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IFOMT July 2008 Newsletter

Dear Member Organization, Registered Interest Group Delegates and Special Friends

We would like to welcome Michael Ryan as the new Australian delegate, taking over from Debra Shirley, Harry Herrewijn as the new Swiss delegate taking over from Renée De Ruijter, and Phia Dekker, who will be taking over from Will Bonneveld in the Netherlands. Thank you Debra, Renée and Will for your fantastic contributions to IFOMT over the years. We would also like to welcome Ireland (Catherine Doody) and Japan (Mr Isamu Sunagawa) as new MOs, taking our total now to 22 MOs and 6 RIGs.

Prior to the conference IFOMT held a very successful teachers meeting, with 86 leaders in Manual Therapy education attending. The critique feedback was very positive, and so this will be included in the Quebec programme of events and we will also try to hold a similar forum at an ECE meeting possibly in two years time.

It was a pleasure for IFOMT to award Freddy Kaltenborn Life Membership of IFOMT during the General Meeting in Rotterdam, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Orthopaedic Manual Therapy over the last 30 – 40 years.

Following the Cape Town conference, IFOMT set up an educational support fund for Registered Interest Groups (RIGs) allocating US \$1,000 year for grants to assist with conference and meeting attendance. We would like to encourage RIG delegates to contact the office, or look on the website, if they would like to know more about the fund. It has been agreed that consideration will also be given to fund delegates from groups who are developing towards RIG status, who may wish to attend an ECE meeting or conference to find out more about IFOMT.

Report from the President – Annalie Basson

I would like to begin by thanking you for your support during the conference. I will endeavor to be worthy of the confidence you placed in me. I think you will all agree that it was a fantastic conference. The academic programme was of a high standing, the social activities were most enjoyable and meeting old and new friends is, to my mind, always the best part. I would like to thank the Dutch Physiotherapy Association, the NVMT and especially Erik Thoomes and his committee for an outstanding event.

I am very fortunate in having a wonderful and committed committee working with me. They have all been very active since the conference. As you will have seen, the Strategic Plan has been updated by Vicki with the help of Michael and Prof. Anne Moore. The executive members have outlined the issues that they would like to address in each portfolio. I hope that this will help you as delegates to formulate your own ideas and identify areas where you can assist. During the course of the conference it was wonderful to see how the bonds between different delegates have grown. The fruit of this is already visible in better communication and lots of new ideas.

The constitution is currently under review by a parliamentarian. As soon as the suggested changes have been reviewed by the executive committee, it will be placed on the website. This means that there will be ample opportunity to discuss and amend the changes. Our main aim is to make the document more user friendly and understandable, not to change the content as such.

Michael is working with the website designer on improvements to the website. One of the first things we hope to activate is a “chat room” for you as delegates to exchange ideas. We would like to follow up on certain issues that were identified during the teachers meeting. You will receive more information in due course.

We face an exciting time of growth. With the enthusiasm and commitment that was evident at the conference, we should be able to achieve much during the next four years. My “four boys” have already been working so hard – thank you. As you all know, none of this will happen without Vicki, she is a star. I hope our fortunate friends in the northern hemisphere enjoy a lovely summer. We in the south will start dreaming about spring!

Report from Standards Committee (SC) – Dr Alison Rushton

The Standards Committee was very busy throughout the conference in Rotterdam and particularly enjoyed the opportunity of discussion and debate on key educational issues with the Executive Committee, Member Organisations, RIGs and potential RIGS. The majority of our business in Rotterdam is well known through the closed meeting and the General Meeting, but the following points highlight our key areas of ongoing activity:

- * Following acceptance of the new Educational Standards we will be writing to all MOs and RIGs to inform them of the implications of the new Standards to their practice and a timeframe for their implementation.
- * The first stage of international monitoring is now underway for Canada, Norway and Sweden who will be receiving feedback on their submissions in the next few weeks. They received verbal feedback from the committee in Rotterdam.
- * A summary report of the international monitoring process will be developed to assist the future submissions of MOs now that enough submissions have been reviewed to ensure confidentiality of the individual MO submissions.
- * Following feedback from the Teachers' meeting sessions, the Standards Committee agreed to move to Reciprocal Recognition between all Member Organisations by 2012. Again, following feedback there will be a mechanism available for MOs to seek an exemption from this recognition. It is hoped that all MOs will work towards this international relationship that the feedback was unanimous in suggesting would assist the work and awareness of IFOMT greatly.
- * Again, following feedback from the Teachers' meeting sessions, the Standards Committee agreed to further develop consensus regarding key terminology within the glossary that will be a resource on the IFOMT website available for all to access.
- * The Standards Committee VBI / Cervical Artery Dysfunction session within the main programme followed on from its success in Rotterdam with good attendance and the stimulation of discussion. This was followed through into the workshop on the Friday where representatives from each MO and the panel of speakers agreed the philosophy and outline content of a consensus document providing a framework of standards for screening the cervical spine prior to OMT management. A draft of the framework will be developed and circulated to all MOs for comment.

The Standards Committee would also like to welcome Ireland and Japan as new MOs, and to also welcome PAMP (Greece) as meeting the requirements for membership. PAMP are currently collaborating with our existing MO from Greece to form an umbrella organisation. Our thanks also go to Kostas as the Member Organisation delegate enabling this process.

Finally, the Standards Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to the Dutch Organising Committee in Rotterdam for their hospitality, and Erik for his coordination and thoughtfulness. We were overwhelmed at times by the welcome we received from the Dutch, and the care and attention to our Committee's roles and functions while at the conference. The Committee felt integral to the working of IFOMT and the conference, and it was therefore a pleasure to be part of the whole experience.

We hope that you all have a wonderful summer and we look forward to working with you as we now move forwards to Quebec in 2012.

An impression of the IFOMT 2008 congress by Phia Dekker, NVMT Executive:

The IFOMT 2008 congress has been a tremendous success, both from a scientific viewpoint as well as from a viewpoint of social interaction: connecting people worldwide! Both the organizing committee and the NVMT Executive look back feeling very satisfied with the end result. For those unable to attend Phia Dekker, the incoming MO delegate wrote a short impression.

The NVMT Executive welcomed both the IFOMT Executive and the Standards Committee (who had been having 2 days of meetings in The Hague already) on the Friday before the congress. We treated them to a tour of a Delft Blue porcelain factory where we all painted our own tile after which we had tea with a traditional Dutch apple pie while the Executive and Committee members got a short course on how to achieve Dutch citizenship.

Saturday the Teachers Meeting took place, a gathering of international OMT teachers. Sunday afternoon IFOMT's Strategic Plan got reviewed with the help of Prof. Ann Moore, finishing just in time for the Welcome Reception at 17.00

At 18.00 footmen accompanied everyone to the room where welcome speeches from Mrs. Jantine Kriens (Rotterdam City Council Health Board, reminding guests that while Amsterdam was a museum, Rotterdam was the future), Marina Wallin (IFOMT Vice-President) and Anton de Wijer (NVMT President) were a prelude to a short, but very beautiful ballet titled "Blue Dance" being performed by the world famous Rotterdam ballet group "Dance Works". Afterwards, over drinks, many old friends met and made new friends.

Monday morning saw the official opening being performed by the mayor of Rotterdam, Mr. Ivo Opstelten, IFOMT President Mr. Michael Ritchie, WCPT Secretary General Mrs. Brenda Myers, KNGF President Mr. Bas Eenhoorn KNGF President, NVMT President Mr. Anton de Wijer and Congress Committee Chairman Mr. Erik Thoomes.

The opening keynote speaker Prof. Dr. Ruut Veenhoven, took us through aspects of Quality of Life such as "liveability of the environment", "life-ability of the individual", "external utility of life" en the "inner appreciation of life" (happiness). Difficult concepts which were maybe best summoned up in "happy life years".

During lunch the NVMT had invited guests from other specialised physiotherapy groups as well as national stakeholders to promote OMT nationally. These guests were the first ones to donate substantially to the Charity the organising committee had connected to this conference: a football field for HIV-infected orphans in a community centre in Cape Town, South Africa.

Monday evening after the Canadian CAMT reception many joined the Dutch reception celebrating the victory of our national soccer team over Italy during the European Championship, giving new meaning to Orange as a colour!

Tuesday was the best attended day of the week with over 1250 delegates. The keynote lectures showed a solid connection between all different aspects of science like pain science by Lorimer Moseley (no (cauliflower) brain: no pain) being both challenged and complemented by research from Deborah Falla and Paul Hodges in a fabulous morning session. Fundamental research was presented as well by Annelies Pool (from in vitro to in vivo research). But aspects like temporomandibular joints (Anton de Wijer) and plagiocephaly (Renée Spermon-Marijnen) were presented also.

At the end of the day, during the Presidents Open Forum all Member Organisations presented themselves and informed us on recent national developments on socioeconomics or education. The two countries bidding for the 2012 congress, Canada and the UK, also presented their bid.

The lectures on Wednesday morning were focused on the changes for manual therapists in the social economic areas as well as on educational changes. Most MO's now have a University based educational program and the developments in our professional roles call for new competencies. Norwegian colleagues can prescribe sick leave and refer for MRI's for instance and the UK has the extended scope practitioner. Wednesday afternoon saw IFOMT's General Meeting, which of course is only being held once every four years.

On the agenda were items such as the ratification of the Standards Document, a raise in membership fee to \$ 1800 for 2009, the new IFOMT logo (a globe held by two hands), the greeting of Japan and Ireland as new Member Organisations (22 members now!), the election of Canada as host for the 2012 conference and the

election of the next Executive. Of course we are proud that Erik Thoomes from the Netherlands got voted in the Executive and will be Treasurer / Secretary.

The Spido Sunset Cruise through the port of Rotterdam finished the Wednesday evening off in style as the warm spring weather was exactly right for such an event

Thursday morning started off with the David Lamb Award to Dr. Helen Slater for her research on: *Sensory and motor effects of experimental muscle pain in patients with lateral epicondylalgia and controls with delayed onset muscle soreness, Pain 114, (2005) 118 - 130* by Ann Hoke-Porter, Standards Committee member, who had some nice memories of David to share with us. Mark Jones took us through aspects and the importance of the practical implications of the biopsychosocial model, after which Professor Gwen Jull described to which guidelines contemporary research in the cervical area should adhere to if we want to prevent a “wash-out” effect in the interventions we choose. It is quite possible that we can define subgroups, just like in the lumbar spine, that do respond well to specific treatment.

The afternoon session included a session on VBI guidelines currently used as best practice in New Zealand and Australia.

The 17th century Church of St. Laurens was the spectacular location chosen for the Gala Dinner. Former IFOMT President Jan Erik Endresen treated us to a beautiful song in the great acoustics of this old church.

Friday’s scientific theme was the aging and the elderly; a growing population for OMT as well. Belgian colleagues Prof. Dr. Peter Van Roy and Prof. Dr. Ivan Bautmans illustrated the processes that occur during ageing and sent a clear message: “never give up!” After more parallel sessions in the afternoon the congress finally drew to a close at 16.00.

In short: a fantastic week. Both logistically, scientifically, socially and internationally.

A MUST for every manual / musculoskeletal physiotherapist! So I’m looking forward to meeting you all again in Quebec.

MEMBER ORGANISATION REPORTS

Australia: Delegate – Michael Ryan

What a wonderful IFOMT conference we had in Rotterdam. The organising committee and all involved should be very proud of what was presented and how well it ran. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing IFOMT President, Michael Ritchie for his dedication and hard work and congratulate and welcome Annalie Basson as the new IFOMT President. Congratulations and welcome too, to the new IFOMT Executive. I am sure the next 4 years will be a time of great and exciting developments.

Personally, the Rotterdam meeting was the first IFOMT meeting I was privileged to attend as the Australian delegate. Dr Debra Shirley is my predecessor, and big shoes she has certainly left for me to fill. Debra represented Australia very well over many years now and I thank her on behalf of the Australian Committee for her hard work over all those years.

In Australia at the moment the focus of the MPA has been on a couple of issues. Firstly, we have now completed our initial round of assessment under the new International Monitoring Guidelines. It is very pleasing to have now passed that initial process and we thank the Standards Committee for their hard work in firstly preparing this thorough, detailed and relevant set of documents and guidelines, and equally thank them for their constructive feedback following their assessment of our academic standards. This feedback has given us terrific direction to prepare for the next round of monitoring, and most importantly, ensure our academic standards are of the highest order, and maintained and progressed as such. As a National Group we are already acting on the Standards Committee’s feedback and recommendations and will no doubt be stronger for this.

Secondly, the process of Specialisation in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy in Australia is well under way. For many years we have had many post graduate university courses, along with alternative pathways by which physiotherapists in our National Association can progress to what we call “Titled Membership”. It is at this level that we allow the physiotherapist to use the Title “Manipulative” or “Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist” and as such allows them titled Membership of MPA and thus membership of IFOMT. What we have been working on with the Australian College of Physiotherapists is developing yet another step in the career pathway of a Titled Member; a “Specialist” Title that affords a successful candidate

Fellowship of the Australian College of Physiotherapy and recognition as a Specialist in their chosen professional field of musculoskeletal physiotherapy. Further developing that role in the broader health care political landscape in Australia is the next job of the College and MPA, along with continuing to encourage and support those IFOMT Titled Physiotherapists who want to take the extra, demanding but ultimately rewarding step along their career pathway.

I am looking forward to now working with those international colleagues I met in Rotterdam and meeting again in 2012 in Quebec.

Austria: Delegate – Andreas Gattermeier

The running OMT Master program comes to the end and the students are preparing their master thesis. In January they will finish with the practical exam. In October 2008 the next master program will start at the University of Krems with 26 students, and we are very happy about the big interest.

In January 2009 my colleague Jutta Bauer again will take the chair of the Austrian umbrella group OEVOMT for the next three years.

Last, but not least, the Austrian OMT group would like to congratulate our colleagues from the Netherlands for the fantastic organisation of the congress.

Belgium: Delegate - Axel Beernaert

Department of Health Care: The National Council for Physical Therapy, which is a consultative body, has several working-groups. One of them is the group of specific competence in the field of physical therapy. The aim is to obtain official recognition for an advanced competence. The draft describes common and specific criteria for advanced competence. The ministerial decree of manual therapy is in its final stage and ready to be approved by the Department of Health Care.

Manual Therapy Education in Belgium: The education system for Physiotherapy and Manual therapy in the Flemish part of Belgium has changed dramatically over the last couple of years. Nowadays in Flanders we have a 5 year Bachelor-master programme for Physiotherapy. After the 3-year Bachelor program you need to do a 2-year Master program to get your recognition as a registered physiotherapist. In this master program you have to choose which specialty you want to focus on. You can choose Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy (manual therapy and sports physiotherapy), Paediatric Physiotherapy, Geriatric Physiotherapy, Internal Physiotherapy (mainly cardiovascular) and Neuro-Physiotherapy as a specialty. If you are graduated as a master in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy you have different options for further specialisation in Manual Therapy/Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy. To get your Manual Therapy recognition from BVMT-ABTM you need to do one more year. The University of Ghent and Leuven organise a Postgraduate Program in Musculoskeletal Physiotherapy and the University of Brussels organises a one year Master after Master in Manual Therapy. Until now in Wallonia they didn't decide yet if they would follow the Flemish example, but there is a good chance they would reorganise there Physiotherapy education in the same way.

Canada: Delegate – Anita Gross

Canada is delighted to have won the bid for hosting the next IFOMT Conference in 2012. The conference will be held in beautiful old Québec City from September 30th to October 5th, 2012. We want to send a special thanks to all the countries that supported and voted for us and we especially want to thank London for a healthy competition! Mark your calendars and hope to see many of you in Canada in 2012!

Denmark: Delegate – Inge Ris Hansen

No report received

Finland: Delegate – Olli Aranko

The first half of 2008 has been very active with different courses in Finland. We have also worked with a couple of projects with universities and public authorities which are about to get published during the next few months. I am pretty sure the next IFOMT Newsletter will include more details on these. Our executive decided in the beginning of the year to put more effort into our Newsletter, called Manuaali, to make it more interesting and also to meet higher professional goals. The second number of 2008 is almost ready, and we

are very happy and thankful to the editor-in-chief Jarno Keskinen and the whole editorial team about the results.

The second half of the year will continue to be very busy with lots of courses and of course our annual congress in co-operation with Finnish Association for Manual Medicine, where we also have the second General Meeting. We are a member organization of the Finnish Association of Physiotherapists and on May 2009 we will organize a Spring Congress with them. 2009 we will have our association's 40th anniversary, and we have started to prepare a little celebration. OMT has received a good status in the Finnish health care system, although it is not yet an official status. And we will continue our work to achieve more in all our field of actions.

Germany: Delegate - Fiona Morrison

The main focus in Germany at the moment is the first step as part of International Monitoring. Each of our four groups has nominated one person responsible for assessing the curricula etc of the other three groups to commence the national monitoring. The first meeting will be taking place within the next six weeks. At this meeting a timetable and plan will be agreed upon how to proceed forward. Although similar procedures have been done in the past, it has never been done on such a large scale. We are anticipating a hard but interesting job and are looking forward to the International Monitoring.

It was nice seeing you all in Rotterdam. We would like to extend our welcome to the new groups and the new delegates and hope that we can continue our close work.

Greece (HMPA): Delegate – Kostas Sakellariou

We are almost there! Our next big OMT group is on its way to the final examination that will take place on December 20th 2008, the written one and next January the Practical.

Big news also from the cooperation between our educational committee and the executive! After the very successful congress in Rotterdam, and a lot of new things that came up, we decided to start the process of what we call "Internal Monitoring" in our country. This is a procedure in which we decided to re-evaluate ALL the OMTs that received their Diploma from February 2005 until now to see if they still maintain the educational standards.

We thought that we shall have a 4 year period after being accepted in IFOMT, in which we have worked our approved curriculum and then see the level of the OMTs. So now every one of our OMTs who still wants to be accepted by our Manual Therapy Group must undergo this procedure of internal monitoring. The process of the monitoring will be exactly the same like the OMT exam, 4 hours written and 3 hours of practical examination.

That's all for now, we wish to you all out there a nice summer. For us it starts in august 1st and finishes on September 1st!!!

Hong Kong: Delegate - Agnes Chan

Continuing education in manipulative physiotherapy for practicing physiotherapists is provided by the Manipulative Therapy Specialty Group and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Short courses are organised by MTSG and the Masters course is run by the University.

Ireland: Delegate – Catherine Doody

No report received

Italy: Delegate - Davide Albertoni

The IFOMT Congress was really important for our country, even if the participation of PTs was quite low, but it is not news in our country because the English language is still a barrier for a lot of colleagues. Italy attended the congress with almost 20 participants, 2 posters, and one presentation. The presentation was given by Marco Testa, head of the master course in Manual Therapy in Genova University, and it was about software for managing clinical practice, developed by him, the OMT Michele Monti (treasurer of the MO Italy) and his brother Fabrizio Monti, student of Computers Engineering. The aim of the software is to give all the countries a FREE instrument for the collection of the anamnesis, evaluation, treatment, and outcome of patients in clinical practice. To overcome language barriers, we decided to plan an option that gives

anybody the opportunity to translate the whole software into their own language and updating the software, to put online that version for all the other PTs in that country. We think it could be useful to put the link to the software on the IFOMT website to fill the gap between individual physical therapists and the IFOMT website. In that way Manual and Physical Therapists from all over the world could get the software from the IFOMT website. Please go to <http://physiohelp.net/en/> for further information or to have a look.

Italy will cooperate with other countries in the portfolio, about Communication, trying to improve knowledge about political, educational and professional situations between MOs. We think we should know more about each other to help each other and to choose more logical solutions for anyone. We are also interested in supporting the Standards Committee in writing the glossary of the Manual Therapy terms: we think it is really important to have a precise definition of a lot of terms, especially for non native English speakers. Using the glossary it would be easier to translate all the terms into another language.

Our Association recently decided to improve the internet site – www.terapiamanoale.it – which will soon have the English translation of some pages. Also there will be an updated list of the Italian OMTs, members of our Association. We must complain about a big amount of Physical Therapists who completed the University Master in Manual Therapy, but they are still not subscribing to our Association. Our future aim is to find a way to communicate with these Manual Therapists, offering them some services to encourage them to subscribe to our Association. It is really important the GTM has a large numbers of members because we need, as IFOMT needs, economical support, and to represent a large community of Manual Therapists in our Country.

In November, on the 15th we will hold our National Conference, about Whiplash Associated Disorders.

Japan: Delegate – Isamu Sunagawa

It was our great honor that we were formally certified as a full member of the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapists (IFOMT) at the congress held in Rotterdam in the Netherlands in June. While extending our heartfelt gratitude to all people who helped us realize our long-cherished wishes to become a full member of IFOMT, we feel ourselves responsible for developing education on orthopaedic manipulative therapy in Japan.

We, Japanese Federation of Orthopaedic Manual Therapists (JFOMT), are offering the training program developed by Kaltenborn-Evjenth International (K-EI) to train orthopaedic manual therapists in Japan. Along with this training program, we wish to put our energy to bring up teachers of orthopaedic manipulative therapy in the graduate school and upgrade the knowledge and technology of teachers after they obtain the graduate degree.

We will discuss criteria for admission to JFOMT and the method and contents of examination for admission to JFOMT with Japanese Physical Therapy Association (JPTA) to maintain the high educational level of JFOMT. We have been determined to make our utmost efforts in Japan to promote the OMT education that IFOMT is pursuing with advice and suggestions on our education method and our plans to expand activities from people of the IFOMT community.

Netherlands: Delegate - Will Bonneveld

A lot is happening in the Netherlands, we will highlight a few of the current issues.

Reciprocal recognition

The NVMT executive has discussed this item and they have agreed that all university masters in manual therapy, approved by a MO of the IFOMT, can immediately become a member of the NVMT. For those who do not fit this profile, there is a special procedure. This will be organised at one of our approved master schools for manual therapy.

Central Quality Register

There is a central quality register for manual therapists in the Netherlands. When you are a graduate of an NVMT approved school for manual therapy, you can be registered in the central quality register of manual therapy. Every five years, after graduating, you need to gather enough post education points in order to maintain your registration. At this moment every registered member needs to be a master in manual therapy

before 2020. All **university** qualified manual therapists from IFOMT Member Organisations could be registered in the Central Quality Register in the Netherlands."

Educational Standard

In the Netherlands there is a professional competencies profile, originally drafted in 2005, which the NVMT has recently compared with the new IFOMT educational standards and, although it has a different framework, the required skills are the same. This Dutch professional competencies profile will be updated from time to time. The first update will take place in 2009/2010.

The website www.nvmt.nl is now also available in English.

Just before IFOMT 2008, parts of the NVMT website were translated into English. We invite you to please visit our website and to click on the English flag on the home page.

The NVMT is currently undergoing a major organisational overhaul.

Leading these changes is our president Dr. Anton de Wijer and he has already started many projects. One of them is the International Policy. The international monitoring process is being guided by a special project group. Another project is the Cervical Manipulation one. This project group is investigating what the standard procedure should be following patients' complaints after a cervical manipulation. The objective is to find the meaning of these complaints, create a database and devise a guideline for manual therapists to follow up unwanted treatment effects after manipulation as a treatment and to help patients see these effects in the proper perspective.

We've also started a project describing the history of our association, because the NVMT feels it derives its legitimacy in part from the past.

During the IFOMT congress in Rotterdam, the NVMT held a scientific enquiry. The results are being used to come up with a research agenda, aimed at everyday practice.

Last, there is a consumer's project with a desired outcome of patients specifically choosing a manual therapist as a specialized physiotherapist.

New Zealand: Delegate – Wayne Hing

The NZMPA held a very successful course for 40 OMT graduate members recently, taught by Duncan Reid and Michael Monaghan, and students all agreed that this course is very valuable to keep up to date with new techniques and refine ones learnt during their post graduate education.

The New Zealand Manipulative Physiotherapists Association continues to grow, with 506 members - 137 full time Graduate members (holding post Graduate qualification in Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapy - OMT), 86 part time Graduate members (working 20 hours per week or less), 198 Associate members full time and 79 Associate members part time, + 6 life members. Associate members are those doing Manual Therapy courses, or with an interest in OMT, but without an OMT qualification.

Planning is well underway for the next NZMPA conference, to be held on 29th & 30th August 2009. We are returning to the Heritage Hotel in Rotorua, as it was such a great venue for our 2007 conference - meeting both space and financial needs. The keynote speakers will be Tim Flynn (USA), Karen Ginn (Australia) and Jenny McConnell, also from Australia. The theme is '*Striving for Excellence in OMT and Celebrating 40 years of Manual Therapy in NZ*'. The call for abstracts will go out in September, with the deadline for submission 15th March.

Norway: Delegate - Heather Nicol

The faculty of medicine at the University of Bergen, where our masters program in clinical manual therapy is based, is to make a final decision whether to stop the program due to financial problems in September.

This is the only current manual therapy education in Norway which meets the requirements for our role as a primary contact manual therapist, so this would be a great setback for manual therapy in Norway.

The Norwegian parliament gave us an extended role as health professionals for all qualified manual therapists from 1st January 2006, but the educational institution (University of Bergen), is prepared to throw the education down the drain!

Portugal: Delegate - João Filipe Vasconcelos Abreu

No report received

South Africa: Delegate - Ina Diener

All the meetings of the MO's in Rotterdam were quite a first time experience! Thanks for all that were working so hard. The OMTG is very proud about our Annalie being the new president, and promise our support for this big job!

Two universities in South Africa offer a masters degree [MSc OMT] where the curriculum adheres to the suggested IFOMT standards. This qualification will allow members of the OMT group to become Advanced Professional Development Level 3 members. Our national OMT course is in the process of registering with our Qualifications Authority. The curriculum has been designed, assessors/examiners for the course are being trained and last to follow will be the training of a few of us to become 'monitors' of the course. This course is run under the auspices of the National OMT group, and will allow members of the group to become APD Level 2 members.

As far as research is concerned, the OMT NEC has initiated a project: "Development of a survey instrument to capture South African physiotherapists' attitudes, knowledge and readiness to adopt evidence-based practice behaviours", to be conducted by Professor Quinette Louw from Stellenbosch University and Professor Karen Grimmer-Somers from the University of South Australia.

From 1-3 May 2009 we host our biennial Physiotherapy Congress in Cape Town, and we are proud to announce that Dr Peter O'Sullivan [Low back pain] and Dr Steve Woby [Chronic pain] will be the keynotes in the OMT field. Abstracts can be submitted online: www.physionews.co.za

Spain: Delegate - José Miguel Tricàs Moreno

No report received

Sweden: Delegate – Ragnar Faleij

Information about the program and registration for the Nordic Congress and IFOMT ECE meeting in Gothenburg/Sweden, 29th-31st of May 2009 will open on 1st September on www.OMTsweden.se More information will come during the fall on that www + in e-mails to all MOs.

Switzerland: Delegate – Harry Herrewijn

First of all we would like to thank IFOMT and especially the organizing committee in Rotterdam for the great conference in June. It was great, meeting so many colleagues from all over the world and to hear so many good presentations. We all are already looking forward to the next conference in 2012 in Quebec.

In Switzerland there is a big change going on. We are working on getting the Manual Therapy education to Masters level. A lot of people are doing a tremendous effort to achieve this goal. When everything works out well we hope that the Education can start in Fall 2009. This will be a big step for the recognition of our profession in Switzerland.

United Kingdom: Delegate - Laura Finucane

This year the MACP are proud to celebrate its 40th birthday!

The 3rd International MACP/KC conference in Edinburgh 2009 is beginning to take shape. The conference will take place from 30th October -1st November 2009. The title 'Rehabilitation: Art and Science' has attracted a number of international speakers including Shirley Sahrman, Lorrimer Moseley, Dr Dankaerts and Professor Cook to name a few. The aim of the conference is to provide a focus on the rehabilitation of musculoskeletal disorders, linking research findings to clinical practice.

The call for papers has been announced and will continue until 31st March 2009.

For more information please visit the following website; www.kcmacp09.com

Following our successful conference with the Physiotherapy Pain Association in 2007 we have worked with an online education company to produce slides and audio from the day. This will be available to members for a small fee to enhance their continuing professional development.

A database of clinical mentors has now been developed to provide students access to available placements. This has been up and running since September 2007. Its success has been evaluated and in light of comments made by both students and mentors it has been further developed and will continue to provide a beneficial service for both clinicians and mentors.

Finally the MACP would like to thank Rotterdam for a fantastic conference. The programme was exciting and we welcomed the opportunity to network with our international colleagues. We are of course disappointed not to have been selected to host the next IFOMT conference. However, we wish Canada every success in hosting 2012.

USA: Delegate – Chris Showalter

CONGRATULATIONS to Annalie Basson on her election as IFOMT President and to Duncan Reid as Vice President. Congratulations must also go to our newly elected Executive Members, Ken Olson, Michael Ritchie and Erik Thoomes. We are confident that such a strong leadership team will forward the IFOMT Vision further than ever before.

THANK YOU to outgoing President, Michael Ritchie and Executive Members: Marina Wallin (VP), Annalie Basson, Lothar Joerger, and Duncan Reid, for your leadership and hard work over the past 4 years. We would also like to thank Dr. Alison Rushton and the Standards Committee for their tireless and ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving worldwide standards in OMT. We are fortunate indeed that Secretariat Vicki Reid has agreed to continue to “run the ship” for another term.

WELL DONE to Erik Thoomes and the myriad of other Dutch representatives who made the Rotterdam Congress such a resounding success. The conference was well organized and highly stimulating on an educational front. The scientific aspects of the Congress were surpassed only by the graciousness and hospitality of our hosts with their cheerful willingness to make attendees feel welcome. The social program was superb. Where else can you dine and dance the night away in a 17th Century church? Well done again and Thank You.

CONGRATULATIONS to Canada in winning the bid for Congress 2012. We are sure that our “friends from the north” will do a wonderful job and host an outstanding meeting. Special mention must go to the UK bid team who presented a very strong bid. We hope they will consider bidding again.

WELCOME to our newest MO Members: Japan and Ireland. We look forward to working with you.

CONGRATULATIONS to Freddy Kaltenborn on being granted Life Membership to IFOMT for his tremendous vision and leadership in OMT that has touched so many. Thank You, Freddy.

LOOKING FORWARD to working with our MO Colleagues in the next 4 years. I left Rotterdam with a palpable sense of cohesion amongst the MO’s. We have much work to do going forwards and the friendships and mutual respect we developed in Rotterdam will surely make the challenges seem easier. MO USA has offered to assist in the work of the Communications Committee.

IN THE USA we continue to work to further the standards, education, and promotion of OMT not only within the Physical Therapy profession, but also with our physician colleagues and the public at large. Our annual conference is one of the vehicles we use to achieve this.

Our 14th Annual Conference entitled “**Pain: From Science to Solutions**” will be held October 29-November 1, 2008 in Seattle, WA and promises to be well attended, especially given that last years conference was sold out and drew over 500 registrants.

Keynote speakers will include David Butler presenting “Manipulating the Brain” and Richard Deyo MD discussing “Treating chronic low back pain”. Numerous pre conference workshops will also be presented focusing on OMT for the older adult, psychological influences of musculoskeletal pain, legislative battles in manipulation, and many other aspects of pain science. More details can be found at www.aaompt.org.

REGISTERED INTEREST GROUP REPORTS

Hungary

Delegate – Andrea Rigo

The first steps of Manual Therapy knowledge were supported by the Norwegian Manual Therapy Group in the nineties, and we are very thankful for that! During that time the graduate Manual Therapy education program was introduced in the Hungarian physiotherapy schools.

Last year the Maitland Concept was started in Hungary by the support of the International Maitland Teachers' Association and personally by John Langendoen. Many thanks!

What is the goal now? *To educate IFOMT level manual physiotherapists*
But how? *That's a big struggle!*

The final goal is to organize a Masters Program in Manual Therapy by the international support. We have negotiations with the different Hungarian universities. We have to find how we could harmonize the IFOMT level educational program and the Hungarian educational laws. Maybe for the first time we could organize Specialisation for Manual Therapy and after that we might reach the Master level - of course by international support.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES: (Date order)

USA: 14th Annual Conference – ‘Pain: From Science to Solutions’, October 29th - November 1st, 2008
Seattle, WA. More details can be found at www.aaompt.org.

Italy: National Conference - Whiplash Associated Disorders., 15th November, 2008

South Africa: Biennial Physiotherapy Congress in Cape Town, 1st – 3rd May 2009
Abstracts can be submitted online: www.physionews.co.za

Sweden: 10th Nordic Congress in OMT/OM, 29th - 31st May 2009, Gothenburg, Sweden. An ECE Meeting will also be held during the conference. www.OMTsweden.se

United Kingdom:

3rd International MACP/KC conference – ‘Rehabilitation: Art and Science’, Edinburgh, 30th October - 1st November 2009. For more information please visit the following website; www.kcmacp09.com

New Zealand: ‘Striving for Excellence in OMT and Celebrating 40 years of Manual Therapy in New Zealand’. Heritage Hotel, Rotorua, 28th – 30th August 2009.

Website

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.

With very best wishes

Vicki Reid
IFOMT Secretariat

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Freddy Kaltenborn addressing the General Meeting after receiving his Life Membership award, 11 June, 2008.



Delegates in Rotterdam

Left to right, back row: Michael Ryan – Australia, Renée De Ruijter – Switzerland, Will Bonneveld, The Netherlands, Chris Showalter – USA
 Middle row: Heather Nicol – Norway, Olli Aranko – Finland, Ragnar Faleij – Sweden, Laura Finucane – United Kingdom, Fiona Morrison – Germany, Jutta Bauer – Austria, Inge Ris Hansen – Denmark, João Filipe Vasconcelos Abreu – Portugal. Prof. José Miguel Tricás Moreno, & Carlos - Spain, Kostas Sakellariou - Greece
 Front row: Wayne Hing – New Zealand, Andreas Gattermeier - Austria