunity to create research, clinical and professional partnerships that will last long after the congress is over.
 - Tuesday June 21, Wednesday June 22, Thursday June 23: Meet the researchers and editors
 - Thursday June 23: Networking Session for the IOPTP and Special Olympics FunFitness
- Platforms, Posters, Discussion sessions related to paediatrics
 - Tuesday June 20, Wednesday June 21 and Thursday June 22
- Paediatric Scientific Programmes- Focused Symposia
 - Thursday June 23: Fit-active-habits: Measuring fitness and physical activity in cerebral palsy
- Paediatric Scientific Programmes- Discussion Panels
 - Tuesday June 21: Evidence based exercise prescription: raising the standard of delivery
 - Wednesday June 22: Promoting health, preventing disability: are physical therapists playing their part?
- Paediatric Satellite Programmes
 - Monday June 20: Physical activity for clinical populations: Measurement and Interventions
 - Tuesday June 21: Physiotherapeutic management of anorectal dysfunction in adults and children
 - Thursday June 22: Interventions for stability aspects of motor control: Developmental and neurologic disorders across the lifespan
- Paediatric Clinical Visits
 - Tuesday June 20, Wednesday June 21 and Thursday June 22
- Post-conference event: Friday June 24 and Saturday June 25, 2011
 - Global perspectives on decision-making, measurement, and participation of children with disabilities

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As you prepare to depart for Amsterdam here is a look at the leaders in the IOPTP, these amazing therapists work hard to facilitate the great work of physical therapists around the world. If you are interested in becoming more involved in the IOPTP please talk to any of them at the Congress or email them directly. We welcome you to join us!

IOPTP Executive Board Officers

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IOPTP Committees

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Chair: Erin Wentzell (USA) ewentzell@gmail.com

EDUCATION

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PRACTICE

Chair: Yvonne Burns (Australia) y.burns@shrs.up.edu.au

PROGRAM

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RESEARCH

Chair: Ann Van Sant (USA) Ann.vansant@temple.edu

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Chair: Toby Long (USA) longt@georgetown.edu



Awards to be presented at 60th anniversary dinner

Sixteen physical therapists will be honoured with WCPT Awards, to be announced at a Gala Dinner during the WCPT Congress in Amsterdam, Holland, in June.

The awards, being presented for the second time, recognise outstanding contributions and leadership made by physical therapists to the profession and/or global health at an international level. Nominations were sent in by member organisations, regions and subgroups last year, and then considered by an Awards Committee, with representatives from each region and chaired by WCPT Vice President Zola Dantile. Their recommendations then went to the WCPT Executive Committee for final approval.

Along with the Mildred Elson Award, presented each General Meeting to a physical therapist who has demonstrated outstanding international leadership, there are three categories:

- the International Service Award
- the Humanitarian Service Award
- the Recognition of Service to WCPT Award

The presentation of awards will be the centrepiece of a WCPT Gala Dinner, held the day before the official congress opening, which will celebrate WCPT's 60th anniversary. Those attending are being encouraged to wear national dress.

For further information about the gala dinner go to www.wcpt.org/congress/socials#gala. Further about the WCPT congress may be found at www.wcpt.org/congress.



Dutch physical therapy push ahead with professional autonomy

The introduction of direct access to physical therapy services in the Netherlands in 1996 has proved so successful that, five years on, almost half of patients come to physical therapists without referral. This is among the achievements that delegates to the WCPT Congress in June will have the opportunity to learn about from Dutch delegates.

Before 2006, evaluation and treatment by a physical therapist in the Netherlands were only possible following referral by a physician. It is WCPT's official view that all patients should have direct access, without referral, to physical therapists, and the Netherlands is one of the most recent countries to introduce this policy.

Now, following the successful introduction of direct access (also known as self-referral), the Royal Dutch Society for Physical Therapy (KNGF) says it is seeking to further extend professional autonomy by making it possible for physical therapists to refer patients on to medical and other specialists, and prescribe medications. It has begun talks with government on these issues.

"The government here, as elsewhere in the world, is very concerned about rising health care costs," says Victorine de Graaf, KNGF's Senior Professional Advisor. "We're trying to demonstrate to them that giving physical therapists power to refer on will save money. Studies in Scandinavia, where this policy has already been introduced, show a decrease in costs, because people are referred to consultants only when they really need it."

The KNGF believes there are other aspects of Dutch physical therapy that are progressive, and make it of great interest to congress visitors. Hans Redeker, Manager of Strategy and Development at KNGF, says the society is very proud of the number of high quality clinical guidelines available to support physical therapists in the Netherlands. Because these are multidisciplinary in outlook, they firmly establish the place and status of physical therapists within the team. They also provide a firm basis on which the government can decide which services to fund, and which not.

One of the big current professional issues in the Netherlands is the introduction of new performance indicators for professionals working in general practice, in private clinics. "We have developed and tested them in cooperation with government and the insurance companies, and now we are trying to implement them," says Hans Redeker. "It's the moment of truth. Implementing them for the whole nation isn't easy, and there are some technical and logistical issues."

He believes that Dutch physical therapists at the WCPT Congress will enjoy meeting international colleagues, and discussing some of these issues with them. "You will be visiting a nice country with kind people, and we are looking forward to meeting everyone," he says.

To register for World Physical Therapy 2011 go to www.wcpt.org/congress/registration.



How WCPT Congresses have moved physical therapy forward

Since the first WCPT Congress held in London in 1953, there have been 15 world physical therapy congresses held by WCPT all over the globe. Their impact on the profession has been profound, according to some of the profession's most senior figures.

"WCPT congresses have evolved over time, and have always allowed physical therapists to participate, share knowledge and appreciate the contribution of their global colleagues," says Doreen Moore-Wheelwright from Australia, who was WCPT President from 1970 to 1974. "The congress is stimulating, educational and enjoyable and gives participants a sense of pride in their profession."

David Teager, former Head of the North London School of Physiotherapy in the UK and WCPT President from 1995 to 1999 was a second year student physiotherapist at the time of the first congress in London. "It appeared to take place largely under the patronage of the medical profession – perhaps a necessary step in the emergence of a legitimate and independent health care profession," he observes.

Things were very different 38 years later, when WCPT held its congress in 1991 in London for the second time. Around 3,000 people attended. "How things had moved on!" says David Teager. "The congress was marked by the range of nationalities attending and a growing awareness of the relevance of physical therapy in global health care."

The forthcoming congress in Amsterdam will far exceed that number of delegates, and is likely to prove influential in setting a professional agenda for individual physical therapists and their organisations over the next decade, according to current WCPT President Marilyn Moffat. "More than ever, the profession is gaining global awareness, and at congresses they have a real opportunity to stand shoulder to shoulder," she says.

Ann Moore, who is Chair of the International Scientific Programme organising this year's congress programme, says the content of past congresses has had a lasting impact on her.

"I have personally been influenced by my increased knowledge of different practices in different parts of the world, and the impact that culture has on these practices," says Moore, who is Professor of Physiotherapy at Brighton University. "Over the last two decades, I have been drawn into the issue of research capacity building by conversations and discussions that have taken place

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during congress sessions where individual physical therapists have often stated that they feel unsupported to carry out research that they would like to do.”

“I know of individuals who have met potential research collaborators who they never knew existed before congress. These potential collaborations in many cases have come to fruition and have produced new doctoral students as a result.”

“One of the most motivational aspects of the WCPT Congress is the large number of cutting-edge research and professional development projects that are presented. We have the opportunity to view hundreds of posters and speak to their authors first hand. Looking deeply at these poster presentations gives us wider knowledge of the findings and outcomes of the projects and increases the potential for similar initiatives to occur in other parts of the world.”

If you want to be part of building the profession’s history at a WCPT Congress, you can register here www.wcpt.org/congress



Even if you cannot attend the Congress please stay tuned for updates on the strategic plan, vision and future goals of the IOPTP and reports from the sessions and meetings in Amsterdam.

We look forward to seeing you in Amsterdam next month and anticipate a wonderful week of networking, education, and collaboration.

For those of you members who will be attending the Congress and are willing to contribute to an upcoming newsletter please email me,

Erin Wentzell (USA)

IOPTP Newsletter Editor

ewentzell@gmail.com