

## WCPT formally admitted to health professions' coalition



WCPT President Marilyn Moffat (front centre) and Secretary General Brenda Myers (front second left) join representatives of the other international professional bodies who make up the WHPA. They are pictured at the WHPA meeting in Geneva in May.

**The World Confederation for Physical Therapy has become a member of the World Health Professions Alliance – the international organisation representing health professions. Other members include the global bodies for nurses, physicians, dentists and pharmacists.**

Through its five constituent professional bodies the WHPA now represents more than 600 national member organisations, speaking for 26 million health professionals in more than 130 countries.

WCPT's normal independent campaigning and collaborations will continue. But by also joining a global voice for health professionals, WCPT believes physical therapists will have more influence on campaigning issues, and will have new opportunities to inform initiatives that could benefit millions of patients and service users.

"Joining this coalition gives us greater opportunity to work collaboratively with the world's other health professions, while in no way compromising our independence," says WCPT President Marilyn Moffat. "By pooling our resources and expertise, we are able to tackle global health issues more effectively and ensure that patients/clients and health care systems benefit."

WCPT was officially welcomed during the WHPA's 10th anniversary meeting in May. The other members of the WHPA are the International Council of Nurses, the World Medical Association, the International Pharmaceutical Federation and the World Dental Federation. For WCPT, the WHPA provides another communication channel between the health professions and key bodies in global health, such as the World Health Organization.

The WHPA is particularly concerned with:

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- public health
- patient safety
- human rights in health
- regulation and collaborative practice
- health human resources and workforce issues
- health care systems
- counterfeit medicines.

The Alliance develops statements, fact sheets and advocacy tools on current health issues to influence policy and practice at global, national, and regional levels. It has brought together world health professions on several important initiatives in human rights, patient safety, tobacco control, health human resources and regulation of the health professions, and is currently running campaigns including:

- the Positive Practice Environments campaign, focusing on quality workplaces that attract and retain staff, improve patient satisfaction, safety and outcomes, and deliver cost-effective services;
- the Be Aware campaign to fight against counterfeit medical products.

At the WHPA meeting and leadership summit in May, WCPT President Marilyn Moffat said: "We were delighted to be part of the first and second World Health Professions Conferences on Regulation of the Professions, where it became so incredibly apparent how all of our professions face similar problems around the globe."

"WCPT looks forward to being able to contribute to WHPA's continued efforts through this forum on leadership, the regulation conferences, the varied campaigns, and the international advocacy to impact both policy and practice."

<http://www.whpa.org/>



## Innovative Congress satellite programme announced as registration set to open



The RAI conference and exhibition centre in Amsterdam, where most of the main Congress sessions, and some of the satellite programme sessions, will be held.

**Registration for World Physical Therapy 2011 – the physical therapy world’s biggest event – is about to open, and new details are now being released about the comprehensive programme of activity that will surround the main scientific sessions.**

Physical therapists will shortly be able to book online for World Physical Therapy 2011 – the WCPT quadrennial congress. Information about registration will be up on the WCPT website by the end of July at [www.wcpt.org/congress](http://www.wcpt.org/congress). The three-day Congress, to be held in Amsterdam’s RAI conference centre (pictured above) in June next year, will attract thousands of professionals from around the world who want to learn and pass on knowledge.

Now details are being released about the Congress satellite programme – a new and innovative part of the WCPT Congress experience, made up of education sessions and clinical visits. While not part of the formal scientific programme, the satellite programme is designed to complement it, with a focus on applied knowledge and skills.

Satellite sessions will be offered on the two days before and following Congress and a limited number will be run concurrently with the scientific programme. There will be 22 education sessions, with prominent speakers presenting topics across the scope of the professional interests.

Among them will be Professor Elizabeth Dean from the University of British Columbia, Canada. She will be coordinating a global health summit where representatives from all over the world will examine how health behaviour changes are being achieved, and how physical therapists can contribute

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across cultures. This builds on the success of the highly popular first summit held in 2007.

Professor Robert Palisano from Drexel University will be among those presenting a two-day programme focused on children with cerebral palsy, organised by Sarah McCoy from the United States.

Other topics to be covered include:

- Evidence-based evaluation and treatment for back and knee pain in older people
- Broadening the scope of physical therapy in work injury prevention and management
- Assessing walking speed as the vital sign for function
- Education in a global community: accreditation and standards
- ICF tools from the World Health Organization
- Evidence-based physical therapy and assessing quality of reviews and trials
- Physical activity for clinical populations: measurement and interventions
- Rehabilitation following cardiothoracic surgery: future directions
- Physiotherapy in Parkinson's disease
- Contemporary models and practical tools in clinical reasoning and decision-making
- Physiotherapeutic management of anorectal dysfunction in adults and children.

There will also be one programme offered in Dutch and English on ankle injuries and another in Spanish and English on critical appraisal skills.

The scheduling of satellite sessions will enable delegates to attend focused symposia, networking sessions and scientific programming relevant to the same topic.

Many of the satellite sessions will take place at the Hogeschool van Amsterdam. Others will take place at the RAI conference centre and the nearby Novotel hotel.

A range of clinical visits will also be offered. Dutch physical therapists have opened their practices, clinics and hospitals to show delegates some of the highlights of practice in their country. They will cover cardiac rehabilitation, hand rehabilitation, older people, neurology, orthopaedics, paediatrics, private practice, and pulmonary rehabilitation.

Delegates will need to have registered for at least one day of the scientific congress to access the satellite sessions and there will be a limited number of places. Further information about satellite education sessions and clinical visits can be found at [www.wcpt.org/sat\\_prog](http://www.wcpt.org/sat_prog)



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## Work by physical therapists in Afghanistan gets new recognition



Rohafza, a physiotherapist who lost a leg to a landmine, helps a child put on an orthotic device. The limb-fitting and rehabilitation centre offers care to all physically disabled people. Many have been injured by landmines, others in accidents, while still others have congenital deformities. Picture: M Kocic/ICRC

**The work of physical therapists including Alberto Cairo, winner of WCPT's Humanitarian Award three years ago, was the focus of a new television documentary broadcast in Australia in July.**

For 20 years, Cairo, an Italian, has worked in Kabul, Afghanistan, helping people living with the scars of long-term conflict – particularly limb loss because of landmines. He has headed the International Committee of the Red Cross Orthopaedic Centre through five regime changes in the country.

His centre treats an average of 300 people every day – 80% of them landmine victims. It offers them treatment, training and counselling to help them re-integrate in society. Since 1988, the ICRC programme has helped over 43,000 people, including 25,000 amputees. Around 70% of them are civilians.

"I've seen people standing up for the first time crying," says Cairo in the documentary. "You could see the tears in the eyes. It's a very dramatic moment."

The deadline for nominations for the 2011 WCPT Awards is 31st July 2010. If you would like to nominate someone for an award, go to [www.wcpt.org/awards](http://www.wcpt.org/awards)

The film can be viewed at [www.abc.net.au/foreign/content/2010/s2946383.htm](http://www.abc.net.au/foreign/content/2010/s2946383.htm)

## WCPT joins the battle against "vile" counterfeit medicines



WCPT President Marilyn Moffat addresses the WHPA during its meeting in May, when WCPT was officially welcomed as a member.

**The World Health Professions Alliance – the global collaboration that WCPT formally joined in May – is urging action to end the “vile and serious criminal offence” of counterfeiting medicines and other medical products.**

An alliance spokesperson addressed WHO’s World Health Assembly in Geneva in May to make clear that the sale of counterfeit medicines, and their infiltration into legitimate supply chains, could cause death and illness to tens of thousands of people around the world.

“Failure to act against this criminal activity would be a fundamental breach of the trust placed in public health structures by patients,” Ton Hoek, General Secretary of the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) and WHPA spokesperson, told delegates at the World Health Assembly.

Through its member bodies – which include the World Medical Association, the International Council of Nurses and the World Dental Federation as well as the FIP and WCPT – the WHPA represents more than 26 million health professionals worldwide.

So that health care professionals are better equipped to combat counterfeits, the WHPA announced that it is stepping up its commitment to this issue by launching a "Be Aware, Take Action" campaign ([www.whpa.org/counterfeit\\_campaign.htm](http://www.whpa.org/counterfeit_campaign.htm)). The campaign focuses on public health and patient safety issues.

Brenda Myers, WCPT Secretary General, explained why this issue was important for physical therapists.

“It’s important that all health professionals are aware,” she said. “If a patient isn’t responding to medications as expected, it could be because counterfeit medicines are involved. There may be physical therapists who feel that because we are traditionally viewed as drug-less practitioners, the issue doesn’t have anything to do with us. This is an example of a project

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where all professions have a role, and where, by joining with other professions, we can try and achieve a change.”

In over 50% of cases, medicines purchased over the Internet from illegal sites that conceal their physical address have been found to be counterfeit. Last year, packages of the antimalarial drug Metakelfin found in 40 pharmacies in Tanzania were found to lack sufficient active ingredient.

The WHPA is calling for:

- involvement by organisations for health professionals, patients, manufacturers, distributors, media and governments;
- education of health professionals;
- education of the public about the risks of buying medical products from unknown and unreliable sources;
- vigilance by health care professionals and patients;
- identification of substandard medical products by international specialised agencies;
- removal of substandard products from the market;
- enforcement of pharmaceutical legislation by national governments.

## News in brief



### Nigerian visit

Bakare Ummukulthoum, Secretary of the Lagos State Chapter of the Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy, visited the WCPT Secretariat offices in London, during a visit in May. Pictured above with WCPT Secretary General Brenda Myers, she presented a commemorative programme of the society's 50th anniversary meeting last year.

### India doping officials

Staff and students of the Amity Institute of Physiotherapy in India will be acting as doping control officials at the forthcoming Commonwealth Games, to be held in Delhi in October. The games organising committee has trained 71 students from the institute, says Dr Nitesh Bansal, Director.

### Awards deadline nears

The closing date for WCPT Awards nominations is 31st July. If you think someone you know, or know of, deserves recognition for their achievement, please go to [www.wcpt.org/awards](http://www.wcpt.org/awards) for further information, or request a nomination form by emailing [info@wcpt.org](mailto:info@wcpt.org) as soon as possible.

## WCPT launches new scheme for sharing expertise

**WCPT has launched a completely new global service for sharing expertise, putting together people and organisations that need help with physical therapists who are experts in their field.**

It is compiling a database of expert physical therapists prepared to offer their services to help the profession develop internationally. WCPT can match requests for support from member organisations and other institutions – whether it be in the fields of education, practice, research or policy – with the best person to help.

“WCPT’s role is to facilitate people getting together, and otherwise the details of the collaboration are up to the partners,” stresses WCPT Secretary General Brenda Myers. “Like much of WCPT’s work including the website and the common data project which is under development, this project is fundamental to the aims of WCPT because it is about sharing resources for the development of the profession.”

Full information about how the project works can be found on the WCPT website ([www.wcpt.org/experts](http://www.wcpt.org/experts)), where there are instructions both for what to do if you wish to share expertise, and what to do if you wish to receive expertise.

Catherine Sykes, WCPT’s Professional Policy Consultant, was responsible for getting the database of experts off the ground. She emphasises that people registering need to have some significant expertise that they can offer to others in the profession. “We want to find people who can support WCPT’s goals by sharing their expertise,” she says.

“The need for the database was clear, because WCPT is frequently asked for advice on areas that impact physical therapy practice, education, research and policy. This may be specific to WCPT’s project work or related to external relationships, partnerships and consultations. In addition, WCPT is looking to develop a programme of short continuous professional development courses and this would be facilitated by a database of experts willing to participate.”

“WCPT has limited financial resources, and relies heavily on the goodwill and expertise of a large number of individuals working collectively to develop the profession internationally. Many physical therapists give their time freely through membership of committees, working groups, subgroups and in undertaking specific pieces of work.”

“This is another way to contribute to the development of the profession internationally, developing collaborations and new opportunities internationally.”

## The scene is set and physical therapy's big event is taking shape



Physical therapists are already talking about the allure of Amsterdam as a destination.

**It's just under a year away, but preparation for physical therapy's biggest worldwide event has been quietly underway for years. Members of the WCPT Secretariat are already living and breathing World Physical Therapy 2011. Here they talk about the work that's been going on, and what's already making the event special to them.**

If a Congress is reflected by enthusiasm about its location, then WCPT's Congress next year is already a guaranteed success. "Amsterdam is a very special place," says WCPT Secretary General Brenda Myers. She, along with Professional Policy Consultant Tracy Bury and WCPT Executive Committee members have been publicising the Congress at member organisation meetings around the world.

"I think people are really becoming engaged by the idea that a world Congress could be very important to them," says Tracy Bury. "What appeals to people, time and time again, is that this provides the opportunity for international exchange with peers – in a far more interactive way than could ever be achieved through new technology. People are also talking about Amsterdam as a destination. It's such a beautiful city, and so fabulously placed to explore the rest of Europe."

The main programme of the Congress will be held at the Amsterdam RAI conference centre, in Southern Amsterdam, one of the busiest exhibition and conference centres in the world. The main auditorium can accommodate over 1750 people.

The key to organising the Congress programme has been trying to stay close to the here and now of what physical therapists do, and what they want to achieve. So Tracy Bury has been consulting widely with physical therapists across the world, and working closely with the International Scientific

Committee to put together the Congress programme.

“We’ve really tried to respond to feedback from past delegates, and put our finger on what it is that will appeal to future delegates,” she says. “We hope we’re managing to show people how much they can benefit – and enjoy it – if they come not once, but to successive Congresses.”

The WCPT Secretariat is working closely with the Netherlands physical therapy association, the KNGF, to bring the Congress to fruition. “Our host organisation is key to the success of the Congress and it’s been great working with the KNGF,” says Brenda Myers. “In recent years WCPT has been increasing its role in the organisation of the Congress. The idea is that we build internal expertise and rely less on external people like conference organisers. In this way, we can build continuity, learn with each Congress, and capitalise on the knowledge we build. We’re hoping that this expertise won’t just help with the organisation of Congress, but with other events as well, for example those being held by regions and subgroups.”

One of the functions that has been newly brought in-house is sponsorship, exhibitions and advertising, which is being coordinated by the Secretariat’s newest member Stuart Attwood.

“We have a lot of interest in exhibiting and sponsorship from companies all over the world, from Australia to Brazil, from Canada to Russia,” he says. “It’s interesting that many companies want to design their own space, rather than using the standard exhibition shell, at the exhibition. This should mean that there is great variety for delegates. There’s no doubt there’ll be the opportunity to see some of the most advanced, up-to-the minute technologies in physical therapy.”

## Anniversaries and aid work marked at NACR meeting



WCPT President Marilyn Moffat enjoys the local colour during the meeting in Suriname.

**The 21st Annual General Meeting of the North America Caribbean Region (NACR) was a special one this year, for various reasons. The host organisation the Surinaamse Vereniging voor Fysiotherapie (Suriname Physiotherapy Association) was marking its 40th birthday. Regional Chair Stacy de Gale reports.**

At this year's NACR meeting, we had reason to celebrate and rejoice in a few firsts. We were ably hosted by the Surinaamse Vereniging voor Fysiotherapie (SVF), which is an excellent example of how a physiotherapy association can be born, nurtured, and flourish as a result of active membership.

Delegates and physical therapists from Suriname, the Caribbean region and as far afield as Holland were treated to the sights, sounds and culinary delights of this beautiful country. As part of the celebrations, continuing education programmes were held simultaneously and facilitated by renowned experts in their fields: Marilyn Moffat, WCPT President; Dorine van Ravensberg of the Netherlands Paramedic Institute; and Rik Gosselink of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium.

The NACR meeting was attended by representatives of member organisations from Barbados, Bermuda, Canada, Curacao, Guyana, Panama, Puerto Rico, Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago and the USA.

And, for the first time, there were national representatives from Haiti - David Charles and Iven Louius. Assisted by the Canadian and American physical therapy associations, these physical therapists were able to attend, and actively participate in the proceedings.

The extent of the devastation and the urgency of the rehabilitative needs of the Haitian people were given even greater humanity due to the presence of these two physical therapists. This formed a major part of the agenda of our meeting. Thanks and praise continue to be poured out from the people of

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Haiti and our region to all those health professionals and volunteers who continue to provide relief and aid. Special mention must be made to the Health Volunteers Organization (HVO) and physical therapist Shaun Cleaver, who selflessly continue to provide rehabilitative support.

The WCPT President, Marilyn Moffat, and Secretary General, Brenda Myers, were welcomed, and their work was endorsed and supported by the region. The provision of a database of world-renowned professionals willing to provide continued professional development, the advent of physical therapy courses via the company Educata, and joining the World Health Professions Alliance were all lauded.

There were vigorous discussions surrounding rehabilitation in Haiti, direct access/patient self-referral, and branding of the profession. Issues from individual countries were also discussed, with possible solutions put forward. Participants were divided into groups to focus on WCPT policies and documents. Amendments and recommendations were made in preparation for the WCPT General meeting in Amsterdam in 2011.

## Progress on education among Asia Western Pacific members



During the Singapore Physiotherapy Association seminar in April: Dr Margot Skinner, WCPT Executive Member (back second left); Jonathon Kruger, APA's Manager of Policy and National Standards (back centre); and Celia Tan, President of the Singapore Physiotherapy Association (middle row, second from right) with members of the SPA.

**Member organisations in WCPT's Asia Pacific Region have been making important progress on educational and strategic issues. Margot Skinner, The WCPT Executive Committee member for the region, reports on some of the important developments she has been discussing with member organisations during recent travels.**

It has been great to have the opportunity to meet with executive committees and members of many member organisations in the region this year. Member organisations in Australia, Cambodia, Indonesia, New Zealand and Singapore have all made time to meet with me, and other member organisations have stayed regularly in touch.

Several are busy making submissions on educational issues, planning strategically and preparing for national conferences. It is encouraging to hear that many of these conferences are becoming international and that new physical therapy degree programmes are being established at universities in Fiji, Indonesia and Nepal.

### Cambodian Physical Therapy Association

In April, I spent two days with the CPTA President, Ung Sambath, and Board of Directors members, visiting hospitals and discussing the way forward for the profession – including advances in undergraduate education, continuing education opportunities and plans for improving the profile of physical therapy in Cambodia.

The CPTA is continuing to build relationships with Singapore, so that Cambodian physical therapists can undertake training to upgrade their skills in Singapore. The CPTA has arranged a course for physical therapists on

functional movement in stroke. The course is being held in July and conducted by Liz Bainbridge from Curtin University of Technology in Australia.

## Singapore Physiotherapy Association

At a SPA seminar in April, Jonathon Kruger, the Australian Physiotherapy Association's Manager of Policy and National Standards, gave a pre-seminar workshop on advocating for change. I gave a presentation stressing the need to advocate for degree level physiotherapy education, and the role SPA can play in WCPT's Asia Western Pacific Region.

## Fiji Physiotherapy Association

The Bachelor of Physiotherapy Programme has been endorsed by the Fiji National University Senate and students have now enrolled into the programme. A Senior Lecturer position for the programme has now been advertised – if you are interested, please contact the Programme Co-ordinator, Maria Waloki [m.waloki@fsm.ac.fj](mailto:m.waloki@fsm.ac.fj). The 24th AGM was held on 27th March in Suva, and was followed by a half-day workshop. A new Executive Committee was elected and the President is Philomena Ramoala.

## Indonesian Physiotherapy Association

The IPA has received exciting news that the government has approved more degree-based education programmes in Indonesia. This is in line with one of the association's objectives to improve the educational base of the profession, and the number of physiotherapists holding post-graduate qualifications. In April, I spent a day with members of the IPA Executive Committee discussing strategic directives and ways to enhance the contribution of the IPA to the region. AWP Executive Member Gillian Webb represented the region and gave a workshop at the IPA National Conference held in June.

## Physiotherapy New Zealand

At its biennial conference in May, the New Zealand Society of Physiotherapists changed its name to Physiotherapy New Zealand, launching a new corporate image, a new logo, and a new corporate message: "Movement for Life". Details can be found on the website [www.physiotherapy.org.nz](http://www.physiotherapy.org.nz)

## Sri Lanka Society of Physiotherapy

The SLSP, which is celebrating its Silver Jubilee, is involved in official discussions about the length of the university undergraduate degree programmes. The WCPT region has given its support to a four-year programme that meets the WCPT's declaration of principle on education and position statement on guidelines for physical therapist professional entry level education. A bridging programme for physiotherapists trained under the Ministry of Health programme is likely to start soon at the University of Peradeniya.

The SLSP, in collaboration with Home Start Lanka, has held a three-day workshop for physiotherapists on motor development in children with Down's syndrome and another on comprehensive rehabilitation of people with

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disabilities.

## The Malaysian Physiotherapy Association

At the MPA's annual conference in April, the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia indicated that he supports the move by the profession to improve standards by moving towards degree-based entry-level education. The MPA is also keen to improve the research outputs of the profession and has made submissions to enable physiotherapists to access government grants to fund research projects.

During her visit to Cambodia, Margot Skinner talking to Ung Sambath, President of the CPTA and Bak Tokyo in Phnom Penh

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## Swiss physiocongress has an international allure



Those who took part in the physiocongress line up on the main stage.

**Around 750 visitors from Switzerland and neighbouring countries came to physiocongress, the Swiss national congress of physiotherapy, held in May in Basel.**

The programme of international key speakers included WCPT President Marilyn Moffat. She opened the congress and led a course on physical therapists as exercise experts for aging adults, with practical examples and exercises, on the day before the Congress. She also presented a keynote address on the challenges facing physical therapy and the WCPT. Physical therapists are in high demand as movement specialists who can prevent chronic diseases, she said.

Marco Narici, Professor in the Physiology of Ageing from the UK, devoted his main speech to muscle wasting and muscle weakness as characteristics of age and inactivity. Fiona Jones, Principal Lecturer in Physiotherapy from St George's University in London, presented results of new research into self-management after a stroke. The fourth keynote speech was by Ruud Knols from the University Hospital of Zurich on movement therapy in patients with cancer.

The congress offered varied presentations, workshops, debates and meet-the-expert sessions, all of which attracted active participation.

## An Israeli physiotherapist provides rehabilitation in Haiti



Israeli physiotherapists at work in Haiti.

**Israeli physiotherapists were part of five delegations of paediatric rehabilitation specialists travelling to Haiti to help earthquake survivors. The delegations were the initiative of the charities ISRA-AID and Tevel B'Tzedek, and the ALYN hospital in Jerusalem.**

The delegations teamed up with staff at the St Germaine rehabilitation centre in Haiti's capital, Port au Prince, and treated children with amputations, traumatic brain injuries, orthopaedic and other injuries. The Israeli physiotherapists also spent time training local staff.

"It was an exciting and moving time," said Coos Weber, a member of the Israeli Physiotherapy Society who participated in the delegation. "The number of injuries to children, and their severity, were horrific. It is rehabilitation on a different scale than we're used to, but we found out we can make a big difference in these kids' lives."

## Israeli Physiotherapy Society marks growth at 10th conference



Around 800 people attended the Israeli Physiotherapy Society's conference.

### **The Israel Physiotherapy Society held its 10th annual conference in May, which attracted a record 800 participants.**

It marked a decade of growth and achievement for the society: a five-fold increase in membership, the passing of legislation opening the door to direct access and specialisation, and growing collaboration with other health professions' organisations.

"These and other achievements were celebrated and there was a palpable feeling of empowerment and great hope for the next decade," said Nirit Rotem of the society. Workshops before and after the conference were held in different cities in Israel to emphasise the society's obligation to reach all physiotherapists.

During the conference, the IPTS held its elections and presented a strategic plan set by the Physiotherapy Council – a collaboration of chief physiotherapists in organisations, large employers, universities, and ministries of health, welfare and education. Linking with the plan, special sessions were held on specialisation, expanding practice and the importance of physical activity in physiotherapy.

There were research lectures on topics such as stem cell treatments, and debates on long-running issues such as group versus individual treatments.