Candidate Statement

**John Xerri de Caro**

WCPT Vice-President 2019 - 2023

It is a privilege and honour to present myself as a candidate in the election for Vice President of the WCPT.

In 1999 as a young physiotherapist I represented Malta as a voting delegate during the General Meeting in Japan. That experience aroused a deep curiosity in me for the ‘physiotherapy experience’ on the world stage, and how this impacts people on a more local level. I wanted to promote the WCPT values at home and worked to evolve the Malta Association of Physiotherapists (MAP) to collaborate on an international sphere. This was a dream for us in Malta in 1999. Our presence on the world stage is a testimony to the values of teamwork and resilience as well as an encouragement to the many men and women that make up the physiotherapy organisations worldwide. We understood the importance to be brave and to believe in the contribution towards making physiotherapy better even at an international level.

Seeing the WCPT develop into a bigger and greater Confederation led me to want to be part of it, and to share in that exciting experience. It started within the European Region as I gradually involved myself as an active member of its working groups between 2008 and 2012. The opportunity to serve the international community beyond Europe came when I suddenly found myself sitting on the Executive Committee of the WCPT in 2014. This happened under challenging circumstances following the unexpected death of Johnny Kuhr. That particular experience taught me a lot about life in general. Apart from helping me learn how to work with colleagues from other countries even when situations become
difficult, it strengthened my resolve on the importance of being honest and genuine. A tremendous learning opportunity for what was to come as a member of the Executive Board (2015 – 2019).

Serving on the Board of WCPT since 2015 has been another very good and positive experience because again, with the support and help of many colleagues I could contribute at a strategic and leadership level. In fact, during this time the Board was called upon by Member Organisations to show leadership and creativity. We were tasked to develop a sound business plan and a robust forward-looking strategic document. We were asked to show determination and courage to address naturally evolving issues which needed attention. Working on the Board is a pleasure and the teamwork which generates value and results gives me great satisfaction and fills me with determination.

When we work together, we deliver successfully. This encourages me. For example, the transfer of power at the WCPT top management level, following the departure of the General Secretary Brenda Myers, is another experience which taught me that working as a team brings positive changes and augurs well for the Member Organisations represented by the Board. We worked to establish good, strong and contemporary governance in our financial and total quality management structures. We embarked on an unprecedented review of our governance and rolled out a worldwide membership engagement strategy in line with our commitment. Through significantly diverse working groups, we reviewed several important policies, such as the Education Policy which I chaired. By developing our shared values into action plans we contributed to the continuous global development of physiotherapy, such as implementing the Accreditation Service that has served to raise the quality and standard of education; and promoting practice and research through the world congresses in South Africa and Geneva. This engagement also gave me the opportunity to step in for the President on a few occasions such as attending conferences and congresses in Europe, North Africa and the Middle East to advocate on behalf of the WCPT and physiotherapy.

The prospect to serve the international community as Vice President of the WCPT fills me with excitement and joy, as well as a sense of responsibility and honour. Continuing on the
work of past Vice Presidents who contributed in a great way as role models, leaders and shapers of the WCPT is a major task which I’m ready to fulfil.

If you decide to place your trust in me, and to vote for me as your next Vice President, I promise to do my utmost to continue representing WCPT and to support the President, the Board and the Secretariat by developing our shared values into even more practical and tangible actions. I see this happening best in a team setting so that the core interests of WCPT continue to grow over time. As a firm advocate of what WCPT stands for, for the Member Organisations themselves and for the subgroups, networks and individual physiotherapists, I commit my energy and dedication so that physiotherapy continues to position itself as a major contributor to the holistic well-being of the individual at a global level.

John XdC – 29th August 2018

www.johnxdc.wordpress.com