



IFOMPT Release

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A Network of OMPT Leaders and Experts

From the President - Ken Olson

A benefit of membership in IFOMPT is to join a network of OMPT leaders that allows each member to both contribute to and learn from this network on clinical, political, educational, and research issues to advance OMPT practice worldwide.

An example of the advantages of being a part of an international network of OMPT leaders to more effectively manage clinical, educational, and political issues can be illustrated by the fact that we can learn from others' experiences, history, and expertise. In late October 2017, I had the opportunity to attend and speak at the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists (AAOMPT) Annual Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, USA and the 3rd Latin American Manual Therapy Congress in Cartagena, Colombia.

At the AAOMPT conference, I presented the history of the AAOMPT along with Dr. Stanley Paris and Dr. Elaine Lonnemann. Dr. Lonnemann was recently elected President of AAOMPT, and she and I were students in the OMPT Residency/Fellowship programme at the University of St Augustine under the mentorship of Dr. Paris and faculty at the time that the AAOMPT was founded in 1991.



Dr Paris presenting the history at the AAOMPT Congress

Dr. Paris was both a founding member of the AAOMPT and of IFOMPT. His perspectives of the historical and political environment that led to the formation of IFOMPT and the AAOMPT were most insightful. The AAOMPT was one of the first IFOMPT MOs to be formed outside of their professional organisation (APTA). This was due to the fact that the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) constitution did not allow subgroups to have a two-tier membership in order to reserve certain rights and privileges to the members who had graduated from IFOMPT-approved educational programmes (i.e. Fellows).

I was elected to the AAOMPT Executive Committee (EC) in 1995 and served on the EC for 11 years. Over this timeframe, the AAOMPT had to overcome conflict, mistrust, and political maneuvering from APTA leadership in order to obtain the necessary APTA endorsement of the AAOMPT as the representative organisation to IFOMPT. It took over 12 years to get the letter of support, but by 2004, the APTA and AAOMPT were working cooperatively on issues including credentialing of manual therapy residency programmes, protection of practice rights related to manual therapy and manipulation, and enhancement of the level of instruction of manipulation in entry-level PT programmes. These cooperative initiatives helped to build trust and relationships that continue to thrive as the AAOMPT and APTA work cooperatively for the good of the PT profession. AAOMPT has thrived over the past few years growing to include 31 accredited OMPT programmes that graduate over 170 OMPTs (Fellows) per year and the APTA has recently attained the 100,000-member milestone.

The following week, I was able to meet with OMPT leaders and educators from 6 Latin American countries while in Cartagena. Listening to the stories and challenges of these colleagues brought back memories of the early days of the AAOMPT. I am inspired by the level of enthusiasm in Latin America to develop OMPT educational programmes and advance this area of specialisation. The primary challenges continue to be relationships with parent organisations, resources to develop and grow their organisations and their educational programmes, and development of OMPT mentors and educators who can provide clinical mentoring.



Ken Olson meeting with representative from the Chile, Colombia, Brazil, and Venezuela while in Colombia.

These issues are not unique to Latin America. We hear of similar challenges from other regions of the world attempting to advance the OMPT speciality. These developing organisations must first create an organisational infrastructure with a constitution and code of conduct to allow them to join IFOMPT as a Registered Interest Group (RIG). The OMPT organisation can either be within the parent organisation as a subgroup or outside the organisational structure of the parent organisation, in which case, each individual member of the OMPT organisation must be a member of the parent organisation. The purpose of this requirement is to meet WCPT constitutional requirements and to encourage a cooperative relationship with the parent organisation, which ultimately will build a stronger profession within the country.

The IFOMPT Advisory Group on RIG Development (AGRD), which is chaired by Duncan Reid, has been charged with the task of mentoring the RIGs to work toward becoming Member Organisations (MO). To transition to an MO, the organisation must demonstrate that they either conduct or oversee an educational programme that meets IFOMPT standards and the country's WCPT member organisation (parent organisation) must confirm that the OMPT organisation officially represents their country to IFOMPT. If this becomes a barrier, I suggest learning from the history of AAOMPT. Start with finding ways to cooperate with the parent organisation for the good of the PT profession and focus on building relationships with leaders in the parent organisation. Demonstrate that a strong OMPT organisation can enhance the growth and development of the parent organisation and the profession.

The educational barriers can be quite challenging. The AGRD can provide consultation to RIGs to review their curriculum and to provide feedback to assist RIGs in working toward attainment of the IFOMPT educational standards. Development of a critical mass of qualified mentors has been dealt with in several MOs by formation of a portfolio review process to membership in the MO in order to qualify experienced physiotherapists as mentors who meet specific criteria. For instance, the AAOMPT ran a portfolio review and examination process for about 5 years early in their history to expand the pool of qualified Fellows who could become clinical mentors in the OMPT educational programmes, and the AGRD is interested in learning how other MOs have overcome this barrier. The research requirement in the educational standards can also be a barrier to meeting the Standards and the Advisory Group on Research is developing a questionnaire to more fully understand the barriers to meeting these challenges. ...2



Latest IFOMPT Developments

*"Without continual growth and progress, such words as improvement, achievement, and success have no meaning."
Benjamin Franklin*

News from the Advisory Group on RIG Development - Duncan Reid

An Advisory Group on (RIG) Development was established by the Executive Committee in 2016 to assist IFOMPT to grow its membership. This group was specifically tasked to proactively search for groups eligible for membership and future RIGs and to support and develop RIGs.

There is ever increasing interest in countries to become RIGs and we now have the largest number of RIGs on the books (17) with new enquires from Romania, Pakistan, Malawi, Chile and Zimbabwe.

All new countries that have expressed interest and those that have applied to be RIGs are mentored by a member of this group. These countries need significant guidance on the next steps to align their curricula with the IFOMPT Standards Document. Most still have the challenge of either developing a programme or ensuring their programme is eclectic and broad enough to meet the competencies of the Standards Document. Some have a manual therapy programme, but few have all the other elements in place such as research, pain science, clinical supervision, etc. A dedicated section will shortly be added to the IFOMPT website to provide specific guidance and links to key documents for RIGs to use as they plan the next steps in the development of their curricula.

A number of initiatives are under way and a case in point is a project where the MO from New Zealand is working to improve musculoskeletal practice in South Korea. The New Zealand Manipulative Physiotherapists Association and AUT University have developed a collaborative relationship with one of the 90 Physiotherapy Schools in South Korea, Namsoul University. The aim of this collaboration is to improve both the undergraduate and post graduate education programmes at this university and in Korea in general. From the undergraduate perspective, AUT is working with Namsoul to allow students to articulate with the Bachelor of Health Science (Physiotherapy) and potentially complete this degree in New Zealand after they have completed the first two years in Korea. From a post graduate perspective, NZMPA has agreed to work with Professor Sangbin Lee from Namsoul to deliver NZMPA flagship programme, the Certificate of Orthopaedic Manual Therapy (COMT) in Korea.



Duncan Reid with the Korean Class of 2017

This will assist in Korea's desire to have musculoskeletal programmes that meet the IFOMPT Standards and gain full membership of IFOMPT. Prof Reid also gave several public lectures on the importance of IFOMPT to Korean post graduate physiotherapy development and the need to embrace evidence based practice and education.



Duncan Reid teaching shoulder assessment

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MOs are encouraged to share documents and resources that they feel could assist the RIGs. The AGRD plans to develop a section of the IFOMPT website as a resource center for RIG development for more ease of access of needed documents and materials.

Although IFOMPT has a limited ability to make changes within a country, we have an actively engaged network of OMPT leaders and experts who have dealt with similar issues within other countries and can provide mentorship and counsel to work toward clinical, educational, political and research solutions that will enhance OMPT worldwide. These are examples of efforts IFOMPT is taking to be "The Global Leader in OMPT Excellence".

IFOMPT Special Meeting Results

Over the course of the past four months, all MO Delegates participated in the special meeting to decide on a subscriptions due increase with the formal vote taking place in the first week of December 2017.

The following three motions will be voted on:
MOTION 1:

The annual MO subscription fee to be increased to \$2 500 (USD) beginning in 2018.

MOTION 2:

The annual RIG subscription fee be increased to \$450 (USD) beginning in 2018.

MOTION 3:

The annual MO and RIG subscription fee will be increased at a rate of 2.5% per annum in 2019 and 2020.

The members voted overwhelmingly in favor of the three motions and the new rates will apply as of 2018. Thank you to the Advisory Group on Finance for their work in this matter and to all the MO and RIG Delegates for submitting both constructive suggestions, alternative considerations and for voting.

To our IFOMPT Family and Friends around the world



MERRY XMAS

Happy Holidays

FELIZ NAVIDAD



Happy New Year

Joy Hope & Peace

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Thank you for your support in 2017
The IFOMPT Executive Committee