



WPT2011 Congress Survey 2008 Summary of Responses

In October 2008 WCPT launched an on-line survey to elicit feedback to help the planning of World Physical Therapy 2011. This is the first time such a survey has been carried out ahead of a congress. It shows the innovative approach the International Scientific Committee is taking to developing a scientific programme that will be attractive to physical therapists worldwide and balance the many interests of presenters and attendees. Three surveys were used to target WCPT's member organisations, WCPT's subgroups (both those already recognised and those in development) and individual physical therapists (PTs).

Over 1180 forms were completed by individual PTs, over 50 from member organisations and there were 10 responses from subgroups. This was an excellent response and the information gathered gave the committee plenty to review at their last meeting in November 2008.

Looking at the responses from individual PTs there was a good response from those working as clinicians, educators, researchers, private practitioners, managers and policy makers, as well as students and retired PTs, representing views from across the profession. While 58% of respondents came from Europe all of WCPT's 5 regions were represented. Interestingly the majority of respondents hadn't attended a previous congress, although 41.6% had. The good news is that over 90% are currently planning on being in Amsterdam in 2011.

What will attract delegates to the congress? The most important thing is the scientific programme with a range of session formats and the involvement of high profile speakers, along with opportunities to network with colleagues, closely followed by courses and workshops.

The success of the programme tracks used for World Physical Therapy 2007 – global health, professional practice, professional issues, research and development and education will be carried forward for 2011. There was a good cross section of interest in the topic areas under each programme track and here are the top 3 in each:

- Global Health:
- Physical inactivity
 - Ageing society
 - International Classification of Functioning (ICF)
- Professional Practice:
- Musculoskeletal
 - Health promotion and wellbeing
 - Exercise physiology

WCPT Secretariat

Kensington Charity Centre • 4th Floor Charles House • 375 Kensington High Street • London W14 8QH • UK
T +44 (0)20 7471 6765 • F +44 (0)20 7471 6766 • info@wcpt.org • www.wcpt.org

- Professional Issues:
- Specialisation
 - Advanced practitioners
 - Professional standards
- Research and Development:
- Evidence Based Practice (EBP)
 - Clinical guidelines
 - Outcome measures
- Education:
- Continuing Education
 - Clinical reasoning
 - Clinical education

In terms of issues that will be important for the profession over the next 3-5 years an ageing society, new roles for PTs and health promotion featured highly, closely followed by health politics and physical inactivity. These further reinforce the topics identified under the programme tracks.

Feedback from member organisations and subgroups closely reflected that from individual PTs.

So, what next? The International Scientific Committee will be looking to use this valuable feedback, in addition to other resources, to develop the programme structure and content. They are mindful that a WCPT congress offers a unique experience and appeals to PTs across the globe. In *Moving Physical Therapy Forward* many needs and interests have to be balanced, but you can be assured that WPT2011 will offer a stimulating programme that will appeal to presenters and attendees. The call for abstracts will be issued later this year and a preliminary programme outline produced as soon as possible.

What can you do?

- Put the dates in your diary: 20-23 June 2011
- Tell your colleagues and get them interested
- Start thinking about work that you can have ready for submitting as abstracts
- Check the congress website regularly for updates: www.wcpt.org/congress
- Sign up to the congress mailing list if you haven't already done so: send your full name, email address and country of residence to congress@wcpt.org

See you in Amsterdam!