Alain Yvan Belanger

Candidate statement
for
President WCPT 2019-2023

Delegates, beware!

This statement is written by a candidate who has no previous experience on the WCPT Board of Trustees. Breaking with tradition? Why not. Is it possible for a candidate to aspire to become the next WCPT President without having spent years in the corridors of the WCPT? My answer is yes. The burden is now on my shoulders to show you what I can bring to the WCPT if you choose to honor me with your support.

Who am I?

Born in Canada, I hold a BSc in Physiotherapy, an MSc in Kinesiology and a PhD in Neurosciences. I am fully bilingual in both French and English. I had a career in the field of academia which ended with my retirement as Full Professor at Laval University. I attended my first WCPT congress in 1978 (Tel Aviv) where I presented a platform paper. How proud I was to present my paper to the world of physiotherapy. I had the privilege, over the years, to attend the following WCPT congresses as either presenter, chair, or participant - London (1991), Washington (1995), Yokohama (1999), Barcelona (2003), Vancouver (2007), Amsterdam (2011), and Cape Town (2017). Like many of you, I have volunteered to my national professional association. I served on numerous committees as chair and
member. I also served on the CPA Board of Directors for several years. I had the immense privilege to serve as CPA President from 1997-1999. Today, I serve again on the CPA Board of Directors after being duly elected by membership. Finally, I had the tremendous distinction to have been selected by the WCPT to act as Mentor Education in Senegal within the SUDA Project. What a revealing experience that was for me!

This last experience in Africa, coupled with my deep desire to serve the WCPT, prompted me to submit my candidature.

**My beliefs**

There is no substitute for honesty and integrity. I subscribe to the power of teamwork. I am comfortable with controversy. What happens next is what drives me. What our stakeholders think of my profession is capital. I am proactive. Critical thinking always guides my decision-making. To serve my profession is what I like to do. To define its uniqueness is what I strive for. I have strong opinions, but I can listen and compromise. I am driven by the evidence and common sense, not by emotion nor by the flavor of the day.

**My vision**

My vision of WCPT is one where our stakeholders recognize the uniqueness of our profession and seek our knowledge, expertise and services to improve the health status and mobility of all humans on the planet.

Uniqueness: This is our holy grail! What is it that makes our profession unique in the spectrum of health care? It is very difficult, if not impossible, for a profession to be recognized, outside it peers, if it is unable to state its uniqueness. Stakeholder recognition: What is more important for our profession? Self-recognition or stakeholder recognition? To achieve stakeholder recognition worldwide is what the WCPT needs to strive for.

My vision of WCPT also includes the establishment of a mentoring program where member organizations could benefit from the knowledge and expertise of the others. Mentoring is a powerful tool. I had the opportunity to experience it personally in Senegal during the SUDA Project.

**As your President, what should you expect**

The President’s role is one of governance/ leadership/ advocacy/ mentorship.
Governance

You can be reassured. The governance of the WCPT will continue to be in very capable hands of your Board of Trustees. In close collaboration with the Vice-President and under the watchful eye of our CEO, I will chair and lead a board that is proactive, evidence-based and driven by the existing strategic plan. Experience in the governance of non for profit organization is something I am very familiar with having served for many years on the CPA Board of Directors as both Director and President.

Leadership/advocacy

In keeping with my vision, I will emphasize my political role and be more stakeholder-focused. Practically speaking this means that I will spend more time attending, with member organization leaders, strategic meetings with key stakeholders in their country, such as governmental agencies (Health and Education), in addition to lobbying key representatives from the medical profession on the value and benefits of physiotherapy care.

Here is an example. During my mission in Senegal, I felt the need to call on the WCPT President to attend one of our key meetings with governmental and academic representatives as I was lobbying hard for more professional recognition and budget for the Kinesitherapy program. Logistics and time constraint prevented me for making such a call. I believe the WCPT President can play a significant role in such key meetings where member organizations need support, mentoring and a physiotherapy world representation in their quest for more professional recognition and resources from their respective country.

Mentorship

Mentoring is a proven approach to derive rich learning and development for both mentees and mentors. For the WCPT to set up its global mentoring program is a priority for me. To match less developed member organizations with more developed ones, on a permanent basis, can only accelerate development, growth and recognition.

Why should you give me your support?

The leadership of WCPT is in your hands. Which candidate should you support and why? Yes, it is true that I have never been on the Board of Trustees before, but I am a passionate candidate with a vision for the WCPT. As your President, and with your support, I believe we can define our uniqueness, achieve greater
international recognition by our stakeholders, and better serve our member organizations through our mentoring program. If this vision is what you and your country can endorse, then I am your candidate.

I thank you for your trust and support. Merci pour votre confiance et support.

AYB 2018