

Press release

30th April 2015

Physical therapy's highest global honour goes to Kari Bø

A Norwegian physical therapist has been awarded the World Confederation for Physical Therapy's highest honour for her highly influential work in women's health.

Kari Bø is an internationally recognised researcher in the area of pelvic floor dysfunction and pelvic floor muscle training. A Professor at the Norwegian School of Sports Sciences since 1997, she has delivered key note lectures around the world, and has raised awareness of women's health issues through her extensive work with the media.

She has been presented with WCPT's Mildred Elson Award for outstanding leadership contributing significantly to the development of physical therapy internationally. According to the WCPT citation: "Her contribution to evidence based practice has had a major impact on the scientific community and thousands of women with problems related to the pelvic floor, such as urinary incontinence."

Receiving the award during the WCPT General Meeting and Congress in Singapore, Kari Bø said: "I feel very humble and honoured to receive this award and very proud to be a physical therapist. The award gives me inspiration in continuing my work as a physical therapist and a clinical researcher."

Other awards

The Mildred Elson Award was one of a range of honours being presented in Singapore to physical therapists who have made an outstanding contribution to their profession on an international level.

Diana Hiscock, a physical therapist from the UK, was presented with the WCPT Humanitarian Service Award 2015. For over 30 years she has worked with NGOs as a project manager in marginalised communities and in areas affected by disaster and war. Most recently she has worked with people injured and displaced by conflict in Syria and refugees in Jordan.

The work of Padmani Mendis from Sri Lanka in the field of community based rehabilitation (CBR) has been recognised with the WCPT Leadership in Rehabilitation Award. She was one of the initiators of the World Health Organization's CBR strategy and help guide the development of the programme over three decades.

WCPT International Service Awards have also been awarded to:

Hua-Fang Liao – Taiwan

Jill McClintock – UK

Michel Landry – Canada

Donald Neumann – United States

Celia Tan – Singapore

Archbold Hinchcliffe – United Kingdom

Mary Martin – Canada (awarded posthumously)

Toshihiro Morinaga – Japan

Dina Brooks – Canada

Alan Jette – United States

About the WCPT Awards

The WCPT awards programme recognises outstanding contributions by physical therapists to the profession and/or global health at an international level. There are several categories of award, all presented every four years at the time of the WCPT General Meeting.

For more information

More information about the awards and their winners can be accessed at http://www.wcpt.org/sites/wcpt.org/files/files/Awards2015_CitationsBooklet_FINAL.pdf

Further information about the WCPT General Meeting and the WCPT Congress 2015 that follows it can be found at <http://www.wcpt.org/congress>

Please contact Simon Crompton if you have specific queries: scrompton@wcpt.org

Note to WCPT member organisations

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