

**Pediatric Networking Meeting**  
**World Confederation of Physical Therapy**  
**Vancouver, BC**  
**June 3, 2007**

Participants: 60 people from approximately 15 different countries

Announcement: Barbara Connolly announced that the WCPT had approved the formation of the International Organization of Physical Therapists in Paediatrics on June 1, 2007.

Discussion: Participants were asked to discuss their ideas about what a pediatric subgroup could do to address practice, education and research in pediatric physical therapy. Most discussion centered on the areas of: scope of practice, research and evidence based practice, education/continuing education, networking/communication, and public relations.

Summary of Comments:

Scope of Practice

- Identify/define and share information on the “scope” of pediatric PT in different countries
  - Settings: clinical, hospital, private, schools, government agencies
  - Roles in prevention and health promotion
  - Ages: infants, children, adolescents, adults with developmental disabilities
  - Rural vs urban (societal and safety issues)
  - Center-based vs community based
- Define the skills needed by pediatric physical therapist as compared to other disciplines and with personnel shortages in mind
- Identify “best practice”
- Utilize evidence and documents to help define the scope
- Compare and analyze pediatric intervention ex: play vs exercise, what is most effective
- Identify the role of pediatric physical therapist as diagnosticians; develop guidelines used to make diagnoses

### Research/Evidence-based Practice

- Promote and identify funding for pediatric research
- Identify “golden standards” for new evidence”
- Address lack of evidence for specific interventions or service delivery models
- Develop data bases for subgroup members
- Implement a survey to identify who we are serving, how and where
- Share information/evidence on the populations and ages served, types of interventions and service delivery models
- Translate evidence into practice

### Education/Continuing Education

- Present more pediatric sessions at WCPT
- Pediatric keynote speaker at WCPT
- Pediatric conference between WCPT meetings
- Include sessions on linking to communities and how to facilitate/coordinate services in communities and across agencies
- Promote increased pediatric content in entry-level PT programs
- Develop global education standards
- Promote development of more pediatric clinical affiliations, fellowships and residency programs
- Develop international student affiliations
- Promote pediatrics in recruitment activities for potential students
- Publish pediatric research and clinical reports in various journals around the world
- Train PTs to advocate for lifestyle changes
- Train PTs with a public health perspective
- Train PTs to be more globally aware
- Train PTs to be advocates and educators for children and families with government and community agencies
- Prepare PTs for working with emerging issues/problems like HIV/AIDS, DCD, PDD, Autism

### Networking/Communications

- Share information on practice issues and trends in each country and region
- Compare documents from different countries (education, competencies, settings, practice)
- Define a “mission statement” for the pediatric subgroup

- Assist/encourage subgroup members to work within their country's association
- Exchange information among special interest groups and professional associations
- Discuss payment systems and their effect on provision of PT services

#### Public Relations

- Promote the role of PTs as primary educators to individuals, families, community and government agencies
- Advocate for PT to ministries
- Engage WHO, UNICEF, and UNESCO, etc to promote physical activity and appropriate, safe environments for recreational and physical activities for children
- Address the discrepancy of resources (ex: 50 million people in Africa with only 5000 PTs)