



International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapists

IFOMT December newsletter

Dear Member Organization, Registered Interest Group Delegates and Special Friends

Another year has flown by, and we will soon be seeing you all in Rotterdam. Erik and his great team are doing a wonderful job in organising this conference, so remember to register early to take advantage of the early bird offer.

On behalf of the Executive Committee we would like to extend our congratulations to Dr Alison Rushton, Chair of the Standards Committee for being honoured recently by the MACP (UK Member Organisation) and being awarded a Fellowship in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Association.

We would like to welcome Wayne Hing as the New Zealand delegate, who many of you met in Vancouver, and commend Greece (P.A.M.P group) on also submitting their curriculum for evaluation.

With regard to the forthcoming Teachers meeting on Saturday 7th June 2008 in Rotterdam, there has been quite a bit of interest in this following the invitation to MOs, so to aid with finalising numbers and final planning could you please let Vicki know who will be attending representing your MO at your earliest convenience, thank you.

Report from the President – Michael Ritchie

It's that time of year to reflect upon IFOMT activities and look forward to our continued growth, evolution, and development. The IFOMT executive, and our secretariat, Vicki Reid, have been busy in preparation for Rotterdam 2008. Plans are well underway for a successful academic schedule, and a successful administrative / organization / meeting schedule.

In preparation for Rotterdam, we will be asking IFOMT MO representatives to actively take part in forums to discuss a name change, logo change, and modifications to our constitution. This will be done on line through our website, ifomt.org, just like we did in early 2005 when we voted in Greece and Spain into the IFOMT family. These forums are presently planned for January, February, and March of 2008, and will make the general meeting in Rotterdam run smoothly and efficiently. Much of the discussions which would normally occur during a GM can be done through the forum, meaning that we can get a lot more done!

We are making plans to revamp our website. It will turn into a blog, a website which is continuously added and edited, and more dynamic. We are preparing to allow a section on the website to allow individual therapists who are members of an IFOMT MO to post their name, a portrait of themselves, and a small profile of their education/research interests, practice interests, etc. This will be searchable via countries, and will give added value to the individual who wishes to associate themselves with THE international voice for manipulative physical therapists.

I will keep this report short, but must add one thing. In Rotterdam you will have the ability to vote for new executive members. If you are interested in becoming an executive member, please complete the form you will be sent shortly and send to Vicki in the office. In Vancouver, WCPT 2007, I was asked to consider re-offering my name for a second term as president of IFOMT. I have considered this, but due to personal circumstances, have decided not to re-offer for 2008-2012. If the 2008-2012 executive wish me to be involved with further development of the IFOMT website, at this point I would accept that role, so Member Organizations may hear from me for the next several years!

The IFOMT executive wishes you the best for 2008, look forward to your participation in the winter forums, and finally look forward to meeting you again in Rotterdam. Merry Christmas to all.

Report from Standards Committee (SC)

The Standards Committee has had a very busy virtual time since returning from Vancouver and in particular has focused on the following activities:

- **David Lamb Research award**

The terms of reference and the evaluation process have been developed for the award and these were circulated to MOs. Eight applications were received by the deadline and these are currently being reviewed.

- **Standards document**

The document has been revised in line with the move to a competency based framework and the feedback from the MOs. The draft for circulating to the MOs for comment will be distributed prior to Christmas to allow a period of time for evaluation and feedback to the Standards Committee.

- **International monitoring**

The processes of international monitoring 2007 for Australia and the UK are complete, and both MOs continue to maintain the appropriate standards in OMT through their mechanisms of quality management. In addition, both MOs were commended for components of their submissions. They will next be monitored in 2010.

- **Submission of curricula from RIGs**

The Standards Committee are in the process of considering applications for MO status from several RIGs prior to Rotterdam 2008. These include applications from the following countries that are at different stages in the process: Greece, Ireland, Japan, and Korea.

- **VBI / cervical artery dysfunction session in Rotterdam**

Preparation is underway for a stimulating session in Rotterdam that is being organised through the Standards Committee. This development is being led by Darren Rivett, and is particularly supported by Lisa Carlesso who is from the Canadian MO. Thank you to all of you for your time to answer the survey on this issue, that will be used to inform the structure and discussion of the session in Rotterdam.

I hope that you all have a wonderful Christmas and I look forward to working with all of you in preparation for Rotterdam 2008.

Best wishes

Ali Rushton, Chair Standards Committee

MEMBER ORGANISATION REPORTS

Australia: Delegate – Debra Shirley

MPA IFOMT Newsletter December 2007.

It was really nice to meet all of the MO delegates at the IFOMT meetings in Vancouver. It was a great opportunity to get to know all of you and progress the work of IFOMT working up to the business in Rotterdam. As another year draws to a close MPA would like to wish all IFOMT executive and MOs and RIGs a safe and peaceful festive season. Also a special thanks to Vicki Reid for her work as the IFOMT secretariat.

For the past 4 Years Michael Ryan has been the Chair of MPA. During this period Michael has been an excellent leader and has steered MPA through some challenging times including a change in structure of the APA. MPA wishes Michael every success and happiness for his future.

Associate Professor Darren Rivett has succeeded Michael as Chair of MPA and we look forward to Darren leading MPA in a new era that will include a tier of specialists to help drive the future directions of Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy.

International Monitoring

Earlier this year MPA took part in the first round of IFOMT's International monitoring process and were very pleased to have satisfied all of the criteria and successfully completed the process. MPA found the process extremely constructive and were appreciative of the recommendations made by the standards committee. MPA wishes good luck to other MOs as you all progressively undertake the process.

Specialisation

The Australian College of Physiotherapists held the first round of specialisation examinations in 2007 as part of the reviewed specialisation process. There were two rounds of clinical examinations producing a

total of 37 new clinical specialists. The majority of the specialists were Musculoskeletal (Manipulative) Physiotherapists, followed by Sports Physiotherapists and 1 Neurological Physiotherapist. The College and the APA have worked closely to develop a career pathway for clinicians from graduation progressing to titled members and on to Specialisation. The new specialists were awarded their fellowships and admitted to the Australian College of Physiotherapists at the conference week in Cairns and the awards were made by Professor Gwen Jull.

MPA 15th Biennial Conference 2007 – Science in Motion

In November 2007 the 15th MPA Biennial Conference was held in Cairns, North Queensland. The conference was a great success and well attended by both local and overseas delegates. A unique feature of the MPA conference this year is that it was held as part of the Inaugural Australian Physiotherapy Associations Conference week where all of the special groups of the APA held their biennial conference over the same week and in the same location. This provided a unique opportunity not only to attend the recent research and directions of musculoskeletal physiotherapy, but also to attend sessions of interest in other special groups. Sports Physiotherapy Australia and Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy had one day in common where mutual themes were explored and delegates given greater access to key note speakers. The conference week format was very popular and successful and set to become a regular biennial event.

Austria: Delegate – Andreas Gattermeier

For quite some time in Austria the formation for Physiotherapy has been at University level. The completion of a bachelor degree has a positive effect on the professionalism of Physiotherapy in Austria, and also on postgraduate formations like OMT.

The M.Sc. (Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy) as the University course in Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapy in Austria represents a specialisation with a great future.

The acute master course at the University of Krems now starts in the fourth term. An absolute highlight for the students was the manipulation course (HVT-Techniques), instructed by Prof. Freddy Kaltenborn, one of the founders of IFOMT. He presented the draft of his new book 'Traction- Manipulation of the Extremities and Spine', which will be available in 2008. In spite of his age Prof. Kaltenborn is a fascinating teacher and clinician who is not thinking about retiring yet.

For the next Masters course, which starts on 27 October 2008, there is already an enormously large demand. You can get further information at: www.donau-uni.ac.at

Belgium: Delegate - Axel Beernaert

No report received

Canada: Delegate – Anita Gross

Our national symposium was held within the 15th International Congress of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy, taking place in Vancouver, Canada from 2-6 June 2007. The Congress was hosted by the Canadian Physiotherapy Association and took place at the Vancouver Convention & Exhibition Centre. A special meeting on VBI testing was hosted by EC-Americas and was a great success. Education Committee (EC) America's held a planning meeting in Vancouver, Canada at WCPT 2007. The executives of CAMT/OPD (Canadian Academy of Manipulative Therapists/Orthopaedic Division), the Canadian IFOMT MO, and AAOMPT (American Academy of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists), the American IFOMT MO, and South American Delegates from Chile and Brazil met face to face for our first official EC Americas meeting to further the development of an EC (Education Committee) Americas.

Canada's next conference entitled "Clinical Reasoning" will be in Montreal, Québec on September 26 to 28, 2008 (www.symposiumortho2008.com). Come join us!

Rendez-vous in Québec City, CANADA for IFOMT 2012! Our bid has been developed and campaign will be launched soon.



We continue to work on our Marketing Campaign. This year we developed a press release entitled "Inactivity as much a factor as age in development of joint and back pain". Our goal continued to be to promote CAMT to the Canadian general public by holding numerous promotional interviews on local television networks using CAMT members as the expert. We did share this press release with IFOMT members for open use. We did find this to be a moderately successful venture; there were a high number of 'News Releases' on obesity's role in joint pain and so ours was not picked up by the media as much as we hoped.

We are actively preparing for our Standards Committee review in 2008, welcome critique, and are ready to meet new challenges. The Manual Therapy Education System is rapidly evolving in Canada! We welcome University of Western Ontario's new manual therapy program into our Canadian Education System.

Our Newsletter – Orthopaedic Review – is highlighting IFOMT MO countries. If your country has a brochure or short description of your organization we would welcome your input (email to grossa@mcmaster.ca).

Denmark: Delegate – Inge Ris Hansen

The government in Denmark has acknowledged physiotherapists competencies by removing the demand of a medical referral. This means that we want our members to be even better in screening for non musculoskeletal problems. Therefore we are at the moment busy compiling courses in recognizing medical disease, neurological and orthopaedic pathology. We are working hard on changing our educational system of a set of basic courses and a set of extra courses into a more integrated education in which all courses are placed. We have still not put the puzzle together, but hope to have a new education program ready in 2008.

We have finished our literature study on VBI and instability of the cervical ligaments. We have produced a flyer with guidelines for the subjective and objective examination and treatment of the upper cervical spine with manipulation. Now we are working on updating the classification of low back pain. We have collected a team of researchers, specialists in musculoskeletal physiotherapy, leading clinicians from the Danish McKenzie group and a researcher from the Chiropractitioners. The problem is lack of financial support. We are working very hard on fund raising the money – which is tiresome and boring! But despite all that, we do have a very enthusiastic group of teachers and members, working hard together to do an even better job for patients with musculoskeletal problems. There is an inspiring climate in Denmark and the development of our knowledge and competencies is speeding forward.

We hope to attend Rotterdam with lots of our members and teachers to meet our colleagues from other parts of the world. I wish you all a very happy Christmas and "på gensyn" (see you all) in 2008 in Rotterdam.

Finland: Delegate – Ollie Aranko

In November we had our annual Manual Therapy and Medicine congress together with the Finnish Association for Manual Medicine, which was a success again with about 300 attendants. The theme for the two days was the Foot.

In November, we had the entrance examination for the next OMT course, 25 colleagues were elected and they will start in January 2008.

We will organize a group trip to IFOMT 2008 in Rotterdam, to get as many physiotherapists as possible to attend. Finland will prepare for many courses with international and domestic manual therapy teachers in 2008, too. As a summary from 2007, we did very well both in mission and economy. So, we have a solid base to go for the coming challenges in 2008.

Germany: Delegate - Fiona Morrison

No report received

Greece (HMPA): Delegate – Kostas Sakellariou

Our organization is now incorporated in the Parent Body (The Panhellenic Physiotherapy Association, which is a WCPT member), forming its official and only subgroup recognized by the Parent Body.

On October 20th, we held the first elections as the official subgroup of the Parent body where the following colleagues were elected:

1. Sakellariou Kostas, President, IFOMT representative
2. Stavropoulos Agelos, Vice President
3. Giannopoulos Kiriakos, Treasurer
4. Niotakis Stavros, General Secretary
5. Zorzos Markos, Special Secretary

Between 23rd and 25th November the annual Congress of the Parent Body took place. It was held in the ministry of health facilities and we made our first appearance as the official subgroup of the Parent Body with a kiosk, a video with our activities and flyers of our group.

Mr. Zorzos spoke in front of a big audience, including the minister of Health, presenting our group, its history, its vision, our targets etc.

On Saturday the 24th, Mr. Kostas Sakellariou presented a 3 hour workshop which was overbooked with more than 40 physiotherapists attending it.

We have a big OMT group continuing and almost finishing the education and another one which will start in the beginning of next year with its OMT training.

We wish to everyone Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Hong Kong: Delegate - Agnes Chan

Continuing education in manipulative physiotherapy for practicing physiotherapists is provided by Manipulative Therapy Specialty Group and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Short courses are organised by the MTSG and Master course is run by the University. A new MTSG executive committee was elected for a term of 2 years (2007-2009). The Hong Kong College of Physiotherapy was formed in August 2007 and this will facilitate specialisation within physiotherapy.

Italy: Delegate - Davide Albertoni

This year has been really important for our Association. The GTM Congress was held on the 3rd of November, near the Garda Lake and it was really a success. We had more than 170 attendants and two exceptional speakers: Prof. Nina K. Vollestad, researcher at Oslo University in Muscle Physiology and Dr. Philip Glasgow, Head Physiotherapist of the Sport Institute of Northern Ireland (SINI). The topic of the Congress, muscle and tendon injuries, was really important in creating great interest about our Group and for the 1st year GTM has more than 110 members - about 60 of them are OMTs and the others are supporters.

The project of a bridge course towards an OMT title, which recognizes Manual Therapy courses outside University, is now on stand-by because we did not have enough subscriptions to activate that course in the University. But our group continues to believe that it is a good way to integrate knowledge of Manual Therapy in Italy, so we are still recruiting physical therapists interested in that course.

At the end of the congress, OMTs voted for the new Executive Committee, composed now by 9 people. Previous components were confirmed except for 2 people who resigned, and two new components were added. Now the new Executive Committee is planning the activities for the New Year.

Netherlands: Delegate - Will Bonneveld

Another year is almost over and the IFOMT umbrella the Netherlands would like to wish all the readers of this newsletter, and of course the IFOMT executive and members of the standards committee, MOs and RIGs a safe and peaceful festive season. And of course in the Netherlands we are expecting to meet you all in Rotterdam in June 2008. In this newsletter we have a message from the board of the Dutch Federation of Manual Therapy (NVMT) to you and some other news. And of course we give you an update of the IFOMT 2008 conference. On behalf of the entire IFOMT 2008 Congress Committee and Erik Thoomes (chairman) we wish you a happy new IFOMT Year.

Messages from the executive of the NVMT

The Dutch Federation of Manual Therapy (NVMT) is very proud to host the IFOMT 2008 congress and to be able to meet with all our international delegates in The Netherlands next June in Rotterdam. We hope that you will enjoy experiencing our country and hearing what Manual Therapy in the Netherlands encompasses. Prof. R.A.B. Oostendorp, our first professor of Manual Therapy, retired last year. When he did he wrote a very concise and informative Guest Editorial about manual physical therapy in the Netherlands. (You can read his guest editorial in the Journal of Manual & Manipulative Therapy Vol. 15 No. 3 (2007), 133–141.) In this editorial he gave an overview of the evolution from authority based and experience based practice to evidence based practice manual physical therapy. In The Netherlands the educational system has changed accordingly and since then the implementation in daily practice is also showing more and more. As you have been informed before in an earlier newsletter, the professional master degree is obligatory for every manual therapist working in The Netherlands from 2015 onwards. To this day, more than 300 manual therapists have already started their master training at the institutes.

Prof. Oostendorp also describes the way we look at scientific research nowadays; the RCT still is the ultimate high standard of research, but he proposes that maybe we should consider other forms of research; more case report and case series on the patients we see in our practice every day. Therefore we need to collect more data from patients in a uniform way in our electronic patient data and recordings systems. We also need to read, and in actual fact use, the clinical guidelines that deserve more implementation into the working field. After all, it is the patient that benefits the most from these improvements. Finally, Prof. Oostendorp feels confident that a new generation is continuing the scientific work he has done for so long. A congress is a special platform for researchers to share that information with the clinicians; the manual therapists. The Dutch Federation of Manual Therapy invites you to come to the IFOMT congress in June 8th - 13th, 2008 in Rotterdam to share your knowledge, to have fun and to meet each other. See YOU There!

Phia Dekker International affairs. Member of the board of the NVMT

Dissertations

On Wednesday May 20th 2007, Dr. Jan Pool defended his thesis entitled: *“Neck pain: a pain in the neck? A study of therapeutic modalities and clinimetrics”*. The study was a comparison of two conservative treatments programmes for sub acute neck pain: a cognitive behavioural graded activity programme versus manual therapy (randomised controlled trial). Dr. Jan Pool was a member of the board of the Dutch Association for Manual Therapy in The Netherlands (NVMT), from 1990 till 1998. In 1997 he became a member of the Standards Committee of the The International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapists (IFOMT).

Professional / Educational

In the Netherlands, the projects and research-lines in Manual Therapy are offered by research universities (WO), universities of applied sciences (HBO) or Institutes for Master Education in Manual Therapy. The higher education system in the Netherlands (WO and HBO) is based on a three-cycle degree system, consisting of a bachelor, master and PhD degree. The three-cycle system was officially introduced in the Netherlands at the beginning of the academic year 2002-2003. The Netherlands has a binary system of higher education, which means there are two types of programmes: research orientated education [wetenschappelijk onderwijs, WO], traditionally offered by research universities, and applied sciences [hoger beroepsonderwijs, HBO], traditionally offered by hogescholen, or universities of applied sciences.

In the Netherlands there are three officially acknowledged institutes that offer a Master Education in Manual Therapy:

Institute for Master Education in Manual Therapy Amersfoort (SOMT).

University of professional education Utrecht (HU)

Institute Master Manual Therapy Rotterdam (Transfer)

Guideline

The Dutch Association for Manual Therapy (NVMT) and The Royal Dutch Society of Physiotherapy (KNGF) will develop a multidisciplinary guideline for low back pain (LBP). We already have a monodisciplinary guide line. See www.nvmt.nl

Member of honour Prof. Dr. RAB Oostendorp has been appointed a member of honour of The Dutch Association of Manual Therapy (NVMT) because of his outstanding merit for research and education in manual therapy.



IFOMT 2008 Congress News

The Congress committee has been, and is still, working very hard to make the upcoming IFOMT congress a huge success. More and more colleagues are registering already. By the end of November, more than 220 participants (160 of them for 5 days), from 28 different countries, had registered.

At present the Call for Abstracts is closed and we can proudly announce that more than 250 abstracts were submitted.

In the mean time we would like to welcome you to Rotterdam to enjoy:

Four and a half days of scientific programme, covering 5 themes:

The central congress theme: *Connecting "science" to Quality of Life* will be discussed through these main topics:

Age-related parameters in quality of life

The manual therapist in a changing educational and social environment

Managing the black box in research

Spinal complaints

Quality of life

Pre- and post-conference courses; meet and greet your colleagues from all over the world and take the opportunity to join one of the many interesting courses!

Pre-and post-conference tours and partner programme:

AMSTERDAM; 2 NIGHTS - 3 DAYS

Visit Antwerp (Belgium), Rotterdam city, Delft & The Hague (full day)

Visit the Delta Expo (full day)

Tour to the city of Gouda or Delft (half day)

Tour to the Mills of Kinderdijk (half day)

Social programme:

On Sunday evening join us at the Welcome Reception for all delegates and their partners. We'll have some Dutch surprises in store for you!

The Social Programme events on Wednesday afternoon include:

A bike excursion through Rotterdam

A walking tour through the Museum park with a visit to the Sonneveld House

A bus excursion through Rotterdam (see the city of modern architecture)

An architectural guided tour through the Van Nelle Factory

Abseiling down the 96 metre high Euromast tower

On Wednesday, join us for the **SPIDO Sunset Cruise**: see spectacular sights ranging from the high tech Rotterdam Container Terminal to the 17th century Mills of Kinderdijk!

And on Thursday evening we have organised the **Gala Dinner** in one of Rotterdam's oldest and beautifully restored buildings: The Church of St. Laurens.

More information about the social programme, the provisional time table, the keynote speakers and much more is on line at www.ifomt2008.nl

There, you can register, book your hotel accommodation, book pre- and post-conference courses and get a preview of everything Rotterdam can offer you. The website will keep being updated so please bookmark it in your web browser and visit us regularly.

New Zealand: Delegate – Wayne Hing

The N.Z.M.P.A. held a very successful conference in Rotorua on 25 & 26 August, beginning with a Maori welcome, with a traditional challenge going out to Annelies Pool, and Stuart McGill who were our keynote speakers. Attendance at our biennial conference continues to grow, with 291 delegates present to enjoy the theme of ‘Working Down Under – Performance of the Lower Quartile’.

We have begun the process of International Monitoring in preparation for 2009.

Our manual therapy courses for people wishing to start in manual therapy continue to be popular, with many continuing on to do post graduate studies at The Auckland University of Technology http://www.ifomt.org/ifomt/classifieds/aut_post_grad

Norway: Delegate - Heather Nicol

Progress for the role of Manual Therapists: The Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion has proposed that our authority to give paid sick leave should be increased from 8 to 12 weeks.

This proposition is out to hearing until 18th December, 2007. We expect this to be in effect next year. In Norway, employers and the employee who is on sick leave, are required to meet between the 8th and 12th week of their sick leave period to discuss their possibilities of working in the future. The employee can choose to invite their medical doctor or manual therapist to this meeting. It is therefore logical that manual therapists should be able to continue in their role until this time.

MULTI-PROFESSIONAL NECK AND BACK CONGRESS IN OSLO 10-12 APRIL, 2008

We are looking forward to this conference which has several international speakers. This may be of interest to our colleagues in the northern parts of Europe !!

More information is found at www.nakkeogryggkongress2008.no/

We are looking forward to coming to Rotterdam in June, 2008 to meet and mingling once again!

WISHING YOU ALL A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS.

Portugal: Delegate - João Filipe Vasconcelos Abreu

No report received

South Africa: Delegate - Lorraine Jacobs

The second half of this year has whizzed past at such speed! We have continued with the implementation of our strategic plan conceptualised in June 2006. The following areas were identified:

- Branding
- Communication
- Education and Continuing Professional Development
- Research
- Tariffs
- Scope definition and development

Branding

Differentiation of what we do in the eyes of the public, from our competitors. We are extremely proud of the fact that physios who have passed the course have completed a measurable outcomes based assessment. We have compiled a list of physios who have passed this exam since its inception in 1976. We put forward to our parent body an outline of levels of practice for our members.

We have begun the process of registering the OMT course as the “Certificate of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physiotherapy”. Registration of the course in South Africa will take place, we hope, with the support of the HPCSA, through the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). This will give the course more credibility as strict guidelines are laid down with respect to the monitoring and assessment of the course.

Communication

A number of articles have been written for publication, and appearances made on TV and radio. We have communicated with our members by means of newsletters 3x /year. These newsletters were distributed by e-mail by the SASP on our behalf.

Education and Continuing professional development

Through our partnership with a major medical funder during the past year we were able to reach a large group of OMT members, and bring them up-to-date with the latest in clinical reasoning and evidence-based care for acute low back pain. These courses were extremely well-received, and we hope will serve as a template for further ongoing professional development.

Research

Also following on from this project a number of research issues pertinent to the African context have been identified by the research team at the University of Stellenbosch. The OMTG executive is looking into supporting these initiatives. OMRIF (the Research Fund of the OMTG) has also supported a number of masters students financially in conducting their research.

Scope definition and development

We have been active in communicating with our parent body regarding physiotherapists being able to prescribe medication.

I found it very interesting when I attended the meeting of IFOMT at WCPT in June 2007 to see that many of the issues that we had identified were also being faced by other countries within the organization, specifically branding, levels of practice and drug prescription.

Spain: Delegate - José Miguel Tricàs Moreno

No report received

Sweden: Delegate – Ragnar Faleij

The Section for Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapy within The Swedish Association of Registered Physiotherapists has been continuing the work on developing PR-material to spread knowledge about the field of OMT and Physiotherapy / Physical Therapy. The work has been done in collaboration with Anders Ottosson PT and PhD who wrote his dissertation in 2005 on the Swedish history of Physiotherapy 1813-1934. This time we have made a new calendar for 2008 with pictures from about 1850. The calendar text this time is in both Swedish and English and it might contribute to change the history of our profession that really started as early as 1813 in Stockholm Sweden. You will be able to look at and order the calendar at the “shop” at www.OMTsweden.se

In Cooperation with Michael Shacklock and Neuro Dynamic Solutions (NDS) the OMT-section of Sweden has been working with NDS on a new release of a book about the work of the founder of Adverse Mechanical Tension in the Nervous System, the late Dr Alf Breig. The title is: Biomechanics of the Nervous System: Breig Revisited. You can read on the NDS homepage that: Breig's work was in danger of being lost because it is no longer being printed by the original publishers. As such, NDS has obtained the copyright and agreed with Dr Breig and his wife Elisabeth to release his work again. The book will only be sold at www.neurodynamicsolutions.com and www.OMTsweden.se early in 2008.

Sweden is in charge of the 10th Nordic Congress in OMT/OM the 29th - 31st of May 2009. The congress will be held in the city of Gothenburg in the south of Sweden and several pre- and post congress courses will be arranged. More information will come during spring 2008.

Switzerland: Delegate – Renée De Ruijter

No report received

United Kingdom: Delegate - Laura Finucane

This year our AGM conference in London in October 2007 was held in collaboration with the Physiotherapy Pain Association. The title of the conference was ‘Pain Management, Manual Therapy and Exercise: Putting evidence into practice’. It provided a mix of experts and grass roots lecturers and attracted around 200 delegates. The day was deemed a great success.

We continue to organise a comprehensive list of courses for our members throughout the year. In 2008 we will be hosting Peter O'Sullivan and Lyn Watson to name a few.

The MACP/KC conference in Edinburgh 2009 is beginning to take shape. The title 'Rehabilitation: Art and Science' has attracted a number of international speakers including Shirley Sahrman, Lorimer Moseley, Dr Dankaerts and Professor Cook to name a few.

A centralised system of organising clinical placements for all courses has been developed and is being piloted for a period of one year. A key reason for this development is the national overview of placement provision v demand, and this has already identified the need for developing further placement opportunities in the UK. It is hoped that students, clinical mentors, and course tutors will all benefit from this system.

One of the MACP's members, Jill Gamlin has been awarded a UK national honour and has visited Buckingham Palace to receive this from the Queen. Jill was awarded a MBE (Member of the British Empire) for outstanding service in and to the community within her clinical area.

The MACP's bid to host the IFOMT Conference 2012 is well under way and you will soon be receiving our official bid book. We also hope you will join us on Tuesday 10th June 2008 in Rotterdam from 7pm at the Bilderberg hotel for a buffet meal and social evening. We would like to take the opportunity for you to meet our bid team and discuss any questions you may have. Invitations to this event will be sent to you shortly.

If you would like to follow the bid progress or register your support please visit www.macpweb.org

And finally the MACP would like to wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing you in Rotterdam in 2008!

USA: Delegate – Chris Showalter

MO USA, The American Academy of Orthopedic Manual Physical Therapists (AAOMPT), continues to grow, with over 500 full Fellows and a membership of over 1400. The Academy recognizes 15 different Fellowship programs offering post professional studies in Manual Therapy.

Our 13th Conference was recently held in St. Louis, MO and was fully sold out. Keynote speakers Mariano Rocabado, Michelle Sterling and Linda Van Dillen presented thought provoking information on "The Subcranial Spine: From Impairment to Empowerment."

Our next conference will be held in Seattle, Washington, October 29 - November 2, 2008 and will feature renowned speakers David Butler and Steven Z. George addressing the conference topic "Pain: From Science to Solutions." For more information go to www.aaompt.org

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF EC AMERICAS

EC Americas sponsored a successful breakout session exploring Vertebro-Basilar Insufficiency Testing at WCPT in Vancouver, BC in June. A truly global perspective was given by speakers including: Tim Flynn (USA), Darren Rivett (Australia), Duncan Reid (New Zealand) and Roger Kerry (UK). EC Americas currently comprises Canada and the USA. Both countries are actively reaching out to Manual Therapists in Central and South America and the Caribbean. It is hoped that we will soon be joined by other interested nations in the region.

RESEARCH SURVEY

MO USA would like to thank the MO's and RIG's who responded to USA's online survey to gather data on practice patterns, autonomy, competitors, payors, networks and restrictions...in short, the general status of OMT practice around the world. The survey data is currently being analyzed and the results will be released by MO USA as a technical report prior to the IFOMT Congress in Rotterdam.

REGISTERED INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

Greece – P.A.M.P. Delegate – Korakakis Dimitris

This year (2007) has been a very busy time for the Panhellenic Association of Manual Physiotherapists. Following an invitation by P.A.M.P., Olaf Evjenth came to Greece and taught an advanced course to the

orthopaedic manual therapists (O.M.T. - members of P.A.M.P.), which concerned techniques in the cervical spine.

In March, P.A.M.P. held elections from which a new board of directors was voted in.

Our association web site is available and continuously being updated with new subject-matter (www.manualtherapy.gr).

In 2007 the new educational courses started. There are two groups in Athens and one group in Thessaloniki, while the groups which have started over the past years continue their educational programs with mass participation.

Finally, I would like to note that P.A.M.P. has finished and submitted their educational program for I.F.O.M.T. In closing we look forward to our rendezvous at Rotterdam in June 2008.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES:

IFOMT: [Next Conference Rotterdam, the Netherlands June 8-15, 2008](#)

Contact: Erik Thoomes ejthoomes@wxs.nl 'Connecting "Science" to Quality of Life'.

10th Nordic Congress in OMT/OM - 29th - 31st May 2009, Gothenburg, Sweden. An ECE meeting will also be held during the congress.

Website

Research Review Service: www.researchreviewservice.com

The RRS is an online subscription-based service designed to provide practicing clinicians and busy students with valuable, evidence-based scientific information in a manner easily understood for clinical application. The RRS can help bridge the gap between current scientific research and the busy practicing professional. The focus of the service is manual medicine – incorporating physical therapy, chiropractic, rehabilitation, orthopedics, acupuncture, and health and wellness. Subscribers receive weekly emails when new reviews are posted, access to the growing database of reviews, and the chance to interact with a growing community of research-oriented manual medicine practitioners from all over the world. 6-month, and 1, 2, and 3-year subscriptions are available.

Save Time...Stay Current...Improve Patient Care with the RRS!

Also, MOs were asked if they could contact their learning institutions with regard to advertising on the IFOMT website, and we have had a small uptake on this, so please continue to look at <http://www.ifomt.org/ifomt/classifieds/learning> as it will be continually updated as more advertising is submitted.

From the Office:

Well, I have been a bit like a boomerang for NZMPA, as I am back working for them in a job share role with the new Executive Officer, Katie Hayward, on Tuesdays and Fridays. This is a good situation as it means I am able to do some IFOMT work on these days, as well as doing a full day on Monday, and work on my golf handicap on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Just a little request, please remember that if you wish to communicate with other MO or RIG delegates to do this through the office so that the content is approved by Executive first, as we wish to respect peoples privacy and not add to their workload by increasing the amount of emails received.

The office will be closed from Friday 21st December and reopen Monday 7th January 2008. Have a wonderful festive season, and we look forward to seeing you soon in Rotterdam!

Best wishes

Vicki Reid

IFOMT Secretariat

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