

Call for Focused Symposium Proposals

16th International Congress of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy

The World of Physical Therapy will meet in Amsterdam from 20-23 June 2011. The International Scientific Committee (ISC) now wishes to invite proposals for Focused Symposia.

- Instructions and online submission of proposals will be available from 15 July 2009 via the WCPT website www.wcpt.org/congress.
- The closing date for the submission of proposals is 31 October 2009. All submissions must be electronic.
- All applicants will be notified of the outcome by **31 January 2010**.

The general call for abstracts for platform and poster presentation will be available from **1 January 2010** with a submission deadline of **15 September 2010**. Information will be published on the WCPT website when available.

Congress Theme and Programme Tracks

The overall congress theme for 2011 is *Moving Physical Therapy Forward*. This continues the theme used in previous congresses and reflects the vision of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT), encompassing global change, challenges and opportunities for physical therapists and the governments, professionals and populations we work with. Where better to *move physical therapy forward* than at its prestigious international congress?

World Physical Therapy 2011 (WPT2011) will be structured around five core programme tracks. These will be used to draw together different sessions that complement each other.

Track 1: Global Health

Congress provides an excellent opportunity to reflect on international health priorities and policies and their implications for physical therapists and the people with whom they work. Physical therapists have a vital role to play in working with individuals and populations to promote health and wellbeing and provide rehabilitation. Many opportunities exist for physical therapists to implement strategies to tackle the consequences of physical inactivity, an ageing population and the functional limitations arising from violence, injuries from road traffic accidents, HIV/AIDS and preventable chronic diseases like cardiovascular disease. WCPT is working with governmental and non-governmental international organisations to address many of these issues.

Track 2: Professional Issues

The profession of physical therapy is evolving all the time, learning from the past and looking to the future. The status and profile of the profession varies internationally as does the context within which physical therapists work. The way in which health services are delivered is continually changing with new models developing, opportunities for physical therapists emerging, and service users placed at the centre of service provision. And yet in some countries physical therapists continue to face a struggle for autonomy, often working in difficult and hostile environments. Wherever physical therapists practise, they share common goals: putting service users first, providing high quality services, maintaining professional standards and adapting to change. This track focuses on the many issues that affect health policy, service provision and the context and scope of practice.

Track 3: Professional Practice

This track will focus on the practice of physical therapy from referral through assessment, diagnosis, planning, intervention and evaluation. Encompassing health promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation throughout the lifespan and across different service settings, this track concentrates on the everyday clinical practice of physical therapists working with service users. Underpinning this is knowledge derived from the biological, physical, behavioural and clinical sciences. Using the latest research and innovation to inform practice is vital if the profession is to develop, and its work to be evidence based. Congress provides an excellent opportunity to present and discuss the latest advances and the implications for practising clinicians in their daily practice.

Track 4: Education

Physical therapy education is a continuum of life-long learning, beginning with admission to an accredited physical therapy programme and ending with retirement from active practice. It includes post-qualifying education and specialisation opportunities as well as formal and informal learning opportunities. How educational provision is organised, delivered and evaluated are important issues. In striving to meet the need to educate physical therapists for practice in a changing environment and in different practice contexts, new models of education and continuing professional development are continually evolving. This track will examine how to ensure that physical therapists are appropriately prepared and become fit for practice, and what roles they take on as their career paths progress.

Track 5: Research Methodology

This track will focus on research methodological issues. Generating evidence through research is essential for developing evidence based practice. The methods used to generate, disseminate and implement this evidence require scrutiny and evaluation. Innovative ways to build research networks, define research agendas and to develop capacity and capability within the profession are critical to delivering the evidence required. Additionally, data derived from practice can be used as a source of evidence and as a means of generating questions to be addressed through research. The challenges for new researchers are well known and there is much to be learnt from collaboration and sharing good practice. There is a need to recognise that the needs of high resource and low resource countries vary if we are to develop strategies for continued research growth that produces clinically and context-relevant evidence.

Proposals are invited for Focused Symposia

There are a limited number of openings available for these sessions as they complement other sessions across the three day programme.

The Call for Focused Symposia is open to any topics that fit at least one of the programme tracks. The International Scientific Committee is also particularly interested in seeing proposals that address any of the following topics:

- advanced scope of physical therapy practice (e.g. extended scope practitioners, consultant physical therapists, advanced practitioners, specialisation¹)
- direct access to physical therapy services
- global health: diseases of civilization [e.g. cardiovascular disease, cancer, obesity, diabetes, tobacco related respiratory problems]
- health promotion and wellbeing
- professional leadership, strategy and policy development
- the International Classification of Functioning (ICF)

Each focused symposium is organised by a convenor who is a recognised expert in the field. The convenor has the responsibility for inviting and leading a group of international researchers through a series of linked presentations.

The symposia are structured to include:

- an introduction by the convenor
- up to four additional presenters
- a discussion period of presenters with the audience
- a summary by the convenor

In the summary at the end of the symposium the convenor must highlight the implications and key take-home messages for practice, research, education, management and/or policy relevant to the subject internationally.

Each symposium will last **1.5 hours**.

Each focused symposium will consist of a maximum of three 20 minute or four 15 minute presentations. It is expected that presentations in the symposium will be thematically linked, research focused and interesting to practitioners, researchers, educators, managers and/or policy makers.

The symposium convenor should complete the on-line submission form on behalf of all the presenters whose agreement to participate must have been obtained prior to submission.

Requirement

At least three of WCPT's regions (see www.wcpt.org/regions) should be represented by the speakers contributing to each symposium. Where applicable to the topic, priority will be given to symposia that include perspectives from low resource countries.

There is a limited budget allocated to support the inclusion of symposium presenters from low resource countries. The convenor must indicate that they have a presenter wishing to apply for assistance in the on-line submission and the individual presenter must complete and submit an application form prior to the symposium submission deadline. Details can be found at www.wcpt.org/congress/participation_fund

¹ **Specialisation:** the application of advanced clinical competence by a physical therapist qualified in a defined area within the scope of practice recognised as physical therapy ([WCPT Position Statement](#))

Sample format for a Focused Symposium

08.30: Convenor: Introduction

08.45: Presenter 1: Topic X

09.00: Presenter 2: Topic Y

09.15: Presenter 3: Topic Z

09.30: Discussion with audience

09.50: Convenor summary and conclusions

Each submission must be made electronically via the WCPT website. The on-line submission form will provide restricted space for data entry to limit the word count. To assist you in preparing your submission an indication of the available word count is provided.

Submissions should include the following:

Session summary:

- a) Names of convenor and all presenters.
- b) Contact details of all contributors to include:
 - Full name, organisation/institution, city and country as you would wish it to appear in the completed programme
 - E-mail, work telephone, mailing address
- c) Fit with congress programme track(s). [Completed via drop-down list]
- d) Relevance to WCPT and expected audience. [max 75 words]
- e) Summary of symposium objectives. [max 100 words]
- f) Target audience. [max 25 words]
- g) Summary of the session format that will be followed. [max 100 words]
- h) Statement from convenor about why they are best placed to lead the symposium. [max 50 words]
- i) The completed abstract for the symposium. One abstract jointly authored by the convenor and all presenters should provide a comprehensive overview of the symposium and linked presentations. This will be included in the congress proceedings and should be structured using the following headings:
 - title of symposium [max 10 words]
 - authors (convenor first, followed by all presenters)
 - **main abstract body** [max 750 words]
 - learning objectives (up to 3)
 - description
 - implications/conclusions
 - key words (up to 3)
 - funding acknowledgements
- j) A biography for the convenor and each contributor. This should outline academic qualifications, positions/appointments, publication and presentation track record, research information (interests, grants), and professional practice background. [max 250 words each]
- k) Information concerning any presentations or publications of the work made prior to congress. [max 50 words]

- l) Request for any presenters from low resource countries wishing to apply for funding assistance towards congress participation.

Selection Criteria

The following selection criteria will be used to review all proposals.

The Committee are seeking sessions that:

- are relevant to the congress theme
- are relevant to one or more of the programme tracks
- articulate a clear purpose with defined outcomes for delegates
- strike a balance between appealing to everyone and appealing to a very specialised group of delegates
- have the ability to draw interested delegates from within and outside the speciality area
- incorporate current available evidence, implications for further research, and areas of controversy in the literature
- have the potential to stimulate active engagement with delegates
- appeal to an internationally diverse audience
- have speakers with international experience and standing in the topic area
- have speakers representing at least three of WCPT's regions
- are feasible within the allotted time

In addition to the preceding selection criteria consideration will be given to symposia that support inclusion, as appropriate, of less experienced with established presenters.

General Information

1. The congress language is English and all proposals and presentations must be made in English. There will be no translation provided.
2. A symposium convenor or presenter may only appear in **one** symposium proposal submission. This does not affect any future abstract submissions.
3. Symposium convenors and all presenters are expected to register for at least the day of congress that their session is programmed.
4. In keeping with WCPT policy, honorarium, fee or payment of expenses will not be provided for convenors or contributors, except where funding assistance is applied for and allocated to support a presenter from a low resource country.
5. Proposals should address the current evidence, where it exists, the need for further research, and areas of controversy in the literature. Any reference to personal experience or hypotheses should be clearly labelled as such.
6. All research and studies that involve human subjects reported in submitted proposals must comply with the guiding principles for experimental procedures found in the [Declaration of Helsinki of the World Medical Association \(www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm\)](http://www.wma.net/e/policy/b3.htm) and the [Council for International Organizations of Medical Sciences' \(CIOMS\) International Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Human Subjects \(www.cioms.ch/frame_guidelines_nov_2002.htm\)](http://www.cioms.ch/frame_guidelines_nov_2002.htm) published in collaboration with the World Health Organization. Research involving animal subjects must comply with the guiding principles set out in the

[International Guiding Principles for Biomedical Research Involving Animals \(www.cioms.ch/1985_texts_of_guidelines.htm\)](http://www.cioms.ch/1985_texts_of_guidelines.htm) published by CIOMS.

7. All proposals and presentations must adhere to the use of “people-first” language. A person must not be referred to by disability or condition, and terms that could be considered biasing or discriminatory in any way should be removed (e.g. “person with a stroke” instead of “stroke patients”). See: www.disabilityisnatural.com/peoplefirstlanguage.htm for more information and examples.
8. Any source of funding or support for the work being presented should be acknowledged.
9. The International Scientific Committee may invite symposium convenors and contributors to contribute to other congress programming sessions, such as poster walks and chairing, and their cooperation and support would be welcomed.
10. WCPT will be exploring publication options to facilitate access to sessions and congress outputs for those unable to attend the congress in person. As plans are agreed the implications for symposia will be communicated with symposium convenors and their cooperation is expected.
11. Speakers are responsible for providing all copyright permissions.
12. The production and costs associated with any handout materials are the responsibility of focused symposium convenors and contributors. WCPT does not provide financial support, production or copying facilities for these.
13. Standard lecture room layout will be provided with PowerPoint presentation in all congress rooms.
14. Sessions may be audiotaped. The use of alternative media outputs is being investigated and may include podcasts and virtual on-line access. Selected focused symposia are expected to comply with all reasonable decisions made in this regard.
15. Contributors should not use these sessions for marketing opportunities for new products, equipment or organisations, nor to use the presentation time to refute or denigrate competitors’ products.
16. Descriptions and objectives for each focused symposium will be published in the preliminary and final programmes, on WCPT’s website and in other promotional material.
17. Congress programme placement will be determined by the International Scientific Committee to ensure best fit with the overall programme. Any requests for specific dates and times cannot be guaranteed, but will be considered if submitted at the time of proposal submission.
18. Any changes to an accepted focused symposium must be submitted to the International Scientific Committee for review and approval.
19. All proposal submissions must be completed online.
20. All decisions of the International Scientific Committee are **final**.

When completing the on-line submission process you will be asked to confirm that you have read and understood the general information and the requirements you are expected to fulfil.