



IFOMPT Release

This is an official IFOMPT publication
admin@ifompt.org
www.ifompt.org
www.facebook.com/ifompt
https://twitter.com/IFOMPT

Edition 13 - September 2020

Striving for an Inclusive and Diverse Community

My IFOM(P)T Journey- Ken Olson

My IFOMPT journey started in 1989 when I took a 5-day cervical spine course from Dr. Stanley Paris. I had only practiced as a PT for one year prior to the course and was impressed with the logical clinical reasoning, pain management principles, specific exercise instruction, and the high level of manual therapy skills presented in the course. I was able to move from Illinois to St Augustine, Florida 4 months later to take a position working at a clinic with Dr. Paris and the faculty at the University of St. Augustine which, after 4 years in St. Augustine, culminated in completion of a manual therapy residency program and a master's degree in orthopaedic manual physical therapy (OMPT) from the University of St. Augustine.



In June, 1992, I had the opportunity along with my co-worker and classmate Elaine Lonnemann (current American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapists (AAOMPT) President) to attend the IFOMPT conference in Vail, Colorado. Dr. Paris and his faculty/staff ran this conference for IFOMPT, and Elaine and I were put to work with jobs such as checking nametags at the door and moving course materials and treatment tables for the breakout sessions. We also were able to attend much of the programming and social events, where we met international manual therapy leaders such as Geoffrey Maitland, Freddy Kaltenborn, Bob Elvey, Bob Sydenham, Gwen Jull, David Lamb, Brian Mulligan, and Mariano Rocabado. Actually, I was introduced to Freddy Kaltenborn when I started to stop him at the door to the conference center to make him put on his nametag before entering but was intercepted by Dr. Paris with instructions that Freddy Kaltenborn could pass my station without a nametag. The IFOMPT conference inspired me to want to engage in the profession at the highest level, and I was fortunate to have the mentorship to make this a realistic goal.



In 1995, I was elected to the executive committee of the AAOMPT, the IFOMPT Member Organisation (MO) from the United States (USA) that was formed shortly prior to the 1992 Vail conference in order for the USA to become a MO of IFOMPT. I spent 11 years on the executive committee including serving as President where I had the opportunity to serve as the delegate to IFOMPT for the 2004 Cape Town IFOMPT conference. In the USA, we had been engaged in a tremendous turf war with the Chiropractic profession where they were attempting to legislatively restrict the right of PTs to practice manipulation in each state, and I was part of the group of OMPTs in the USA who developed strategies and resources to fight this political battle. One of the issues that hurt our efforts was when a research study was published that compared "manual therapy" to "physical therapy", when both interventions were performed by physical therapists. In several of these cases, the chiropractic profession would push media and political campaigns using the results of these studies to show that chiropractic was superior to physical therapy.

Since many of these studies were performed in IFOMPT MO countries, I made a motion to the IFOMPT 2004 general meeting (GM) to request that OMPTs use the term "manual physical therapy" rather than "manual therapy" when publishing their research. The motion failed to pass, but it helped bring to light the notion that we should bring the PT profession with us when we demonstrate excellence in our specialty area, and a few years later (2009), the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Therapists (IFOMT) changed its name to the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT).

At the 2012 GM, it was determined that it was time for IFOMPT to develop a new strategic plan, and since the IFOMPT SC and EC planned to attend the AAOMPT conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA in 2013, I helped to coordinate the strategic planning meeting and to find a facilitator to help us work through the strategic planning process. The group defined 7 strategic priorities and developed objectives associated with each priority. We were also fortunate that the 2012 Quebec conference was a huge financial success, which allowed the IFOMPT to dedicate resources toward developing a new logo and branding campaign.

Leading up to my election as President at the 2016 Glasgow GM, the EC received feedback from the MO delegates that they wanted to be more engaged in the work of IFOMPT. The previous EC had worked very hard and accomplished many things, but it became clear that we could do more to engage individuals beyond the EC. The solution was to develop advisory groups to focus on the strategic priorities of the strategic plan. The EC developed terms of reference for the advisory groups and put out a call for willing participants. We did not restrict participation to just the MO delegates. Instead, we opened it up to past IFOMPT leaders and other OMPTs with energy and talents that IFOMPT could utilize who were willing to do the work. Through the course of the past 4 years, we have developed 4 advisory groups and 5 taskforces, which have done much to advance the mission of IFOMPT to be the global leader in OMPT excellence and have put in place a solid foundation for further growth of the organisation.

The greatest part of this IFOMPT journey has been the personal relationships I have been able to build with OMPT leaders across the world. I have been the honored guest, speaker, and participant at conferences of many countries since I have been on the IFOMPT EC including Canada, Colombia x2, Egypt, France, Japan, The Netherlands x3, Scotland, Singapore, South Africa x2, Sweden, Spain, Switzerland, Peru, and the yearly USA conferences. There have also been many wonderful invitations that I have been unable to accept due to other professional and personal commitments, but other members of the EC and the SC have been able to further represent IFOMPT at many of these. I have been inspired by the dedication and commitment to clinical excellence demonstrated by PTs across the globe. For instance, when I hear stories of the personal sacrifices made by a PT in Venezuela to attend a conference in Colombia or a PT from France who sleeps in a car for 3 weeks to seek clinical mentoring in Canada, I become inspired to find ways I can help continue to move the profession forward and bring clinical excellence in OMPT to the entire world.



Latest IFOMPT Developments

“Change will not come if we wait for some other person, or if we wait for some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.”

Barack Obama

To come from a very small farming village (pop. 650) in Northern Illinois, USA to have the opportunity to be a part of a trailblazing international professional organization has been a humbling, awe inspiring experience. I am forever indebted to those who mentored me along the way to make this possible and to those who worked with me to develop an effective team. In particular, I must thank our Executive Director, Ingrid du Toit, who deserves a tremendous amount of credit for making IFOMPT function smoothly, as well as, the EC and SC members that I have served with over the past 12 years, and especially the current EC of Laura Finucane, Paolo Sanzo, Renée De Ruijter, and Annelies Pool-Goudzwaard who have formed a fantastic team. I am also indebted to the advisory group and taskforce members who have stepped up to take on important work on behalf of IFOMPT. I am also extremely fortunate and grateful to have a wonderful wife, Janet, and two amazing young adult children, Will and Emma, who have provided unconditional love and support to allow me to take this journey.

I am excited for the future of IFOMPT because I believe that the best days for IFOMPT are still ahead. Laura Finucane will lead IFOMPT for the next four years with a steady hand and a renewed vision. It is my hope that we can continue to respect and honor our past as we build for the future. We should be proud of IFOMPT's past and respect and build upon the pillars of OMPT clinical excellence, educational standards, and the solid governance and financial management principles that have brought us to this point in our history. The future brings a great opportunity to step into a worldwide leadership role in our specialty area of practice, which must continue to emphasize a high standard of manual and manipulative physical therapy for the management of musculoskeletal conditions.

I want to thank the delegates for their confidence and support, and I look forward, as an IFOMPT Past-President, to finding new challenges and opportunities to assist in IFOMPT's journey into the future.



Diversity and Inclusion in IFOMPT Laura Finucane

“Diversity is having a seat at the table, inclusion is having a voice and belonging is having that voice be heard.” (Liz Fosslien)



During the height of the lockdown I was asked if I would participate in a conference that would be made freely available to the musculoskeletal community around the world. I considered this was something I could do to support the community in these challenging times and so I said yes. I recorded my presentation and sent it off to the organisers and thought nothing more of it until I found myself amidst a twitter storm. A warranted storm in my opinion, about the conferences lack of diversity and inclusion. For one, I was the only female presenter in a line-up of ten other presenters, which consisted of white males from high socioeconomic countries.

The reasons for its lack of diversity were put down to the speed in which the conference had been pulled together and that many female presenters had been asked but were unable to participate, invariably suggesting a male replacement. I have been invited to speak at many conferences over the years but it has never crossed my mind to question the organisers on who else they have as speakers or ask about their inclusion and diversity strategy.

The gender balance is only one aspect of diversity and inclusion. Diversity refers to the traits and characteristics that make people unique, for example, culture, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, and so on. Inclusion refers to behaviours that ensure people feel welcome. It is recognised that if we include different experiences, opinions, skills, and abilities it not only enriches individuals but also organisations and can lead to creativity and innovation.

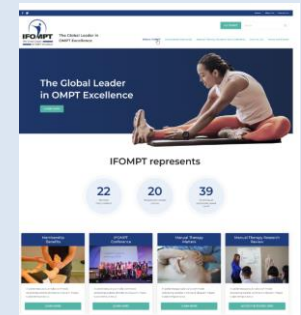
In 2019 we looked at IFOMPT's diversity and inclusion across our committees and countries, and considering we represent a global community we did not come out very well. We can and must do better if we truly want to represent the global community. Each of us has a responsibility to raise the issue at every possible opportunity if we want to make a difference.

IFOMPT will commit to addressing this by raising it and actively seek to embed it at every opportunity ensuring we are as inclusive and diverse as we possibly can be from the committees we elect to the speakers we invite. Building inclusivity and diversity should be core to our values as an organisation.

Personally, next time I am invited to speak at a conference, I will ask the question, 'who else is speaking at the conference? Can I ask you about your inclusion and diversity?'

How will YOU make a difference?

NewIFOMPT Website



A consistent message from the feedback sessions over the past two years has been that the IFOMPT website needs to be updated and the access to informations should be simplified, while there needs to be a facility to share information with members only.

Within the budget and resource constraints, we have made this happen. A proposal was accepted from our current website hosts, Zeald to upgrade the platform and re-launch the website.

A small team consisting of Renée de Ruijter, Ronél Jordaan, Haideh Plock, Pierre Roscher, Eric Robertson and Ingrid du Toit have been beavering away since early 2020 and we are ready to reveal the newly developed site. This will be done in two stages: We will launch the site and ask for inputs and feedback on its content and functionality. Once this has been piloted and feedback accommodated, the second stage will follow where the relevant information will be restricted in a member only sign-in section and those interested will be required to register to access all the information.

The new website will be launched in late September and we invite all our members to have a look and provide feedback - this is a joint effort and your feedback will contribute greatly to a site that meets the needs of the members.

Goodbye from Annelies Pool-Goudzwaard

First of all, I would like to thank you for all the trust you put in me to be a member of the EC for the last 4 years. It was a good experience to learn how an international organisation is run, and how new issues raised are solved and how strategies are determined. The time and effort put in by all the members of the EC and especially Ingrid as executive officer is tremendous. I really want to thank you all for working in this close relationship for the last four years.

With my experience being an MO delegate for 8 years, I was aware that there was a distance between the EC and the MO delegates. Besides the Standards Committee, hardly any members were involved in tasks or committees and there were no advisory committees and no use of human capital as it could be. This was one of the reasons for becoming a member of the EC - to grow a more active relationship. At the beginning of my term at Glasgow MOs together put forward the idea of advisory groups and immediately everybody signed in. This was the start of a more 'inclusive community'. This meant an enormous step forward in growth to a more mature, professional organisation. So, what I set out for my term as EC member, started right from the beginning by means of effort from all MOs.

I was happy to work on the Advisory Group on Research as linking pin, but soon realised that IFOMPT, not being a research institute, could be of best value to our members if we share knowledge and information. Some guidelines were shared and adopted as international guidelines including the red flags framework (Compliments to Laura on doing a great job). The AGR tried to set up a survey to get an indication what the barriers are and what skills or knowledge are missing and preventing countries from becoming members. Guys/girls from our research group; thank you for your input and collaboration the last four years.

I realise now that IFOMPT must be an inclusive and sharing family to help each other in striving for optimal MT care for our patients on a global scale. Strategies to help each other to spread quality education, knowledge and skills will be a main issue in the future. The new tier in the membership will help to shift the goal from reaching educational standards before you can become full member to being more included, even if you are struggling to meet the standards. I hope this will be accepted at the GM.

With these new goals and strategies, I can leave IFOMPT with the knowledge that it will prosper in the future. I still hope to remain a part of the family and of course will try to be active in one of the advisory committees. My work at the University as professor in a completely other domain (pelvic girdle pain and women's health care) and not being active as a clinician anymore, means I am no longer the best member of the EC, hence the reason for standing down at this time. I wish the new EC success, and I am sure that they will enjoy it as much as I have!

I wish you all the best
Annelies

IFOMPT 2024 is Coming to Basel

After we got the letter from the Executive Committee, there was a moment we thought: Wow!! We've got the IFOMPT Conference for the first time in history of Switzerland. Now, it is true - what a great responsibility and a great opportunity for Switzerland and Europe!

Firstly, a big thank you to all the people who contributed to the bid and Swho will help to provide a quality and memorable event.

We have already begun our preparations and our group has met to plan the process. In mid-July we had a meeting with Basel Tourism and the Congress Centre to discuss the finer details of the planning. We have also commenced creating the logo for our Conference with the theme: "Crossing Bridges". The next step will be to convene the Scientific Committee to start planning the timeline for submissions and how we will set up the programme. We are very excited to host you in Basel in 2024. The Congress Centre is located in the city centre, so you will feel the vibe of the city as soon as you step out of the door. Within a few minutes, you can go for a swim in the river Rhine (if you need support - we will be there), while there are also many world famous museums like the Fondation Beyeler or the Vitra design museum to visit. And last but not least, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of IFOMPT in a very memorable way- so don't miss the party!

Looking forward to seeing you in Basel

Best wishes
Marion Schreiner - Conference Chair



Getting to know the new Standards Committee Members

Trisha Davies-Knorr

Trisha has been an active member of the DVMT since 1992 and was one of their first OMT graduates. She has been instrumental in further developing the DVMT's community programme and in promoting cooperation with institutes of higher education. She is currently a member of the DVMT's educational committee and is a clinical mentor and teacher in this programme.

Hallo, my name is Trisha Davies-Knorr. I am proud to become a member of the IFOMPT family and am so sorry that we can't meet personally this year. So, who am I? I live in Munich Germany, come from the UK but I remain a true Welsh girl! After completing my physiotherapy training at the then Oswestry and North Staffordshire School of Physiotherapy and working in the UK for 5 years, I came to Munich for a year or two to explore the rock climbing in the Bavarian Alps and to gain some professional experience abroad. I am still here 33 years later and even took German nationality this year so that I am now the proud owner of two passports. I still work a few hours a week at the University Hospital in Munich and continue to teach on post graduate courses.

Although no longer rock climbing, I love our new E-Bikes and we had a great time biking in Wales recently. I enjoy Indie-music and take the advantage of being in Munich to regularly visit concerts. However, I can also be seen at various oldies concerts more fitting to my age, at the dance theatre or at opera. I hope that I will be able to contribute to IFOMPT's continuing leadership in worldwide musculoskeletal physiotherapy and am looking forward to the challenge of working on the Standards Committee.



Euson Yeung

Euson has provided sustained contribution to Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy (OMPT) education in Canada. He served as an active member of the National Orthopaedic Division Education Committee for 7 years and his experience as a clinician, teacher and education researcher at the University of Toronto and in one of the accredited community-based OMPT programs in Canada will serve him extremely well on the IFOMPT Standards Committee.

Greetings from Canada. My name is Euson Yeung and I am excited to join the Standards Committee. In preparing this introduction for the IFOMPT newsletter I asked my 6-year old son and 9-year old daughter a few questions and here are their responses:

What is daddy's favourite thing to do? Eat chips

What does daddy like to do for fun? Play games with his kids; be active; tell stories; run a lot so he can eat more chips; sing in the shower; watch basketball

What does daddy do for work? Tickles us; helps other people; gives people exercises who get hurt; goes to meetings for random reasons; teaches students to fix and tape up their bones

In addition to the above, I like to escape the city of Toronto where I live, put on my hiking boots and enjoy the great outdoors. I'm also quite passionate about physio education. I've been teaching in the PT at the University of Toronto, Canada, for 16 years and have also really enjoyed teaching and mentoring in Canada's community based OMPT Program for almost just as long. I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue pursuing my passion in education. I look forward to working with and learning from the other members of the Standards Committee.



Eric Robertson

Eric has served in numerous roles for AAOMPT, while he also has experience as a program director, an associate professor in a Physical Therapy program, and faculty member in various Fellowship programs. His service for AAOMPT and his numerous roles within the manual physical therapy profession have exposed him to both IFOMPT standards as well as how those standards are interpreted.



IFOMPT General Meeting

This is a final reminder of the IFOMPT General Meeting that will take place electronically on 5/6 October 2020 and 8/9 October 2020 (early afternoon 5 and 8 October in USA and Canada, early morning 6 and 9 October in Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, and New Zealand, and evening 5 and 8 October in UK, Europe, Scandinavia, Iberia, and South Africa. The login details will be sent out shortly before the meeting.

The Draft Agenda and meeting documentation have been shared in a Drop Box and the first activities have already commenced with the election process for the new Executive Committee under way.