



News Release

10th July 2008

WCPT Announces the International Scientific Committee for World Physical Therapy 2011

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) is pleased to announce that Swiss physical therapist **Barbara Rau** will sit on the International Scientific Committee (ISC) for its 16th international congress, World Physical Therapy 2011. The committee will be responsible for shaping and developing an exciting and agenda-setting scientific programme for the event.

The congress will bring the world of physical therapy together in Amsterdam, the Netherlands in June 2011. The programme will be designed to showcase the best in physical therapy research and practice and provide opportunities for networking.

Barbara has been appointed as the representative of the European Region. She is currently Professor of Physiotherapy at the University of Applied Sciences of Western Switzerland (HECVSanté, Lausanne). She obtained her Masters degree in physiotherapy sciences in 2005 and as part of her studies carried out research on amputee rehabilitation in Myanmar. Barbara has been practicing physiotherapy for the last 17 years in the field of neurorehabilitation, amputees and humanitarian action (Project Coordinator in Romania, Malaysia, Iraq, Afghanistan), as a physiotherapist, coach and team manager in university hospitals (Geneva, Zurich) and private practices.

Other members of the ISC come from WCPT's member organisations, representing all 5 WCPT Regions. They include Ann Moore (UK) as Chair of the ISC; Rob de Bie (Netherlands) as the representative of the host member organisation, the Royal Dutch Society of Physiotherapy; Aimee Stewart (South Africa) as representative of the Africa Region; Suh-Fang Jeng (Taiwan) as the Asia West Pacific Region representative; Patty Solomon (Canada) as the North America Caribbean Region representative; and Mariano Rocabado (Chile) as representative of the South America Region.

The committee recently held its first meeting by teleconference and has started the preliminary work required to develop a scientific programme. This will include consultation with a range of stakeholders.

Member Profiles

Ann Moore (UK) brings a wealth of experience to her role as Chair of the ISC. Ann was the WCPT European Region's representative on the ISC for World Physical Therapy 2007 so is very familiar with what is required to organise the event. Ann is Professor of Physiotherapy and Head of the Clinical Research Centre for Health Professions at the University of Brighton in the

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UK. She is Chair of the UK's National Council for Osteopathic Research and of the National Physiotherapy Research Network. She is also Editor of the *Manual Therapy* Journal. Ann has published extensively in peer reviewed journals and has regularly presented invited papers and keynote addresses at both national and international conferences.

Rob de Bie (Netherlands) is Professor of Physiotherapy Research at the University of Maastricht's Department of Epidemiology. He is Director of the Cochrane Rehabilitation and Related Therapies Field, Director of the Centre for Evidence Based Physiotherapy (Maastricht) with responsibility for physiotherapy guidelines in the Netherlands, Programme Director for the Health Sciences Research Masters programme and Editor for the Cochrane Back Group and the Cochrane Musculoskeletal Group. He teaches clinical epidemiology and EBP nationally and internationally. His research focuses on diseases of the musculoskeletal system. He has an extensive publication and presentation track record and holds editorial appointments with a number of journals.

Aimee Stewart (South Africa) is Associate Professor at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. She is currently the Postgraduate and Research Coordinator for the Department of Physiotherapy. She is also a consultant for the Kigali Health Institute Department of Physiotherapy, Rwanda. Aimee has acted as an external examiner for universities in South Africa, Rwanda and Zimbabwe. Her main research areas of interest are the management of chronic diseases including HIV/AIDS as well as the roles of caregivers and families in rehabilitation. She has over 50 publications in local and international journals as well as over 30 congress presentations.

Suh-Fang Jeng (Taiwan) is a physical therapist and kinesiologist and is Professor and Chair in the School and Graduate Institute of Physical Therapy at National Taiwan University. Her research interests include paediatric and neonatal physical therapy, the psychometrics of outcome measures, and biomechanics. Her research has been published in numerous journals including *Posture and Gait* and *European Journal of Pediatrics*. From 2000 - 2004, she was an Associate Editor for the *Formosan Journal of Physical Therapy*.

Patty Solomon (Canada) is a Professor in the School of Rehabilitation Sciences and Director of the Program for Interprofessional Practice, Education and Research (PIPER) for the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University. She is interested in educational research and development and has published and consulted extensively in the areas of problem-based learning, educational innovation and curriculum design. Additionally she has a research interest in rehabilitation in persons living with HIV.

Mariano Rocabado (Chile) is Dean of the Rehabilitation Science Faculty at the University Andres Bello, Santiago de Chile. He is also Head of Physical Therapy and Physical Medical Rehabilitation, Integramedica, Santiago and Professor of Head Neck Biomechanics, Post Graduate Orthodontic Programme, School of Dentistry, University of Chile. He is well known for his work on the treatment of craniomandibular and orofacial musculoskeletal disorders and is the author of a number of books on the subject. He is an Honorary Member of the American Academy of Orofacial Pain and the American Academy of Craniofacial Pain, and he is a Founder Member and Past President of the Chilean Academy of Craniomandibular Disorders and Facial Pain.

Background information

WCPT is an international non-profit professional organisation founded in 1951. The Confederation was set up to promote the profession internationally, establish standards of practice and education, and encourage the exchange of information. It is supported by subscriptions from its 101 member organisations and through them it represents over 300,000 physical therapists worldwide.

Every four years WCPT hosts a scientific congress showcasing advancements in physical therapy research, practice and education. This spectacular event brings together more than 3,500 physical therapists. In June 2011 the Royal Dutch Society for Physical Therapy (KNGF) will host the Congress in Amsterdam. The venue is the Amsterdam RAI Exhibition and Congress Centre which is well situated and easily accessible from all areas of the city. It has its own train station and is less than 10 minutes from Schiphol Airport by rail.

Information about the congress will be available on the WCPT website and regularly updated:
www.wcpt.org/congress

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