



International Federation of Physical Therapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

IFPTOHE Newsletter

24 November 2022

Dear Member Organisations,

We bring you the IFPTOHE end of year 2022 Newsletter, please share it with your own members,

Three Webinars were held in 2022

“Competencies for Occupational Health Physiotherapy practice” (Webinar number #3A, February 2022) with information shared from Barbara McPhee (Australia), Claudia Rojas Silva (Colombia) and the Tracey Atkinson (UK), then followed up in another zoom discussion (Webinar #3B, May 2022) facilitated by Ms Bea Sanz-Bustillo Aguirre (Spain). “Successful return to work” (Webinar #4, September 2022) -with thanks to Doug Gross (Canada), Michiel Reneman (The Netherlands) and Cassandra Zaina (Australia), facilitated by Dr Sjan-Mari van Niekerk (currently in Doha). If you missed these sessions you can view them via <https://ifptohe.wixsite.com/ifptohe/events> Should you have a topic to suggest for the future please advise the committee.

Developing Global Standards for Occupational Health Physiotherapy (OHP) practice

A small working party is meeting regularly to discuss the development of global standards for OHP practice, using the newly developed World Physiotherapy Educational Framework as a reference document in addition to existing standards from some countries. For time-zone convenience, the working party is divided into Northern and Southern Hemisphere groups, and includes physios from: Australia, Brazil, Colombia and New Zealand (Southern Hemisphere), and Finland, Greece, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom (Northern Hemisphere). This work will continue in 2023.

Healthy Workplaces Lighten the Load Summit 2022

IFPTOHE was represented by Yvonne de Leeuw- van Zaanen at ‘[The Healthy Workplaces Summit 2022](#)’ where leading European experts and decision makers were brought together to discuss the results of the ‘Healthy Workplaces Lighten the Load’ campaign 2020-22, share knowledge and explore future strategies for the effective prevention of musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) at workplaces. Yvonne was invited to give an IFOTPHE-statement on working with chronic musculoskeletal disorders.



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The third IFPTOHE General Meeting (to be held virtually)

Date: 16th May 2023

Time: 9.00am Sweden time

Papers to follow early in 2023.

Committee opportunities

We welcome nominations for the committee. At least three positions are vacant at the time of writing. Please contact the committee if you wish to nominate as soon as you can. Once we know you wish to nominate we can assist you with the formal paper work - this involves completing a short nomination form and getting a supporting letter from your Member Organisation. Your nomination will be voted on at the at the General Meeting. We would like to receive your nomination by December 23th.

World Physiotherapy Congress will be held in June 2023, in Dubai

A [networking session](#) within the congress will be hosted for physiotherapists interested in occupational health and ergonomics, chaired by Yvonne de Leeuw and Vasiliki Sakellari (IFPTOHE Executive Committee members). Come along if you are there!

During congress a Seminar '[Burnout amongst physiotherapists](#)' will be held led by members of IFPTOHE and the Mental Health subgroup. Topics will include self-care and burnout prevention. This is a new initiative from the congress team and should be really interesting as it is such a relevant issue for physiotherapists themselves and their clients.

Research

We are very keen for those of you conducting research to share your activities with members of IFPTOHE and there are some avenues for this on our website. Please contact the committee for their assistance to facilitate this.

With best wishes for the New Year

Kind regards from the executive Committee Rose Boucaut (Australia), Yvonne de Leeuw (Netherlands), Marisa Coetzee (South Africa), Kjerstin Stigmar (Sweden), Nic Suckley (UK), Vasiliki Sakellari (Greece)