



IFOMPT Release

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

Edition 18 - July 2022

Planes, trains, and automobiles!

From the President –
Laura Finucane



**“With age, comes wisdom. With travel, comes understanding.”
Sandra Lake**

Covid 19 saw us adapt to a different way of connecting with an exponential and necessary turn towards remote working and connecting, travel was paused, and even social interactions were limited to ‘bubbles’. As a global organisation this adaptation was not hugely challenging because we already had established ways of working remotely.

Remote connection is a necessary function for us, and technology has helped to provide a more engaging environment and we have used it through coffee sessions and our many advisory groups working to drive IFOMPT forward. More recently, the focus has been on how can we help our members? This has provided us with rich information which we have summarised for you in this newsletter.

Nonetheless, not being able to connect physically has been challenging and perhaps we have forgotten the importance of doing so. I was personally reminded of this in March of this year when I resumed a level of travelling similar to pre-pandemic. The return to travelling was both welcome and strange in equal measures.



Over a 10-day period I took 6 flights, 2 trains, 4 taxis, and visited 3 countries. My first trip was to Dubai to meet at the subgroup summit of World Physiotherapy. A meeting that had been planned for 2020 which finally brought us together. I have not met some of the global leaders before in the same room, only virtually. Being able to connect and discuss the global issues and provide an environment to do so was incredibly welcome.

My second trip was to France to speak at a conference in Grenoble, a jumping off place for those heading for the Alps to ski. The dramatic back drop of the mountains in the background is really very inspiring. I was overwhelmed by the passion and enthusiasm of the delegates and the great debates and discussions that were able to happen in a meaningful way.

My third trip was to Basel, the home of the 2024 conference which is gathering momentum and where there is a level of excitement to be able to connect again and celebrate how far IFOMPT has come in the last 4 years.

Before we head to Basel, we will meet in Belgium in 2023 and we hope you will join us to reconnect in person.



HOW CAN WE HELP?



ASK

Ask for help
if you
need it



SHARE

Share
information and
experiences



BE THERE

Provide
support and
information



CONNECT

Foster
connections
and growth



ADVOCATE

Be the voice
of the
profession

The IFOMPT strategic plan identified a number of objectives relating to fostering interactions within the IFOMPT family. These include building and fostering connections, engaging members, and non-members in collective dialogue and exploring different ways of collaborating and partnering. With this in mind, the “How can we help” campaign was launched, and it will be our mantra for 2022. Several MOs and RIGs responded to the call for meetings. Touching base with the members has provided the opportunity to connect with the delegates and other MO and RIG members on a personal level to make sure that they are ok and supported in the various challenges they encounter ranging from COVID, to in their professional lives, to other challenges such as the concerns regarding the war in Europe, floods, political challenges, and many others.

There were some common threads:

Requests for clarification on the name change process and the future of IFOMPT:

Several MOs asked what the next steps would be and also for clarification on how the name change motion did not pass as there was a clear majority of members in favour of the change. It was explained that the motion required a two thirds majority to pass, and the final votes were one vote short of this mark. The opinion was expressed that there needs to be a conclusion to this debate as we have much bigger issues to spend our energy on. The EC responded that IFOMPT had put in considerable energy and effort, and it would now be up to the members to reignite the discussions and process if there remains an appetite for this to change.

Questions relating to International Monitoring and the IFOMPT Standards Document:

Questions revolved around concerns relating to the current IM process and the considerable resources it requires by the countries to produce the reports and IFOMPT to monitor compliance. Members also raised the matter of having dual systems (their own University evaluations and the IFOMPT monitoring), and expressed a need to somehow integrate these. Some members indicated that they are struggling to find suitable External Assessors and that the cost for this is prohibitive. There was also a question regarding the consultation process envisaged when the Standards Document is amended.

The emergence of specialisation, advanced practitioners and a multi-disciplinary approach to treatment :

This trend is gaining momentum across the world and several members asked for advice, guidance and support as they become involved. Some countries are not following this trend at all. The experiences and advice of the other members who are on this journey is invaluable, and members are encouraged to interact with each other to share their experience.

Challenge relating to clinical placements: In some parts of the world there simply is not sufficient capacity to provide comprehensive clinical placements for OMPT PTs in training. The level of mentoring differs considerably around the world. In some countries, it is up to the PTs to provide all the training and mentoring on their own, while other countries support clinics to participate by making financial contributions. The quality and level of skills requires comprehensive support and guidance, and countries could learn from each other how this can best be done. IFOMPT could assist in facilitating this.



Assistance to RIGs wanting to progress: Several RIGs expressed a need for more support and sharing experiences with others in the same position as part of their process of evolving to full membership. Most struggle with buy-in by parent bodies and membership and sharing the message and benefits and also with developing certain elements of their programmes. The main focus is to increase the level of education and to evolve over time, but they need assistance and support.

Political challenges faced within countries with the medical or PT profession and also with parent bodies:

Several members raised challenges they are facing within their countries and with their parent bodies or legal compliance systems and the challenges that these pose. This varied from receiving little to no support, to takeovers by other groups, to the complete re-organisation of the OMPT profession and adding a new category of therapist taking this task on. The value of belonging to IFOMPT is that the experiences and solutions from other members can assist in navigating some of these challenges. The EC offered its assistance where it can help the members, and also involving World Physiotherapy, if deemed necessary, as has been done in several countries over time.

Language challenges: Several members expressed the language challenges they face and the need to translate at least some of the material and especially the webinars. The offer was made to possibly work together to find a way to make this a reality.

The effect of external influencers on the profession: The challenges by other outside roleplayers such as the medical profession and politicians are having a negative effect on the strength and growth of the profession. We need to stand up and be counted and advocate more. The message to the funders and politicians must be that we can save the medical profession and countries a lot of money – as the PT profession and its value is underutilised internationally.

