

The International Organisation of Physical Therapists in Paediatrics

2011

The President's Message

The beautiful city of Amsterdam was host to more than 5,300 physical therapists from 115 countries in June. The number of therapists who traveled long distances to attend this exciting conference was amazing. Among those who attended were pediatric physical therapists who were pleased at the increased number of presentations, posters and networking sessions that were focused on pediatrics.



As president of the IOPTP, I was impressed with the number of therapists who attended the sessions sponsored or supported by the IOPTP! The first session was the General Meeting of the IOPTP which was held early morning on the first day of the Conference.

We had 13 of our 15 countries represented with only South Africa and Hong Kong not able to attend. That means 87% participation which is absolutely wonderful! During the meeting, Germany was elected as a new member. Prior to the IOPTP General Meeting, numerous other countries had approached the Executive Committee about applying for membership during the next year. We anticipate that many member elect countries will join us during the coming year.

The minutes from the General Meeting are included in this newsletter and are posted on the IOPTP website. You will be able to review the activities of the IOPTP during its period of "infancy" by reading the officer and committee reports. We are looking forward to launching new initiatives based upon our strategic plan that has been developed by the Executive Committee and Chairs of the IOPTP Committees. We hope that all of our member countries will participate in these new initiatives by serving on committees, on task forces, or by responding to requests for information.

The IOPTP has a new Vice President! Anne Berle Robstad (Norway) was elected for a 4 year term at the General Meeting. We are also welcoming two new Committee Chairs, Esther deRu (Netherlands) as chair of the practice committee and Eva Brogren Carlberg (Sweden) as chair of the education committee.

Early on the third day of the conference (7:00 am!) , the networking session for the IOPTP was held. Over 90 participants joined discussion groups that addressed issues including:

- ◇ Basic competencies in paediatric physical therapy
- ◇ Collaborative research opportunities
- ◇ Evaluation and treatment of children with different diagnoses
- ◇ Practice Settings
- ◇ Promoting Physical Activity in Children/Tackling Obesity
- ◇ Use of technology in paediatric physical therapy

What an incredible experience to sit and discuss topics with clinicians, educators, and researchers around the world only to discover how much we all have in common. The ideas generated by each of the groups in the networking sessions will be used in the coming year as we develop strategic activities for each of the committees of the IOPTP. For example, is there an international template for paediatric clinical competency that could be developed for the new graduate? Another area that created much interest was the development of new clinical practice guidelines in paediatrics as well as the sharing of currently developed guidelines. Perhaps we could all be more successful if we partnered internationally. The summary of networking sessions is posted on the IOPTP website under “ minutes” for your review. I think you will be as energized by the discussions as we were in Amsterdam.

The presentations and poster sessions that focused on paediatrics were extremely well attended. Standing room only occurred in the presentations and new and exciting research findings were presented. The only criticisms that I heard was that everyone wanted more time to ask questions of the presenters!

Congratulations are to be given to the following IOPTP members who received awards at the WCPT for outstanding presentations or posters:

Regional Awards :

Africa

Nicole Hilburn (South Africa)

THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE INFANT GROSS MOTOR SCREENING TEST TO EVALUATE INFANTS WHO ARE HIV POSITIVE

North America Caribbean

Kelly Brewer (Canada)

RELIABILITY OF THE COMMUNITY BALANCE AND MOBILITY SCALE IN CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH AN ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

Research report awards:

Research report poster discussion

Karen Koldewijn (Netherlands)

THE RELIABILITY, SENSITIVITY AND RESPONSIVENESS OF THE INFANT BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT (IBA) TO EVALUATE NEUROBEHAVIORAL ORGANIZATION IN VERY PRETERM BORN INFANTS

Special interest report awards:

Special interest poster discussion

Isabel Lane (United Kingdom)

ADAPTATION OF A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH TO EDUCATING CHILDREN WITH CEREBRAL PALSY AND THEIR FAMILIES IN TANZANIA

SUBGROUP AWARDS

International Organisation of Physical Therapists in Paediatrics

Victoria Moerchen (United States of America)

ENHANCING THE TREADMILL CONTEXT: IMPLICATIONS FOR PRACTICE WITH INFANTS WITH MYELOMENINGOCELE

The Satellite Conference held the last days of the conference addressed **Global perspectives on Decision-making, Measurement, and Participation of Children with Disabilities**. A total of 41 paediatric physical therapists (participants and speakers) from 20 countries attended this 2 day course. The course consisted of three major presentations on **Clinical Decision –Making Framework , Measurement Model & Tests for Children with Cerebral Palsy and Enabling Participation of Children & Youth with Cerebral Palsy**. In addition to the presentations, the participants were able to have question and answer sessions throughout the 2 days both in formal and informal venues. The powerpoint presentations from the **Clinical Decision –Making Framework** session which was sponsored by the IOPTP is posted on the IOPTP website. Information from the 2 other presentations , **Measurement Model & Tests for Children with Cerebral Palsy and Enabling Participation of Children & Youth with Cerebral Palsy** is posted on several CanChild websites. You can access this information at www.canchild.ca/en/measurements/saromm.asp , www.canchild.ca/en/ourresearch/moveplay.asp and www.motorgrowth.canchild.ca/en/GMFCS/familyreportquestionnaire.asp.

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2011



The IOPTP is planning a conference to be held in 2013. The location has not been determined but the countries of Turkey, Panama and New Zealand are being considered. We again will be meeting at the 2015 WCPT meeting which will be held in Singapore. Begin your plans to attend!



Sincerely,

Barbara Connolly, President of the IOPTP

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2011

The WCPT in Amsterdam was a huge success and it was great to have so many paediatric therapists gathered together during the business meeting and the educational sessions to network, collaborate and learn. While the glow from the canals and tulips fades behind us we at the IOPTP are looking forward to the future and to the next WCPT in 2015 in Singapore.

The Executive Board is hard at work already planning for the next WCPT and a possible interim conference in 2013 co-sponsored with the Private Practice and Women's Health organizations. Along with program planning the Executive Board and Committee Chairs have been working diligently on the mission and vision statement for the IOPTP in order better direct our actions and purpose world-wide. By creating a strong vision for the future we ensure that the IOPTP becomes a reference and resource for member countries, as well as an integral piece for providing skilled and quality physical therapy in our increasingly global world. Through a thorough and ambitious Strategic Plan the committees of the IOPTP strive to unite paediatric physical therapists world-wide in knowledge, practice and research.

As you may know the membership of the IOPTP is made up of 16 countries. It is the goal of the Executive Board and the Committee Chairs to have representation from every country in the IOPTP in order for the personal and specific needs of each member country to be heard and addressed. We need your help to ensure that in the next four years we can work towards achieving the goals of the IOPTP.

In this edition of the IOPTP newsletter we will highlight the committees and the work that is being done in each. In the future once the mission, vision and strategic plans are ratified they will be published. It is our hope that by highlighting the amazing work the committees are doing you will be inspired to join them and help make this organization even more dynamic and vibrant.

IOPTP Executive Board Officers

PRESIDENT: Barbara Connolly (USA)

VICE PRESIDENT: Ellin Ekeland (Norway)

TREASURER: Ria Nijhuis-van der Sanden (Netherlands)

SECRETARY: Sheree York (USA)

AT-LARGE MEMBER: Hilda Mulligan (New Zealand)

IOPTP Committees

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

EDUCATION Chair: Eline Rygh (Norway) er@fysio.no

PRACTICE Chair: Ester de Ru (Netherlands) estherderu@gmail.com

The International Organisation of Physical Therapists in Paediatrics

2011

PROGRAM Chair: Dale Scalise-Smith (USA) dscalise-smith@utica.edu

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

Through the IOPTP we can meet therapists who share the same passion we do about helping children and their families, we can learn from one another and we can help one another succeed. The IOPTP is only as strong and as passionate as it's members so become involved today and help direct the future of this organization!

Member Countries

- [Australian Physiotherapy Paediatrics Special Interest Group](#) (Australia)
- [Canadian Physiotherapy Association Paediatric Division](#) (Canada)
- [Fagforum for boernefysioterapi under Danske Fysioterapeuter](#) (Denmark)
- [Fachkommission Pädiatrie und Jugendmedizin](#) (Germany)
- [Paediatric Specialty Group Hong Kong Physiotherapy Association](#) (Hong Kong)
- Chartered Physiotherapists in Paediatrics (Ireland)
- [Fisioterapia Pediatrica AIFI](#) (Italy)
- [Dutch Association for Pediatric Physical Therapy \(NVFK\)](#) (Netherlands)
- [New Zealand Society of Physiotherapists Paediatric Special Interest Group](#) (New Zealand)
- [Norsk Fysioterapeutforbund - faggrupper for barne-og ungdomsfysioterapi](#) (Norway)
- [South African Society of Physiotherapy Paediatric Physiotherapy Group](#) (South Africa)
- [Sektionen för habilitering och pediatrik](#) (Sweden)
- [Physiotherapia Paediatrica](#) (Switzerland)
- [Physical Therapy Association of ROC](#) (Taiwan)
- [American Physical Therapy Association Section on Pediatrics](#) (United States of America)

The IOPTP is a sub-group of the WCPT and thus membership is open to any country who is a member in good standing of the WCPT. Applications for membership are available through the Executive Committee and must be voted on and passed by the Committee.

Member duties include:

- following the IOPTP Constitution
- payment of subscriptions
- sending a voting delegate to at least one out of two consecutive general meetings
- informing the Executive Committee of any events or developments in their countries of interest to the IOPTP
- promoting the objective and work of the IOPTP
- and maintaining good standing with their National Association.

Contact Barbara Connolly (USA) for more information on becoming a member bconnoll@uthsc.edu



The Research Committee led by Ann Van Sant (USA)

The Research Committee has welcomed new members that broaden our representation and assure that our work is reaching a wider group of therapists. The new members include: Gunn Kristin Øberg from Norway, Grace O'Malley from Ireland, and Nora Shields from Australia. We also are pleased to have Serena Barsaglina from Italy help us communicate with members in her country until we have a representative identified from Italy.

We would appreciate assistance from all in helping to spread the word about our online survey to learn about pediatric physical therapy research activities around the world.

We hope to create a resource database for pediatric physical therapy researchers so we can communicate and collaborate to create, build and use research evidence to support our work and improve health and mobility in the children we serve.

If you are currently a pediatric physical therapist involved in pediatric physical therapy research, we would be very grateful for your participation in this survey. If you know someone in your country who is engaged in research related to pediatric physical therapy please send along this information and encourage their participation.

The survey can be found at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SXJMRKQ>

The survey contains 12 questions and you should be able to complete it in 10 minutes

or less. The survey will be available for one year (Sept/Oct. 2011 – Sept/Oct 2012).

Although we intend to send several requests for pediatric physical therapists to participate in the survey, please be sure to participate only once so we get an accurate count of pediatric physical therapy researchers.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Ann Van Sant, Chair of the Research Committee (ann.vansant@temple.edu)



The Program Committee led by Dale Scalise-Smith (USA)

The Program Committee is excited to have Serena Barsaglini from Italy on the committee.

We worked very hard over the past few years to create the amazing programming at the WCPT and will begin ramping up efforts to plan and organize the paediatric content for the next WCPT in Singapore 2015.

As details and logistics of a possible interim conference are developed our committee will need assistance from members in creating a focus, platform and course content for the conference.

If you would like to plan the programming for the upcoming global conferences or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Dale Scalise-Smith, Chair of the Program Committee (dscalise-smith@utica.edu)



The Practice Committee led by Esther de Ru (The Netherlands)

The Practice Committee is integral in furthering knowledge and skills of member countries with the help of the fantastic committee members: Ragnhild Bech from Norway, Grace O'Malley from Ireland, Peng Ha Yeo from Australia, Margaret Mason from Ireland and Anne Berle Robstad from Norway. The Practice Committee is eager to take on new members from a variety of member countries to assist with the development and the dissemination of practice guidelines and resources about high priority topics in paediatrics. We are excited about the potential for identifying the resources that currently exist and at the same time ascertaining the needs of paediatric physical therapists around the world.

If you would like to help the practice committee or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Esther de Ru, Chair of the Practice Committee (estherderu@gmail.com)



The Education Committee led by Eva Brogren Carlberg (Sweden)

The Education Committee is pleased to have the dedication and hard work of committee members from around the world: Lucy Pelland from Canada, Joe Shreiber from USA, Donna Cech from USA, Jytte Falmar from Denmark, Lana Svien from USA, Rong-Ju Cherng from Taiwan, and Phena Heffernan from Ireland. The Education Committee has been hard at work by creating surveys to assess the educational background and depth of paediatric physical therapists world-wide and we will provide the information to our members once it has been evaluated. The committee will also be working to provide resources about residency and fellowship programs around the world. We look forward to creating educational modules about high-priority paediatric topics and providing them to our members. Finally our committee hopes to identify opportunities for educational learning, both clinical and academic, between member countries.

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2011

If you would like to help promote and further the education of paediatric physical therapists world wide or you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact Eva Brogren Carlberg, Chair of the Education Committee (eva.brogren-carlberg@sll.se)



The Communications Committee led by Erin Wentzell (USA)

The communications committee is really the support for all the amazing work the other committees are doing, we are the mouth-piece to spread the word and get people involved. With the help of Dale Deubler from USA and Phena Heffernan from Ireland we are responsible for the newsletter and the website information. It is our hope that we can provide access to the modules, practice guidelines, educational opportunities and so much more information to paediatric physical therapists around the world. We would also like to be able to provide our members with educational course and volunteer opportunity information to foster a truly international network.

If you would like to help create the newsletter or content for the IOPTP website or you have further questions please do not hesitate to contact Erin Wentzell, Chair of the Communications Committee (ewentzell@gmail.com)

The International Organisation of Physical Therapists in Paediatrics

2011

To learn more about the events and meetings at WCPT 2011 in Amsterdam please visit the IOPTP website at <http://www.wcpt.org/ioptp> for minutes and course power point presentations. Stay tuned to the website for updates on future meetings and events.



The next newsletter will be published in January 2012, if you would like to contribute please contact Erin Wentzell at ewentzell@gmail.com.