



# IFOMPT Release

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## Name Change: Claiming our Place on the Global Stage?

From the President -  
Laura Finucane



I have been heartened by the level of discussion and engagement the proposal of a name change for our organisation has created. We have heard the opinions from almost every member country. Those opinions have been broad, differing, and in some cases strong and passionate in equal measures for and against a name change.

There have been many reasons articulated in recent weeks as to the benefit that a name change would provide IFOMPT. In this last message from me before we embark on this important vote, I want to offer another significant reason as to why it might be important to change our name.

We are one of the few professional bodies in the world that has internationally agreed educational standards to which all postgraduate programmes are assessed and must achieve in order to become a member. As members of IFOMPT, we are examined and qualify to this high standard with an emphasis on clinical reasoning and decision making, to provide a broad model of care for our patients, because we believe we can make a difference to their lives.

On a global level who then is best placed to influence the burden of musculoskeletal health? IFOMPT has had to fight hard to be a voice representing areas of practice we have expertise in. On some occasions we have been overlooked because the term 'musculoskeletal' is more commonly used, and IFOMPT has been perceived as just having an expertise in manual and manipulative physiotherapy. We have been fortunate to have a good relationship with World Physiotherapy (WP). Because we have developed a good relationship with WP, we have been asked to represent them on several issues, particularly those regarding musculoskeletal health.

For example, WP is involved in the 'Global alliance for musculoskeletal health' an alliance whose vision is 'a world where musculoskeletal health is a priority; where the prevention, treatment and care of any musculoskeletal disorders is of a high standard and consistently accessible in order to improve the health-related quality of life for people with, or at risk of a musculoskeletal condition'. In the eyes of WP, IFOMPT are the subgroup that represent musculoskeletal physiotherapy, they see us as the leaders. However, our name does not reflect our leadership in musculoskeletal physiotherapy. There is a risk that groups external to WP assume our expertise is solely in manual therapy and not also musculoskeletal physiotherapy/health /rehabilitation. As with all organisations, there will be a change in the executive board of WP in the next couple of years and I am unsure what that will bring. A different musculoskeletal group could present itself to WP and could challenge our position purely based on the name. It is a risk raised by Emma Stokes (President of WP) in her response to our strategy. She wrote, 'A failure to move in this direction would leave a very obvious 'gap' in the global community which given the need for such expertise would, I have no doubt, be filled in other ways that might not be in the best interests of the global physiotherapy community'

If IFOMPT wants a seat at the table to influence the global strategy and promote ourselves as the leaders and experts in musculoskeletal physiotherapy, including manual and manipulative therapy, then we need to identify ourselves as such. A name change would allow our organisation to do so. It does not detract from our expertise of manual therapy and manipulation. In fact, I think it provides us an opportunity to influence this at an international level.

I continue to urge you to consult with your membership to reach a decision that represents your country's position, rather than your own individual position. IFOMPT is composed of a diverse range of organisations, each with different needs, but I ask you also to consider the name change in light of how it helps the whole organisation and the patients we serve.



If you are opposed to the name change, or you feel that there has been insufficient time for your members to consider the name change, or you feel there is another alternative name, that is not outlined in the proposed motion, then your membership should consider voting **no**.

If, after considering the evidence, presenting that to your membership and then seeking a mandate from them that they are in support, then vote **yes**.

Whatever the outcome of the vote on the 16/17th August 2021, it should not be considered a success or a failure, a win, or a loss, it will be progress.

Whatever we are called after the August vote, we will remain as IFOMPT, the experts in OMPT, a component of our practice which must be preserved and handed down to the next generation. This will require strong advocacy and strategy to achieve but

I am confident that the IFOMPT family will come together to achieve this.

### Update on the RIG Assistance Programme



A big thank you to the members from Austria, Belgium, The Netherlands, Japan, Slovenia, and the USA who answered the call to assist the RIGs who were struggling to pay their 2020 subscriptions. Due to their generosity, two RIGs were able to pay their subscriptions and are now fully paid up.

Unfortunately, we lost two RIGs in the process as Turkey needed to step back as a RIG to sort out internal issues and we hope to see them back once this is sorted. In addition, Pakistan was no longer able to meet the requirements for RIG membership. We commit to continue working with both countries to hopefully reinstate their status in due course.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE NAME CHANGE

It is proposed to change the name to the International Federation of Musculoskeletal Physical Therapists to indicate the field of expertise within healthcare that we work in.

Will the scope and the identity of the organisation change?

**No, the scope of IFOMPT will remain unchanged. IFOMPT will advocate for excellence and there are no changes to the standards. The identity of IFOMPT stays the same. IFOMPT's mission and vision and objectives will stay the same.**

Is it true that the organisation will take more and diverse members on board, lowering the Educational Standards?

**No, The Educational Standards will not be lowered, members need to meet the current standards.**

Information has been shared via email and podcasts, stating that IFOMPT wants to get bigger and expand, is this the purpose of the name change?

**No, IFOMPT membership is based on a country meeting the Educational Standards, the proposed name change does not impact on the Educational Standards of IFOMPT.**

Will the IFOMPT Logo change?

**No, the IFOMPT logo and the text under the logo (The Global Leader in Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapy (OMPT) Excellence) will stay the same. In fact, this is very important from a branding perspective that we can build on what historically IFOMPT has worked so hard to achieve.**

Will the international monitoring be influenced by the proposed name change?

**No, the international monitoring will stay the same.**

Will the 10 dimensions of the Standards Document on Education change with the proposed name change?

**No, the 10 dimensions of the Standards Document will stay the same but will in time undergo a review process.**

Will the requirement that IFOMPT education standards as a criterion for full membership of IFOMPT change?

**No, this will stay the same.**

Will the international monitoring be influenced by the proposed name change?

**No, the international monitoring will stay the same.**

Will the route to membership become easier, so that every musculoskeletal group can join IFOMPT in future?

**No, IFOMPT's requirements for high educational standards for all members will remain the same.**

Does the Manual Therapy organisation in my country have to change its name and internal policies and procedures too?

**No, Member Organisations are not required to change their name or policies and countries should choose what is most appropriate for them. Some countries have chosen to change their names**

The IFOMPT EC seems to be in favour of this vote

**The EC recommends the name change for the reasons identified in the Task Force report.**

Will the quality of our manual and manipulative skills be less important?

**No, IFOMPT is committed to enhance advocacy for this area of OMPT expertise irrespective of the name.**

How big was the Task Force on name change?

**The Task Force had 10 members representing various MOs from around the world with different opinions and areas of expertise.**

I am afraid that "manual/ manipulative therapy will become a technique instead of an approach to care".

**In many countries manual/ manipulative therapy is seen as a technique instead of an approach. Adopting the name MSK will broaden the scope and highlight the high level of technical skills and clinical reasoning used both in assessment and treatment integrating the best available evidence.**

Has there been transparency with the findings and recommendations of the Task Force?

**Yes, the MOs were involved throughout the process and were sent the full report with the risks and benefits listed.**

“The more you **read**  
the more **things** you know.  
The more that you **learn**  
the more **places** you'll go.”  
-Dr. Seuss

# Latest IFOMPT Developments

“If you don't have a seat at the table,  
you're probably on the menu”  
- Elizabeth Warren

## IFOMPT August 2021 Special Meeting



The Special Meeting to vote on the proposed name change for IFOMPT will take place on 16 August 2021 at 19:00 GMT. The exact time conversion per country will be sent to all nominated MO Delegates along with the login details and instructions on how to log in on the day. All 24 MOs have nominated their voting delegates who will attend the meeting that will be scheduled to last for an hour and that will be chaired by Cris Massis from Saint George Consulting who will be the designate of the President on the day. Dedicated voting software will be used, and all 24 voting delegates will be sent the details on how to vote.

Please note the various provisions that govern special meetings and Constitutional amendments, as contained in the IFOMPT Constitution that was approved at the General Meeting in 2020. In addition, the provisions of Robert's Rules of Order also need to be noted in as far as they apply for this meeting.

The IFOMPT Constitution prescribes that a simple majority of voting delegates will constitute a quorum for the meeting - we, strongly encourage all 24 our MOs to have their voting delegates attend the meeting. In addition, the Constitution prescribes that no business other than that stipulated in the notice of the meeting may be voted upon - in this case the IFOMPT name change.

As a confirmation, the motion that has been proposed by the EC follows:

***The IFOMPT Executive Committee moves that the name of the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT) Incorporated be changed to the International Federation of Musculoskeletal Physical Therapists (IFOMPT) Incorporated.***

As the name change will require an amendment of Article 1 Section 1 of the Constitution, the motion will require a super majority of a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Delegate Assembly to pass. Each of the 24 members has one vote and the votes will be secret. The details of the procedures for the day will follow.

All the MOs are encouraged to consult with their members to make an informed decision on their behalf. There have been a number of recorded coffee sessions and other interactions and members who would like to revisit the discussions are welcome to ask for the recordings made during the sessions.

As a final confirmation, please note that this proposed name change will not require you to change your MOs name or your MOs internal policies and procedures. In addition, the ten dimensions of the Education Standards Document and International Monitoring will not change along with the requirement that IFOMPT education standards is a criterion for full membership of IFOMPT. Finally, this also again confirms that the IFOMPT branding, i.e., the Logo and Strapline that is part of who we are will not change:



## Proposed New Subscription Model Discussion



The Advisory Group on Finance has reviewed the IFOMPT membership fee model considering that several smaller MOs and RIGs have struggled to pay their annual dues. The proposed adjustment to the fee structure considers the socioeconomic status of members (based on the World Bank classification and the membership numbers (</> 200 members). Note that the membership categorisation has not been done on actual numbers as the numbers are not always available.

The AGF believes that this will significantly relieve the pressure on the smaller and low-income MOs and RIGs and will not have a disproportionately large financial impact on other members. The proposed model will be as follows (Note the current fee is \$2 630.00 for MOs and \$470.00 for RIGs):

Classification	MO (n)	RIG (n)	MO (dues)	RIG (dues)
Low <200				
Low >200				
Low middle <200		1	1352	240
Low middle >200		1	1639	290
Upper middle <200		2	1688	300
Upper middle >200	1	1	2045	363
High <200	5	4	2358	419
High >200	18	9	2858	508

In terms of the proposed model, the IFOMPT revenue will remain largely the same but with the payment more equitably spread amongst the IFOMPT members.

Discussions on this proposal will be facilitated over the next few months with a view to calling special meeting later in the year to vote on the model and the 2022 subscriptions.

**Please note that IFOMPT will be taking a short break from activities for the week of 23 August 2021 to allow all to recharge for the big push to the end of the year.**