

International Newsletter

International Association of Physical Therapists Working with Older People

Newsletter 1

Sept 2001



Dear Colleague,

This newsletter is to update everyone on the background and the progress being made in attempting to establish an International Association of Physical Therapists working with Older People. An ageing population is a worldwide challenge, and as David Teager, then WCPT President stated, Physical Therapists are in a pivotal position to influence change in health care systems for the benefit of our society. In an article written for WCPT News Judith Oulton, Executive Director of the International Council of Nurses in Geneva, said “Working together within our professions and between professions we can make a significant contribution to the achievement of Health for All, and realize our professional calling. If not, we will be bystanders on the road to the future”.

You will read below how the concept of an International Association of Physical Therapists working with Older People came about.

The initial objectives of such an organization would be:

- To foster co-operation between physical therapists working with older people throughout the world
- To encourage high standards and consistency of relevant practice when working with older people.
- To advance practice by communication and enable exchange of information
- To encourage scientific research and promote opportunities for the spread of knowledge of new developments.
- To assist WCPT member countries who have “special interest groups” relating to older people and develop a sub-section if none exist.

The initial aims would be:

- To raise awareness of the physical, social and psychological needs of older people
- Act as advocates for older people
- Develop improved physiotherapy and related services
- Help older people remain within their community
- Support integration of older people into society

The advantages of linking such aims and objectives under the umbrella of WCPT include:

- WCPT have vast expertise in running an International Organisation.
- Linking the international meeting unto the four yearly WCPT cycle is a cost effective method for international delegates to get together

The content of this newsletter is proposed as a balance between administrative and educational and is dependent on reader contributions. Copy date and contact details for the next edition are on the back page. As a result of this newsletter we hope that readers will take the following actions, all of which are fully explained below:-

1. Ensure that the newsletter reaches the relevant specialist sub group of your national organization.
2. That such sub groups seriously consider formally joining the proposed Association using the attached application form
3. Send comments on the logos to Olwen Finlay
4. That readers consider joining interested colleagues at the CSP Conference in the UK, 19-21 October 2001
5. Start thinking about nominations and agenda items for the first AGM to be held at WCPT Barcelona in 2003
6. Consider attending WCPT Barcelona in 2003
7. Send any comments on this newsletter and items for consideration in the required format by December 2001

Amanda Squires, Newsletter Editor, Steering Group

Background Information

At the WCPT/UN sponsored International Short Course for Physiotherapists working with Older People held in Malta in 1993, I put to the group of 36 participants from 25 countries my vision of an international organization. At the WCPT Conference in Washington in 1995 representative countries who had responded and participants of the Malta course met to discuss the issue further. This meeting was chaired by a delegate from the “Section on Geriatrics”, United States of America . No decisions on forming a world sub-group were taken at that time, nor any arrangements or discussions during the following four years took place, therefore in 1999 I wrote to all WCPT member countries seeking details of their registered sub group for members working with older people. From the information received I believe the following National Physical Therapy Organisations have formal Sub Groups of Physical Therapists working with Older People, Australia, Bulgaria, Finland, Netherlands, Ireland, Taiwan, United Kingdom and The United States. however I would be interested to hear from all national organisations for confirmation or amendment.

In Yokohama in 1999 an exploratory meeting was called during the WCPT Conference. To take the idea forward., a sub group was formed with representatives from four WCPT regions – Dele Amosun-Western Cape representing Africa; Annette Brown , Australia & Mei-Lang Chang, Taiwan, representing Asia-Western Pacific; Bouwein Smits- Engelsman , The Netherlands & Emma Stokes , Republic of Ireland representing Europe; Marilyn Millar & Tim Kauffman –representing North America & Caribbean (later replaced by Nancy Prickett who was nominated by the USA Section on Geriatrics as their representative); Olwen Finlay as Chair of the Steering Group and Amanda Squires as Newsletter Editor (both subsequently nominated by their National Associations in the United Kingdom). There was no representative from South America. Formal minutes of all meetings have been kept.

The first task fore the steering group was to get a draft constitution drawn up as a working paper to be discussed and ratified at the first Annual General Meeting. The writing of the Constitution was not as easy as it sounds, as the opinions of all who participated were taken into consideration. For example the word “care” has been omitted and substituted by “working with” as some delegates suggested that care was seen as the therapist “doing” as opposed to “empowering”. Hopefully the final draft document will please the majority of countries and be acceptable to WCPT so that in the future we can apply to be an official sub group of that organization (see below).

Olwen Finlay,
Chair Person, Steering Group

WCPT Requirements.

In Yokohama some of the steering group met with the Secretary General of WCPT to discuss the way forward. We learned that the Association has to be seen to be working as a group before it can be accepted by WCPT at a full meeting of its committee. Hopefully all requirements should be fulfilled before the next such meeting at the WCPT Conference in Barcelona in 2003. In the meantime a number of stages have to be completed.

Firstly, for an Association to be recognized by WCPT it should be composed of six or more member countries (Section Two of the Constitution) and represent at least two WCPT regions. From the countries that have expressed an interest, there is the potential for a sub group to be formed.

Secondly, the Association must be seen to be active, and so relevant and interested. Sub Groups of National organizations need to formally join together to form an Association as soon as possible by completion of the attached application form and return to either Nancy Prickett or Olwen Finlay. Funding as per capitation and if possible a additional seed donation to get this Association "up and running. Under the WCPT Constitution, individuals can be associate members with no voting right if interested and if there is not an National Sub group in their country. A very low starting fee has been set. It was difficult to assess the anticipated costs in establishing the Association. The first year will be mainly communication costs, however the sum agreed may be unrealistic (See application form). The information obtained from other sub groups indicated that they have set their fees higher, however it is important to get started.

Logo

One of the topics discussed after the meeting in Japan was the need for a logo and a PR company have kindly donated their services and produced two suggestions:

Suggestion One

Is used in the heading of this newsletter, the circle was to represent the global aspect and the hands are one of the most useful adjuncts of the Physical Therapist. Again these are suggestions and others are welcome for the first AGM

Suggestion Two



Please send your comments on this item to Olwen Finlay .

Opportunity for a social and educational meeting of potential members

If there is sufficient interest from potential members it is proposed that we plan a day of educational and social activities immediate preceding the CSP Conference in Birmingham, UK in October 2001. One possibility would be for interested delegates to provide a paper on elderly care services available in their country. Delegates if they so wished could then stay on and register for the National Conference of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. The draft Constitution indicates the cost of attending meetings should be met by the country which the delegate represents. Details of the National CSP Congress from CSP Events Unit, 14 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4ED, UK. Tel 0207 306 6621/2, Fax 0207 306 6623 E.mail: durhams@csphysio.org.uk

Next meeting of the Steering Committee

This will be held during the Annual CSP Congress, Birmingham, UK between 19 and 21 October 2001. Items for the meeting to Olwen Finlay by June 1st 2001 but if presenting a paper at the CSP Conference then submissions would be required to follow CSP Conference regulations.

Feature

The shape of things to come

Nancy Prickett MA, MPT, NCS, GCS

Since the beginning of man, population changes have been based on growth. For the first time in mankind's history the changes in global population for the 21st century will focus on an aging rather than population growth (Lutz et al, 1997). The familiar population pyramid of the past with the base being the widest and the succeeding layers of the pyramid decreasing in width as cohort groups increase in age is changing to a rectangular shape, Population differences in numbers will vary less and less even as cohort groups age.

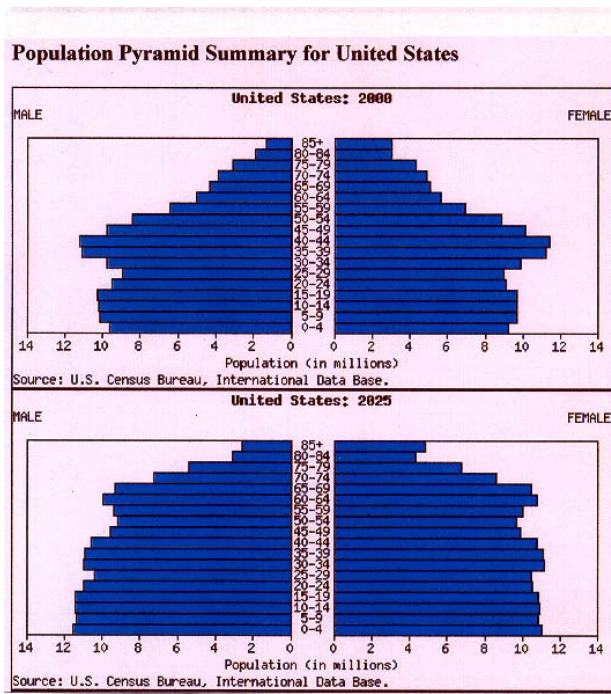


Fig 1

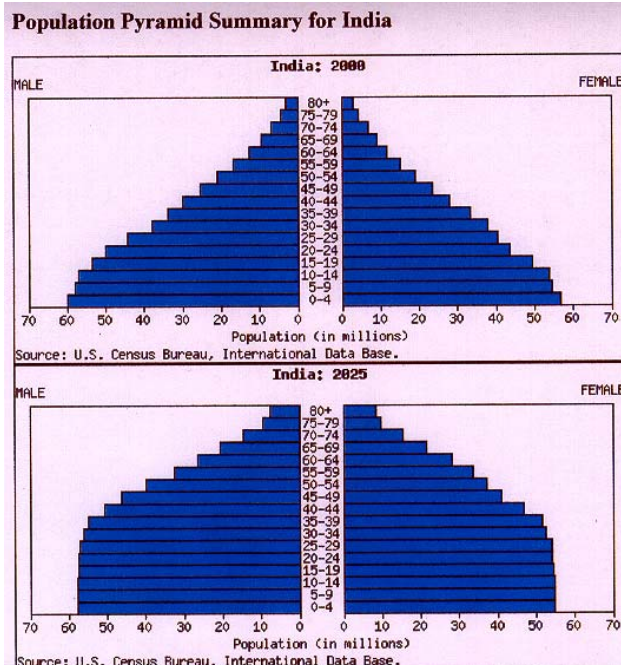


Fig 2

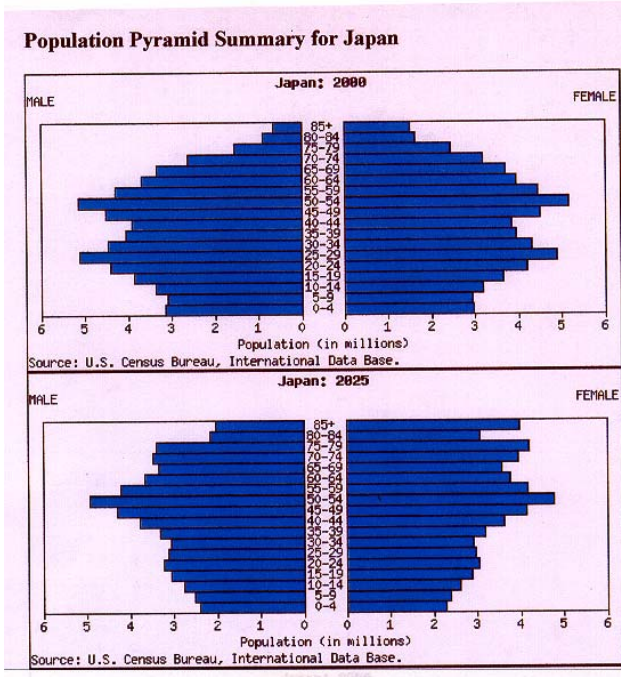


Fig 3

The population pyramid for the United States for the year 2000 has a rectangular shape from cohorts aged 0-40 and a pyramid shape for cohorts of 50 and above (Fig 1). For the predicted population pyramid for 2025 the cohort groups aged 70 and above reflect a pyramid shape with the younger cohorts being rectangular in shape (US Census Bureau). For the year 2000, India has a true pyramid shape for its

population pyramid (Fig 2). By 2025 the predicted pyramid shape begins with cohort groups 30 and above with younger cohorts having a rectangular shape (US Census Bureau). Interestingly, the 2000 population pyramid for Japan is difficult to describe (Fig 3) as the two widest segments are the 50-54 cohorts and the 25-29 cohort with a pyramid pattern above the 50-54 cohort and an inverted pyramid pattern below the 25-29 cohort. The predicted 2025 pyramid for Japan can be described as an inverted pyramid (US Census Bureau)

The society of man is ageing and it is ageing at different rates in different countries. As clinical practitioners it behooves us to understand societal factors which influence ageing and how an increase in the proportion of the population being aged affects society. The pace of ageing will vary from global region to global region with the fastest pace being in Asia (ESCAP, 1996). Japan has 25.1 million elderly individuals which makes it the country with the largest proportions of its population being over the age of 60 (ESCAP, 1996). Currently China has 114 million elders (ESCAP (1996) and by 2020 China is expected to have 286 million (4) aged individuals. This figure compares to the current populations of all Western Europe or the United States. Increased life expectancy and a decrease in birth rates are the reasons for these population shifts. It is anticipated that by 2020, 75% of the global elderly population will be living in developing countries (Kalache, A 1997)

What has worked for developed countries as strategies for managing the needs of elders may not be appropriate for either the current culture of those countries, or developing countries. Also developing countries are currently challenged with technological modernization and the development of urbanization. This is a vast change from their once agriculture dominated society. The once predominant extended family is being supplanted by the nuclear family (Yadave, et al 1997). Roles of elders and who cares for elders needs are issues in flux. How will developing nations respond to the challenges of meeting elders health and societal needs ? Some developing nations' governments have established committees on ageing issues to create policies to address elders social needs (Chow, N 1996). They recognize that family care of elders is the best care, but socio economic demands for two adults in a nuclear family to work preclude their availability to provide care for ageing parents (Achir, YC 1998)

Health care will not only have the consequences of an ageing population (ie senile dementia, quality vs quantity of life) to be concerned with. "Major contributors to future morbidity will be environmental hazards, pollution, climatic changes and spread of diseases to new geographical areas" (Pinet, G (1998) unknown to their current health care professionals. Global co-operation in meeting these future challenges can be spearheaded by international organizations such as the United Nations, professional groups such as WCPT and volunteer agencies.

A classic example of such co-operation was the 1991 Short Course for Physiotherapists in the field of Ageing sponsored by WCPT and UN, after World Health Organisation (WHO) research had identified that an ageing population would replace mortality from acute conditions with morbidity from chronic conditions which physical therapists were well placed to address (WHO/WCPT, 1989). Creativity to solve healthcare needs, cooperation to share ideas and to provide training and organization to promote health services are the global health care challenge for the 21st century.

References

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- Chow, N (1996) Ageing issues and the national agenda. Added years of life in Asia: Current situation and future challenges. Asia population studies series No 141. United Nations, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.
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- Lutz, W, Sanderson W, Scherbov S (1997) Doubling of world population unlikely. Nature. 387. 803-5
- Pinet, G (1998) Health challenges of the 21st century: a legislative approach to health determinants.

International Digest of Health Legislation. 49. 1. 131-177.

US Census Bureau, International data base. <http://www.census.gov>

WHO/WCPT (1989) The Role of Physical Therapy Care of Elder People. WCPT. London

Yadave KN, Yadada SS, Vajpeyi DK (1997) A study of aged populations and associated health risks in rural India. International Journal of Ageing and Human Development. 44. 4. 293-315

Call for Nominations

To set up and gain accreditation by WCPT, the newly formed International Organisation for Physiotherapists working with Older people will be electing officers at its official organization meeting during the next WCPT Conference in Barcelona, Spain in 2003. The officers needed include Chair Person, Chair Person Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and another member. At least two WCPT regions must be represented on the executive board. Qualifications for these positions include membership of a national physiotherapy group which belong to WCPT, experience with working with older people, and a strong desire to actively help in the inaugural work of the committee. The constitution states that member organization should support all delegates so the nomination should come from the special interest group of the countries concerned.

All nominations must be received by September 30th 2002 as the nominations will be listed in the 2003 newsletter as well as individual member countries being notified. For more information and to send in nominations

Please send your comments on this item to Olwen Finlay .

Call for Agenda items

The inaugural meeting of the International Organisation for Physiotherapists working with Older people will be held in Barcelona immediately after recognition of the group by WCPT delegate session. The first meeting will deal with the following issues

Approval of purpose, title, constitution and logo

Funding issues

Election of Committee

Please send your comments on this item to Olwen Finlay .

WCPT Conference 2003 Barcelona

This will be held from 7-12 June. More information from the Asociacion Espanola de Fisioterapeutas web site--- www.aefi.net

Steering Group Members

Chair---Olwen Finlay, 24 Sion Road, Landsdown, Bath, Avon. England.

Treasurer--- Nancy M. Prickett, 300A Campus Drive RR APT 30 Mount Holly New Jersey 08060 USA

Editor---Amanda Squires, 46, Elephant Lane, London SE16 4JD UK.

Next edition details

Copy date for the next edition is December 2001. The steering group will act as the editorial board and the editor retains editorial rights. Maximum length for a "feature" article is 1,000 words. In addition we would welcome short pieces of world news of 200 words from each WCPT regions, and contributions from the Steering Committee as relevant. Contributions should be in English language and WORD format with references in Harvard Style .

Attachment 1

Membership Application Form International Association of Physical Therapists Working with Older People

New Membership – Please Complete Using Capital Letters.

Name of Organisation.....

Address and Post Zip Code.....

.....

E / Mail

Fax Number

Name and Address of Contact Person

.....

E / Mail

Fax Number

Name and Address of Parent Organisation.....

.....

Country...

Is your Parent Organisation a Full member of WCPT.....

Region of WCPT.....

Number of members in your Sub-Group (as at the 30th June 2000).....

Is your Sub Group officially recognized by your Parent Organisation.....

If any member of your organization has been elected to the Steering Group / Executive Committee, has the person been nominated by your organisation ---Name.....nominated yes/no,

Name..... nominated yes/no

Verification of information provided.....

Signature of Chair Person of the Sub- Group.....

Signature of Chair Person of the Parent Organisation.....

Capitation Fee \$1US for five members of the Sub-Group. (Countries who pay WCPT 50% of capitation fee,

would be eligible for a similar discount) All capitation fees to be rounded up to the nearest \$ U.S.

Cheques / Bankers draft to be made payable to The International Association of Physical Therapists Working with Older People.

Further Information apply to

Nancy M. Prickett, 300A Campus Drive RR APT 30 Mount Holly New Jersey 08060 USA

Attachment 2

International Association of Physical Therapists Working with Older People

This is a working document until ratified at the first Annual General Meeting of the Association

The Association must be formed at a general meeting of WCPT in compliance with “Article 15. Sub-Groups” in the Articles of Association of WCPT.

Election of the First Executive Committee

Representatives of the founder members organizations will meet within twelve months of the confirmation of the group, to elect the Executive Committee from amongst themselves. This meeting may be conducted via facsimile or telephone.

Once the Office bearers have been appointed, the Constitution can be deemed to be in effect.

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Name

The name of the organization shall be the “International Association of Physical Therapists Working with Older People”, hereafter referred to as the “Association”

Definition / Structure

2.1 The Association is a non- governmental affiliation of physical therapists and their member countries who share an interest in “Working with Older People” worldwide.

2.2 The Association is a recognized sub-group of the World Confederation for Physical Therapists.

2.3 The Association Members hereafter called the “Members” are recognized sub-sections of the parent Physical Therapy Association recognized by WCPT.

2.4 The organization shall be composed of six or more Members who are recognized “Elderly Care Groups” of their respective WCPT Member Organisations and collectively are from two or more WCPT regions. Members of the “Elderly Care Sub-Section” of the National Member Organisation, shall also be Members of the National member Organisation.

Objectives

Objective of the Association shall not be in conflict with the Articles of Association of WCPT.

The Objectives of the Association are:

3.1 To foster co-operation between physical therapists working with Older People throughout the world.

3.2 To encourage improved standards and consistency of relevant practice with older people by physical Therapists.

3.3 To advance practice by communication and exchange of information.

3.4 To encourage scientific research and promote opportunities for the spread of knowledge of new developments in the field of Physical Therapy for Older People.

3.5 To assist WCPT member countries in the development of recognized sub-sections of Physical Therapy Associations for Therapists Working with Older People.

Membership

The Association's membership shall be composed of recognized "Groups" Working with Older People, sub-sections of the parent National Physical Therapy Organisations which are WCPT Member Organisation in good standing. These Members shall be represented in "The International Association of Physical Therapists Working with Older People" by a representative elected from within "The Specialist Group working with Older People" and approved by the National Parent Body.

4.1 Full Member

The sub-Section of "Physical Therapists working with Older People" from each WCPT Member Organisation may be admitted to membership, provided it meets the requirements laid down in Article 15 of the WCPT Articles of Association, and is approved by the Association's Executive Committee

4.2 Member Elect

A sub group of a member organization of WCPT while awaiting confirmation of Member status of the Association at a General Meeting, may become a Member Elect for the period between approval by the Executive Committee and confirmation of Membership at the next General Meeting. Full membership shall be granted if approved by a two-thirds majority of the voting delegates at a General Meeting.

4.3 Associate Member

A WCPT Member Organisation, which has, not as yet a "Specialist Group" in place, but wishes to achieve full membership in the future, or is too small to ever have a recognized sub-section.

4.4 Special Member

Special membership may be conferred by a two-thirds majority assent of the voting delegates at a General Meeting. Special membership is an honorary category and is reserved for individuals rendering valuable service to the practice of Physical Therapy for Older People internationally. Member Elect, Associate and Special Members shall not have the right to vote, or hold office.

4.5 Application for Membership

The Executive Committee shall regulate the procedure for membership applications.

4.6 Granting of Membership

The Executive Committee shall assess all applications for membership and make recommendations to the voting delegates at their next General meeting. Membership shall be granted if approved by a two-thirds majority.

4.7 Termination and Re-instatement of Membership

4.7.1 Termination of membership

A member may terminate its membership by giving six months previous notice in writing to the Executive Committee and by paying all out-standing subscriptions.

4.7.2 The Executive Committee may terminate membership on default in payment of subscriptions.

Membership ceases if in the current year subscription is not paid by December 31st or if the actions or policy of a Member is detrimental to the best interest of the Association or is likely to bring the Association into disrepute. Liabilities to the Association are not cancelled. If all subscriptions in arrears are paid by June 30th in the succeeding year then the Member, if eligible, may be restored to membership without re-application. In exceptional circumstances the Executive Committee have the power to postpone, waive or suspend the subscription required.

4.7.3 Re-instatement to membership

An Organisation which has been excluded from membership under Article 4.7.2 for default in payment of subscription, may apply to the Executive Committee for re-instatement provided that no more than two years has elapsed since the termination of its membership and provided that it is still eligible and the appropriate annual subscription for the intervening period are paid in full, the Executive Committee shall decide if the organization can be re-instated as a Member of the Association.

Duties of Members

5.1 Members shall comply with the Association Constitution which shall not conflict with the WCPT Articles of Association.

5.2 Members shall pay the subscription in accordance with Article 11.

5.3 Members should send a voting delegate to at least one out of two consecutive General meetings.

5.4 Members shall keep the Executive Committee informed of any events or developments in their country of interest to the Association.

5.5 Members shall do all in their power to promote the objectives and work of the Association.

5.6 Members shall be in good standing as determined by their National Association.

5.7 To ensure groups are an "Official Sub Group" in their country, Members should request their parent Organisation to verify information on the "Application Form", verifying the official status of the group and the number of members in the sub-group on the 30th June the previous year. (This information will facilitate the Treasurer to invoice Members for the capitation fee due.

Rights of members

6.1 Members shall participate in the affairs of the Association in accordance with the Constitution.

6.2 Members shall participate in policy development by making suggestions to the Executive Committee and the General Meeting.

6.3 Members shall request technical support and assistance in their efforts to improve the situation of physical therapists practicing with Older People in their countries.

6.4 Members of the Association shall vote in electing a delegate to the WCPT General meeting who has the right to speak but not make or second motions, or to vote.

6.5 Members may vote on all Association matters raised at the General meeting, including the General Election.

Executive Board / Officers

The governing body shall be composed of physical therapists only.

7.1 The elected members of the Executive Committee of the Association will be Chair Person, Chair Person Elect, Secretary, Treasurer and at-large Member. At least two WCPT regions shall be represented.

7.2 Elections for all positions may be held at any General Meeting. The candidate must be endorsed by the Specialist Organisation in their respective National Member Organisation.

7.3 The term of office for elected members of the Executive Committee will be a four year period from one General Meeting to the next. The candidates will be eligible for one further term.

7.4 To facilitate communication, the Chair Person and the Secretary may come from the same country, but there shall not be more than two Executive Committee Members from the same country.

The Chair Person shall have served on the Executive Committee of the organization or have represented a member country to the Organisation at some time during the eight years prior to the election. The first Chair Person excepted.

The Executive Committee shall regulate its own procedures.

Nominations for the Executive Committee offices shall be published six months prior to the General Business Meeting.

Rights and Duties of the Executive Committee

8.1 To administer the finances and business of the organization

The Executive Committee should assess applications and recommend membership

To carry out the decisions of the General meeting of the Association.

To forward an Annual Report to WCPT

To nominate a delegate to the WCPT General Meeting

To decide the location of the Secretariat and arrange the day to day administration of the Association

To make provisions for the holding of Congress and stimulate the conditions for their Organisations.

To appoint committees, sub-committees and working parties as necessary

To make awards as approved by the General Meeting.

To do all such activities as will advance the objectives of the Association

Executive Committee Meetings

Executive Committee meetings will be held at least every four years, the place, date and time to be decided by the Executive Committee. A phone meeting must take place two years after each attended meeting.

Where possible the Executive Committee Meeting will be held in conjunction with a Conference or Scientific Meeting.

Additional Executive Committee Meetings may be called by the Chair Person at the request of the Executive Committee or at the request of a third of its Members. Additional meetings may be conducted

via mail, facsimile or telephone

To transact business at an Executive Committee Meeting there shall be at least a majority of the Executive Committee present, representing Members in good standing

Notice of meetings shall be given at least six months in advance and the agenda circulated two months prior to the Executive Committee Meeting

The meeting shall be chaired by the Chair Person who shall regulate the proceedings and procedure including (with the consent of the meeting) adjournment of business. In the absence of the Chair Person, The Chair Elect shall have the power to conduct and chair the meeting. In the absence of The Chair Elect, the members present and entitled to vote shall have the power to select a member of the Executive Committee to conduct and chair such a meeting. The Chair Person of the meeting must approve any guests invited or wishing to attend the meeting.

Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and distributed to all Members when confirmed by the Executive Committee

Each Executive Committee member shall have one vote. An Executive member unable to be present at an Executive Meeting may cast a vote on any motion on notice by post or facsimile. Such a vote shall be received by the Secretariat one month prior to the meeting

Voting by postal vote will be available only for motions on notice but an Executive Committee Member may empower another Executive Committee Member in good standing to speak at the Executive Committee meeting on that absent Member's behalf.

Motions will be passed by a simple majority.

General and / Special Meetings

10.1A General Meeting of members of the Association shall be held in conjunction with a Physical Therapist Congress in Physical Therapy Practice for Older People or at least once in every four years if no WCPT Congress is held.

10.2 All Members of the Associations who are in good standing are entitled to send delegates to the Association General Meeting.

10.3 Every Member may send a maximum of three delegates. The delegates must be authorized by the National "Sub-Group" for Physical Therapists Working with Older People which they represent.

10.4 All delegates must be Physical Therapists

10.5 All delegates have a right to speak but only one delegate per Member may vote. Observers may be invited to speak.

10.6 Observer status may be granted to WCPT Member Organisations

10.7 To transact business at a General Meeting there shall be at least a majority of the Members who are in good standing present. Motions and officer elections will be passed by a simple majority.

10.8 Notice of meeting shall be given at least six months in advance and the agenda circulated two months prior to the General Meeting

The meeting shall be chaired by the Chair Person who shall regulate the proceedings and procedure including (with the consent of the meeting) adjournment of business. In the absence of the Chair Person, The Chair Elect shall have the power to conduct and chair the meeting. In the absence of the Chair Elect, the members present and entitled to vote shall have the power to select a member of the Executive Committee to conduct and chair any such meeting.

10.10 Minutes of the meeting shall be taken and distributed to all Members for confirmation at the next General Meeting.

10.11 Each Member shall have one vote. A member unable to send a delegate to a General Meeting may cast a vote on any motion or nomination by post or facsimile. Such a vote shall be received by the Secretariat one month prior to the meeting.

10.12 Voting by postal vote will be available only for motions on notice or nominations for office but a Member may empower another Member in good standing to speak on that Member's behalf at a General Meeting.

10.13 The Executive Committee shall determine the place, date and time of the Association General meeting. Motions (other than those to amend the Constitution which require eight months notice) not received six months prior, may only be considered by a majority vote of the voting delegates present at the General Meeting.

A Special General Meeting may be called when requested by a majority of Association Members. Such a meeting will require six months notice.

Finance

11.1 Funds for conducting the affairs of the Association shall be raised by annual subscription as determined by the General Meeting as stated in 11.2

11.2 Each Member Organisation shall pay an annual membership fee determined by the General Meeting. Such a fee to be paid within two months of the commencement of the financial year (March 1st) and will be calculated on the numbers of the member organizations on June 30th of the previous year.

11.3 The financial year of the Association shall be from January 1st to December 31st.

11.4 In default of payment of the membership fee by the date due, all membership rights will be forfeited for that financial year, or until such time as the out-standing subscription is paid.

11.5 A financial report will be presented by the Treasurer annually to the members. A financial report for the period between General meetings will be presented by the Treasurer for approval at the General Meeting and audited by at least two Members elected from the General Meeting. Expenses for activities and financial obligations incurred by the Association shall be the responsibility of the members.

11.6 The audited financial report, together with copies of accounts and reports and such other information, shall be submitted to the WCPT Executive Committee as requested.

11.7 The General Meeting will decide the budget for the next / following financial years.

11.7.1 All travel, hotel and other expenses relating to attendance at the General Meetings will be borne by each Member Association.

11.7.2 Travel expenses, hotel expenses and telephone expenses for the Executive Committee will be borne by the Association

11.8 The Association will be financially independent of WCPT but the overall management of financial procedures shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

Official Language

12.1 The official language of the Association will be English. All documentation required shall be submitted in the official language of the Association.

Amendments to the Constitution

13.1 The Constitution of the Association may be amended at a general Meeting providing Members have been notified eight months in advance

13.2 A two-thirds majority is required to change the Constitution

13.3 Amendments to the Constitution which have been passed by the members shall be submitted to the WCPT Executive for approval.

Dissolution

14.1 The Association may vote for a dissolution through a referendum which receives a two-thirds vote from members.

14.2 Any remaining debts or liabilities will be joined and equally borne by the Members.

14.3 After all out-standing debts have been paid surplus funds will be transferred to the WCPT Development Fund

14.4 In the absence of a World Confederation of Physical Therapists the assets will be disposed to a non-profit making organization agreed by the majority of Members

Further Copies available from

Olwen Finlay