

Editorial

Physiotherapists: Closer together, not worlds apart

Since the last issue of *Manual Therapy Journal*, the Fifteenth World Congress of Physical Therapy (WCPT) has taken place in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. The conference saw the meeting of up to 4000 physical therapists' minds! One thousand six hundred and forty-six presentations were made at Congress by representatives from the five regions of WCPT. The largest proportion of presentations came from Europe with the Americas and the Antipodes and South East Asia also forming a large proportion of the physiotherapy contingent. Musculoskeletal physiotherapy research and development presentations formed the largest proportion of the specialities represented. The 4-yearly WCPT events provide a rich and fertile environment for the exchange of views, ideas, knowledge and research findings between physiotherapists from across the world.

During Congress, an important event took place—the inaugural meeting of the International Society of Physiotherapy Journal Editors (ISPJE). Forty physiotherapy journals were represented at this event and we are delighted to say that the editors of *Manual Therapy Journal* were part of the development of this international society and were represented at the event. The ISPJE aims to promote the sharing of knowledge, expertise and good practice among international physiotherapy editors and raise the standards within and the academic profile of physiotherapy publication across the world. It is also hoped that by working together, we can facilitate more access to publications for those people living in developing countries. It was a privilege to be part of this innovation and we look forward to the opportunities that such collaborations can provide for *Manual Therapy Journal*, but also for the physiotherapy profession as a whole.

WCPT once again demonstrated the goodwill and bonhomie that occurs when physiotherapists from around the world get together. Research collaborations flourished, new developments in technology and practice were shared, new research findings were taken to all corners of the earth for further dissemination by the message bearers. The conference makeup this time

provided a number of learning opportunities, not just from the multi-speciality content perspective, but the method of delivery, e.g. platform presentations, viper discussions, poster presentations, workshops, symposia, discussion panels, debates, pre- and post-congress courses, clinical visits and last-but-not-least, and probably most importantly, the social events and informal networking opportunities. It was indeed a magical learning environment for everyone.

Importantly, WCPT highlights the positive benefits of physiotherapists from all specialities learning together and the fact that as a profession we possess many skills which are transferable across speciality boundaries and many issues and developments occurring in some areas of practice have strong applications and relevance in other areas. We can all learn from experiences that have occurred in other specialities and we should not forget to do so.

Manual Therapy Journal will be publishing a Special Issue, including selected key musculoskeletal papers from Congress before the end of 2007. We are pleased to announce that Associate Professor Darren Rivett of the Editorial Board for *Manual Therapy* will be guest editor for this Special Issue.

While we celebrate the benefits and successes of WCPT, we must now prepare for the next international event and the most important event in the musculoskeletal calendar—IFOMT 2008 which will be held in June 2008 in Rotterdam.

This conference presents us with a superb opportunity to share, learn, collaborate, debate and discuss issues of importance to musculoskeletal physiotherapists worldwide. We should all look forward to hearing about the latest cutting-edge research and taking part in the philosophical debate that will inevitably occur at this most exciting event. We look forward to seeing you all in Rotterdam.

(Co-Editors)

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