

International Organization of Physical Therapists in Pelvic and Women's Health



Introduction

The five members of the new executive committee of the International Organization of Physical Therapists in Pelvic and Women's Health (IOPTPWH), an official subgroup of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT), have had their first teleconference and are now working hard on achieving its goals. The committee consists of: Melissa Davidson, president (New Zealand); Sonia Roa, vice-president (Chile); Heather Pierce, secretary (Australia); Meena Sran, treasurer (Canada); and Annelie Gutke, member-at-large (Sweden). I have volunteered as the new newsletter editor, and recommend that you read the latest edition (IOPTPWH 2019), which is available online.

Katie Mann and I are the current IOPTPWH UK delegates, and will feed information back to POGP as we get it. If you are interested in what is going on worldwide, you should consider signing up for e-mail updates from the WCPT (<https://mailchi.mp/wcpt.org/subscribe>).

I am pleased to be able to reprint below an edited version of Melissa Davidson's "President's message" (Davidson 2019) from the current edition of the newsletter (IOPTPWH 2019).

Shirley Bustard

IOPTPWH Newsletter Editor

President's message

It was great to see so many delegates in Geneva, and put faces, countries and names together. What lovely people you all are! Thank you for your dedication to your profession, and an even bigger thank you for your passion for pelvic and women's health.

With two current executive committee members being joined by three new recruits [see above], we will be focusing on getting the team working efficiently and effectively on our strategic goals this year. We'll be looking to our members for help in achieving these goals – a committee with only five volunteers can't achieve all the things that would be wonderful to do in our area. So, when the e-mails start arriving, please open and read these, and think

about how you or someone in your membership group can help us to achieve our goals. Please step up and help out! There was a lot of talk in Geneva about all the things that it would be beneficial for IOPTPWH to do, the changes that should occur and the input that we can provide around the world – so let's get these things done! It's possible with everyone's help, but it's impossible without it.

Our new name reflects our membership – we are a diverse group of member countries, with a vast spread of interests and focuses within our own nations. I hope that the IOPTPWH name shows that we considered all the different needs of those countries. By including "pelvic" in our name, we acknowledge our members who are also involved in pelvic health conditions outside of women's health. This is more inclusive and reflects how our profession is advancing. However, we are still very aware of the need and desire of our membership to ensure that we have a strong focus on women's health, and all the areas that this includes. We will be working on making changes to our constitution over the next few years in order to reflect our pathway going forward, and will, of course, be looking for feedback and help with these changes.

I'm looking forward to working with you all over the next 4 years, and appreciate your ongoing support for IOPTPWH.

Melissa Davidson

IOPTPWH President

Fifth European Congress of the European Region World Confederation for Physical Therapy on Physiotherapy – Education

The 5th European Congress of the European Region WCPT (ER-WCPT) on Physiotherapy – Education will be held on 11–12 September 2020 (ER-WCPT 2019). Organized in collaboration with the European Network of Physiotherapy in Higher Education, the event will take place at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven facilities, University of Leuven, Leuven, Belgium (Fig. 1). Early-bird registration is now open.

Twentieth World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress

The 2021 WCPT Congress will run from 8 to 10 April in Dubai (Fig. 2).

Shirley Bustard

IOPTPWH Newsletter Editor

References

Davidson M. (2019) President's message. *IOPTWH Newsletter 2019* (August), 2.

European Congress of the European Region World Confederation for Physical Therapy (ER-WCPT) (2019a) *Welcome*. [WWW document.] URL <https://kuleuvencongres.be/er-wcpt2020/home>

International Organization of Physical Therapists in Women's Health (IOPTWH) (2019) *IOPTWH Newsletter*. [WWW document.] URL <https://www.dropbox.com/s/6j1g866yf3wx7sk/August%202019%20final.pdf?dl=0>



Figure 1. Logo of the 5th European Congress of the European Region World Confederation for Physical Therapy on Physiotherapy – Education.



Figure 2. Logo of the 2021 World Confederation for Physical Therapy Congress.