

Advisory Group on Research and Knowledge Translation Report to Executive Committee 2020

Advisory Group Report – Period 2016-2020

The *Advisory Group on Research* began following the IFOMPT2016 conference in Glasgow. The group was initially chaired by Prof. Annelies Pool (also a serving EC Member) and was comprised of the following members: Richard Ellis, Bart Vanthillo, Nicola Mok, Marco Morales, Mindy Cairns, Eduardo Cruz, Helen French, Cesar Hidalgo, Ingrid du Toit (Office Manager).

The original purpose of the group was to report to the IFOMPT Executive Committee (EC) on matter related to research. The Terms of Reference (ToR) of this group was re-written in 2019, which included a name change to the *Advisory Group on Research and Knowledge Translation (AGRKT)*. There was also a change of Chair at the 2019 WCPT meeting, with A/Prof. Richard Ellis taking over from Prof. Pool.

The group members currently include: Richard Ellis, Chair (NZ), Bart Vanthillo (BEL), Nicola Mok (HK), Helen French (IRE), Cesar Hidalgo (ESP), Annelies Pool (EC liaison member), Leanne Bisset (SC liaison member), Ingrid du Toit (Office Manager). The purpose of the group was reviewed at the time of re-writing the ToR, and currently state:

Purpose: The objectives of the AGRKT are:

1. To establish IFOMPT as a knowledge broker by providing knowledge and leadership in identifying research resources that can be helpful for the research development for RIGs, MOs and the wider IFOMPT community.
2. To interact between researchers and IFOMPT, particularly when beneficial to IFOMPT.
3. To help to facilitate the dissemination of relevant and appropriate research that is of interest and benefit to IFOMPT and the wider IFOMPT community (e.g., disseminate knowledge by Evidence Release and Research Review, etc.)

IFOMPT Standards Dimension 9 (Research) survey

The most significant piece of work achieved by the AGRKT since 2016 has been to conduct a survey of all IFOMPT members regarding looking at Dimension 9 (Research) of the IFOMPT Standards document. This work was led by Prof. Annelies Pool, with support of the AGRKT, with a final report supplied to the EC in early 2020. The key findings in the report highlighted issues that MO's were having in meeting Dimension 9 related to difference in OMT programmes, programmes being based at universities versus not, and dissemination of research.

Advisory work for EC

The AGRKT is tasked, on an ad hoc basis, by the EC to review research or research-related documents that are sent to IFOMPT for endorsement or support. For example, two groups contacted IFOMPT for support with guidelines they had written regarding provision of telehealth during the current global COVID pandemic. The AGRKT are were able to independently assess the relevant material and then make a recommendation back to EC on how best to proceed.

Collaboration on *Manual Therapy Reviews*

Prof. Duncan Reid compiles and writes the *Manual Therapy Review* on behalf of IFOMPT. The AGRKT has collaborated with Prof. Reid to help produce this publication.

Future work

It has taken the AGRKT some time to realise what contribution it could and should be making in respect to research. We accept that it is not IFOMPT's mandate to conduct research and nor should the AGRKT do so either. We also acknowledge that any support or endorsement that IFOMPT provides in respect to research, must be done so very carefully and in a judicious manner. This presents a certain barrier that has meant this group has moved forward with caution in realising its role and responsibilities.

I want to thank all the members of the AGRKT for their time and contributions.

Submitted by:

A/Prof Richard Ellis (Chair, AGRKT)

Date: 23.09.20