



# IFOMPT Release

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Edition 14 - December 2020

## *The Power of Touch*

*From the President -  
Laura Finucane*



2020 has not been the year that any of us imagined. Each and every one of us will have faced different (and the same) challenges as a consequence of a common problem.

We will all have been affected in some way, both personally and professionally. We heard from many of you of the challenges you have had to face within your working and personal lives.

Personally, we are only too aware of the power of touch with many of us being unable to make physical contact with family and friends and with some of our family members in other parts of the country or indeed the world. These things we have taken for granted until now.

As physiotherapists we understand the power of touch, it is an important part of our treatment. As we move towards a new year it is likely that the way we work will not return to pre COVID-19 times but will include a new way of working which could result in reluctance to return to hands on treatments.

Therefore, our developing strategy and commitment to setting up a task force advocating for manual therapy is timely. The effectiveness of manual therapy within practice relies not only on an individual's expertise to apply the technique but more importantly on the therapists critical thinking and reasoning supporting its use and the context in which it is delivered, this is OUR superpower!



IFOMPT has an opportunity to reframe the use of manual therapy within this new normal and must advocate for its use more than ever. So, we all need

to remind our colleagues and our profession of the power of touch.



2021 is likely to present us with further challenges, but equally opportunities to influence our profession. As we near the end of 2020 and look back on a year that has challenged us beyond our wildest imagination, I want to thank you. I am grateful to the IFOMPT community and family for continuing to offer its support and involvement despite all the challenges we have personally and professionally faced.

We do have much to look forward to and I wish you joy and peace, as we enter this holiday season for many cultures around the world.

Hold on, better days are coming.....



# Latest IFOMPT Developments

*“Too often we underestimate the power of touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around” - Leo Buscaglia*

## IFOMPT Strategic Plan 2020-2025



The 2020 strategic planning process has been completed. A big thank you to Evelyn Jonkman from Conversant for the valuable guidance and to all our members who participated in the process by making inputs and suggestions that helped us to develop a plan that will chart the way forward. The final version of the plan will be available on the website shortly.

Our purpose is a broad and ambitious one: IFOMPT’s aim over the next 5 years is “To be the leading organisation worldwide for the promotion of excellence in manual /musculoskeletal PT to meet the musculoskeletal health needs of society”.

We will do this through activities and interventions in five main areas, each with listed outcomes and tasks:

### Here to Serve

We are here to serve our members and the wider global PT community and those individuals who seek excellence from MO PTs. We need to expand the quality, exposure, and influence of manual /musculoskeletal PTs to meet the growing needs of our diverse society.

### Dynamic Community

IFOMPT aims to be a responsive and engaged global PT community that together respond to the changing landscape and creatively leads the way.

### Quality, Excellence, and Accessibility

For IFOMPT, quality is about standards. It is also about being available and inspiring to be better. IFOMPT will drive excellence and expand quality.

### Strong and Courageous Voice

As experts in the field of manual/musculoskeletal PT, IFOMPT will

step to the plate to represent the community at all levels and actively advocate for greater access to quality treatment globally, and influence policy.

### Fit for Future

It is the aim of IFOMPT to be viewed as a respected, trusted, and well-known organisation that answers the needs of our community with responsibility and rigor, ensuring long term financial stability and sustainability

Now the big challenge begins to start implementing the plan. The model will continue whereby the membership is involved in making things happen for IFOMPT. We have put in place several Task Forces and Advisory Groups and approached the membership to serve on or nominate individuals to serve on the various groups and were overwhelmed by the great response to the call to be involved. Care was taken to ensure that the various groups fairly represent the diverse nature of the IFOMPT family. We are happy to announce the various Task Forces and their members:

- **Task Force on Paediatric Manipulation (Continuation)**  
Anita Gross (Chair), Ken Olson, Jan Pool, Annalie Basson, and Nikki Milne.
- **Task Force on OMPT Advocacy**  
Richard Ellis (Chair), Paolo Sanzo, Chad Cook, Clair Hebron, Ina Diener, Andreas Gattermeier, and Anoop Chowdhry.
- **Task Force on Standards Review and International Monitoring**  
Paolo Sanzo (Chair), Renée de Ruijter, Ronél Jordaan, Euson Yeung, Amy Fagan, Bob Rowe,

Fred Froment, Silvia Perez, and Sharon Tsang.

- **Task Force on IFOMPT Identity and Name**  
Laura Finucane (Chair), Pierre Roscher, Gwen Jull, Duncan Reid, Chris Mercer, Jeremy Lewis, Elaine Lonnemann, and Aurore Mambriani.
- **Task Force on IFOMPT Governance**  
Renée de Ruijter (Chair), Paolo Sanzo, Annalie Basson, Ken Olson, Michael Boni, Mindy Cairns, Barbara Pantar, and Hironobu Kuruma.

In addition, three Advisory Groups have been put in place with a fourth one to be added in due course:

- **Advisory Group on Finance**  
Nathan Hutting (Chair), Richard Ellis (EC), Timoreta Gray, Rik Kranenburg, Dusty Quinn, Bart Vanthillo, Alexandros Sideris, Guna Semjonova, and Francisco Ibaceta.
- **Advisory Group on Marketing and Communication**  
Haideh Plock (Chair), Pierre Roscher (EC), Lenerdene Levesque, Rod Mclean, Baerbel Boergel, Svein Kristiansen, Jesper Holm, Antionette Curley, Marion Schreiner, Aline Miranda, and Andrei J. Altavas.
- **Advisory Group on Membership Development**  
Duncan Reid (Chair), Laura Finucane (EC), Jan Pool, Karen Beeton, Chris Showalter, Ren Mendoza, Michalis Efstathiou, Lorrie Maffey, and Nicola Mok.

Some volunteers still need to be allocated tasks and that will happen shortly. Work will commence in January and we look forward to a productive 2021.