



**Annual Report
2004
International Association of Physical Therapists**

**Working with
Older People**



President McAlleese greeting Inger Brøndsted Vice President WCPT & Esther-Mary D'Arcy President of the Irish Physiotherapy Association.

**Prepared for the World Confederation of Physical Therapy
February 2005**

**Olwen Finlay MBE, FSCP, HT, DMS.
Chairman IPTOP**



Background and establishment of the Association

The idea for this Association began in 1993 at an international training course in Malta; was discussed at WCPT Washington in 1995 and at WCPT Yokohama in 1999 where a shadow committee and steering group were formed. The foundation meeting was held in Birmingham, England, 2002. At WCPT Barcelona 2003, IPTOP was accepted as a WCPT sub-group. General meetings were held in Barcelona 2003 and Dublin 2004. Membership currently stands at eighteen countries representing over 8000 therapists. The efforts of the Association are directed towards member associations and their individual members working with older people through excellence, research, practice and clinical specialisation.

Membership

Currently 18 member countries are involved, representing a total of 8025 physical therapists worldwide, this reflects a slight increase in membership over previous years. Five groups had an increase in membership the largest increase being 105 more members in the United Kingdom. In response to the request of the representatives meeting in Barcelona IPTOP have continued their established practice of requesting each participating member group to have the application form signed annually by the physical therapy association of the country involved ensuring the group is officially recognised by their member organisation.

Foundation Members

Asian Western Pacific Region

Australian National Gerontology Group, Australia, - 428 members
Physiotherapy for the Older Adult, New Zealand, - 114 members, ^ 1.

European Region

Bulgarian Physiotherapists in Geriatrics, Bulgaria, - 40 members.
Finnish Geriatric Association of Physiotherapy, Finland – 170 members.
Arbeitskries Geriatrie im ZVK, Germany, - 9 members
Icelandic Association of Physical Therapists working with Older People, Iceland, - 52 members, ^ 2.
Chartered Physiotherapists in Neurology and Gerontology, Ireland, - 174 members, ^ 22.
Active for Life, Malta, - 20 members.
Sweden – 380 members,
Physiotherapy working with Older People, Turkey, 20 members.
AGILE, United Kingdom, 861 members, ^ 105.

North America and Caribbean Region

Section on Geriatric, United States of America, 4331, ^ 125 members .

South American Region

Servicis de Rehabilitacion Instituto Nacional de Geriatria, Chile, - 7 members.

The following new members were formally welcomed into the Association.

Barcelona 2003

Division of Gerontology, Canada, 507 members.
The Dutch Association for Physiotherapists (or Physical Therapists) in Geriatrics, - 389 members.
Faggruppe for Geronto-Geriatrisk Fysioterapi, Norway, - 314 members v 8
Physiotherapists working with Older People, Sri Lanka, - 5 members.
Fach gruppe Physiotherapie in der Geriatric, Switzerland, 79 members.

^ indicates a rise in membership, v a fall in membership

Association Officers

Chairman

Olwen Finlay MBE, FCSP, SRP, HT, DMS

Vice Chair

Dr Annette Brown PhD, MSC, PGDip (geront).

Treasurer

Nancy Prickett MA, MPT, NCS, GCS

Secretary & Newsletter Editor

Prof. Amanda Squires PhD, MSc, FCSP, SRP

Having completed the first year since becoming affiliated to WCPT, I am delighted to report on a very productive and successful year. I would like to thank all those members of the executive committee and officers for their contribution to our success. We continued to explore ways to provide enhanced services and value for money for our members. Organisation of the first joint conference was a very worthwhile exercise and hopefully enjoyed by all who attended..

Development of IPTOP procedure manual

At the general meeting in Barcelona it was agreed that the Chair should develop a Policy Booklet for the Association pulling together as agree documents of the organisation together with information on WCPT. This has been completed and the first booklets have been distributed at the meeting in Dublin 2004. Copies were also prepared for the Vice President WCPT and The Secretary General WCPT. This information is now available for electronic distribution and is distributed on request the first being sent to the South American Region.

Formation of an Awards Committee

This was set up under the chairmanship of Nancy Prickett to formulate the regulations regarding Special Fellows or Honorary Fellows and the recommendations will be discussed at the next general meeting.

First Conference

The first conference was held in Dublin Ireland May 2004 and jointly organised by IPTOP, AGILE Northern Ireland and The Irish Gerontology and Neurology group. WCPT Vice President, Ms. Inger Brondsted represented WCPT and participated in the opening ceremony helping to give this conference a truly international flavour. At the same time an opportunity was provided for many physical therapists to increase/improve their links with WCPT. This conference was entitled "Advances in Balance and Falls Management in Older People" and was hugely successful both educationally and socially . Eighteen countries participated with over 300 delegates with speakers from Australia, Ireland, United Kingdom and the United States, making it the largest physiotherapy conference held in Ireland. The Chairman of IPTOP organised the social activity of the Conference and the joint committee of the three associations took responsibility for the academic programme.

The President of Ireland Mary Mc Aleese honoured the conference by inviting over fifty international delegates together with the conference committee to a reception at her official residence in the Aras an Uachtaráin in Phoenix Park. Each delegate had the opportunity of meeting the President and her husband, Dr Martin Mc Aleese.



President McAleese with IPTOP and WCPT delegates in the Aras an Uachtaráin.

The social programme also included a conference dinner hosted by Professor Denis Moloney in the Law Society Dublin, and a visit to the Dail and The Seanad, the houses of Parliament of the Republic of Ireland was hosted by Senator Mary White.

IPTOP wishes to thank the organising committee of the Irish Association of Neurology and Gerontology and AGILE (Northern Ireland) for their co-operation and hard work in helping ensure the success of this conference. The financial statement relating to this conference will be included in the annual report 2005. . IPTOP would wish to thank the Department of Health and Children, Republic of Ireland for their financial support for this conference and also all the exhibitors who helped contribute to the overall success.

General meeting in Dublin

It was agreed that web page development was now essential and it was proposed that this should be done in conjunction with WCPT with IPTOP being the pilot special interest group. This has now been completed and the first electronic

newsletter distributed. I would wish to thank Amanda Squires (IPTOP) and Rachael Moore (WCPT) for their on-going work ensuring the successful outcome of this project

Newsletter

Distribution of the biannual newsletter electronically is proving cost effective and permits individual members within member organisations and others worldwide to access the publication.

Finance Report

Our Association continues to work within our financial limitations and I would wish to thank the officers of IPTOP who carry the cost of most of the day-to-day running expenses. I feel it is imperative that some monies should be ring fenced for a "rainy day" together with a conference budget, as it was extremely difficult organising an international conference without some type of financial "fall back" if required. These items will require to be discussed at the next general meeting. IPTOP would wish to acknowledge all the support from the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, London who kindly provided a "seed" donation to help IPTOP have a sound financial footing.

Links within the Organisation

During the year as part of my personal I took the opportunity to visit three member organisations in the association, Ireland for the Conference, Iceland in June followed by attendance at the Turkish Physiotherapy Association Annual Conference in October in Antalya.

In Iceland I had the opportunity to meet with the Icelandic Association of Physical Therapists and visiting physiotherapy departments and nursing homes. I also had the opportunity to meet again Thorunn Bjornsdottir and view some of her art, as she is a well-known local artist. IPTOP was fortunate to have her talent in designing the logo for the Association.

Iceland is an extraordinary land of volcanoes, glaziers, geysers, plunging cliff faces surrounded by sea. This visit provided amazing memories, however it is the warmth of the people and the kind reception extended that will be stored in ones "memory bank". This visit provided an opportunity to strengthen links with member organisations in our association.

In early October I presented a paper and ran a workshop at the Annual Conference of the Turkish Association. I also attended a meeting of the special interest group when a decision was taken to extend the number of groups in Turkey of "Physiotherapists working with Older People groups" to seven. Turkey is at an exciting stage in their development of this speciality and an invitation has been received to host the conference in 2006.

The Way Ahead

Iptop will be joining the National Neurology & Gerontology Groups in Australia at their bi-annual conference in November 2005. Dementia management, Palliative care, Aquatic Physiotherapy, Service delivery are but of a few topics on the programme. Hopefully this conference will provide the opportunity to make more contact with groups in the Asian Western Pacific Region.

The Australian Conference will provide the opportunity for the executive committee to get together to start planning for Vancouver 2007.

Acknowledgements

We would wish to acknowledge the very considerable and continued support and guidance we have received from Brenda Myers, Secretary General and we would congratulate her on the Fellowship awarded by the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, London

Olwen Finlay MBE, FCSP, HT, DMS
Chair of IPTOP