

# *Moving physical therapy forward*



**World Confederation  
for Physical Therapy**

# 11 founder organisations in 1951

- Australian Physiotherapy Association
- Canadian Physiotherapy Association
- Den alm. Danske Massageforening
- Chartered Society of Physiotherapy
- New Zealand Society of Physiotherapists
- American Physical Therapy Association
- South African Society of Physiotherapists
- Kvinnliga Legitimerade Sjukgymnasters Riksforbund
- Zentralverband der krankengymnastischen Landesverbände im Westdeutschen
- Norske Sykegymnasters Landsforbund
- Finlands Medikalgymnasters Forening



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# What is WCPT?

- 101 member organisations (no individual membership)  
(General Meeting Vancouver 2007)
- representing 300,000 Physical Therapists  
(These are the individual members of WCPT member organisations)
- 5 regions of WCPT:
  - Africa
  - Asia Western Pacific
  - European
  - North America Caribbean
  - South America



**A member of a WCPT member organisation is a 'member' of WCPT !**



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- WCPT is the sole international voice for physical therapy
- WCPT encourages high standards of PT research, education and practice through policy development and a range of projects
- WCPT encourages communication and sharing of information among physical therapists
- WCPT collaborates with other international bodies to promote the profession and its contribution to global health

# WCPT over the years

- **1950s and 60s**
  - 1st Congress was held in New York
  - WHO & UNICEF – official relations
  - ethical principles, glossary of terms



- **1970s and 80s**
  - subgroup criteria approved
  - specialisation guidelines
  - WHO project on the elderly



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# WCPT over the years

- 1990s and 2000 onward
  - new declarations of principle and position statements including description of physical therapy, curriculum guidelines, regulation
  - five regions established
  - website
  - policy conferences: EBP, direct access
  - database of experts and profile of the profession by country/MO



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# Membership criteria

- one physical therapy organisation per country
- largest / most representative
- open to all physical therapists eligible to practice in the country
- code of ethics consistent with WCPT ethical guidelines



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# WCPT decision making

## General Meeting of member organisations

- all member organisations determine policy direction
- declarations of principle and position statements, eg Description of Physical Therapy

## Executive Committee

- President and Vice-President
- one person from each of 5 regions
- decisions within policy set by GM

## Regions

- regional development and issues



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# Benefits

- web resources
- communications
- professional networks
- events
- policy
- international liaison



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# Web resources

- keynote papers, declarations of principle and position statements on range of practice and education subjects
- CPD opportunities
- profile page of all member organisations
- information on new international guidelines and policy as they are developed
- discussion forums providing contact with physical therapists around the world
- international work & study news and opportunities
- reference lists and links to other organisations and resources





Search

ABOUT WCPT

MEMBERSHIP

GROUPS

POLICIES

PUBLICATIONS

EDUCATION

PRACTICE

GLOBAL HEALTH

CONGRESS

FORUM

EVENTS

PHOTOS

LINKS

## Welcome to the World Confederation for Physical Therapy website

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) is the sole international organisation representing physical therapists worldwide. It is dedicated to promoting the profession and improving global health.

The WCPT website aims to provide resources and opportunities, and support the exchange of information across the profession globally.

*"WCPT moving physical therapy forward."*



### HIGHLIGHTS

#### NEW

- [World Physical Therapy 2011: Call for focused symposia](#)
- [World Physical Therapy Day 2009 materials](#)
- [World Physical Therapy 2011 theme and tracks announced](#)
- [Winners of WCPT photography competition](#)
- [Online education powered by Educata](#)

#### JUST PUBLISHED

- [WCPT E-Update - June 2009](#)
- [WCPT News - April 2009](#)
- [WCPT Congress Update - July 2009](#)

#### EVENTS

- [International Policy Summit on Advanced Scope of Practice and Direct Access in Physical Therapy](#)
- [Second world conference on health professions' regulation](#)
- [Africa Region GM and congress](#)
- [European Region GM](#)
- [N America Caribbean Region GM](#)
- [World Physical Therapy 2011](#)
- [More events ...](#)



# [www.wcpt.org](http://www.wcpt.org)

- user friendly, reliable and timely information on physical therapy around the world and WCPT
- advocacy vehicle on behalf of the international profession and WCPT to other organisations
- calendar of events, including links to WCPT' s Congress
- key role in establishing and maintaining global networks of physical therapists



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# Communications

- **WCPT News:** published four times a year, the only physical therapy specific newsletter with a worldwide view
- **WCPT E-update:** sent monthly giving you information on new projects, update reports and news on the confederation's international work
- **Congress Update:** sent regularly in the lead up to World Physical Therapy 2011 giving you all you need to know
- **Press releases:** on world physical therapy day and other issues of international interest



# Professional networks

- **subgroups** are international physical therapy organisations in specific areas of interest:
  - promoting professional unity in specific areas
  - encouraging the sharing of expertise
- website **discussion forums** also support the establishment of professional networks



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# WCPT subgroups

- **Acupuncture** Association of Physical Therapists (IAAPT)
- Association of Physical Therapists working with **Older People** (IPTOP)
- Federation of **Orthopaedic Manipulative** Physical Therapists (IFOMPT)
- Federation of **Sports** Physiotherapy (IFSP)
- Organisation of Physical Therapists in **Paediatrics** (IOPTP)
- Organization of Physical Therapists in **Women's Health** (IOPTWH)
- **Private Practitioners** Association (IPPA)



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# Events

- **Congress:** largest international PT event showcasing advances in physical therapy research practice and education
- **Policy conferences:** direct access and expanded scope
- **CPD** opportunities and **regional & subgroup** events
- **World Physical Therapy Day:** promoting the profession on 8th September. WCPT provides promotional materials, articles, and information and ideas.



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# Policy

WCPT membership provides:

- the opportunity to attend and vote at the WCPT General Meeting
  - held every four years, ensuring WCPT's work benefits the profession in your country and worldwide
- support for your organisation
  - in establishing standards, developing education programmes and regulating the physical therapy profession in your country
- access to documents and letters of support
  - to advance the profession in your country



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# Policy areas

- education: curriculum guidelines, recognition of education programmes
- standards of practice
- description of PT
- professional autonomy
- professional title
- regulation
- direct access
- evidence based practice
- private practice
- professional development
- health human resources
- relationship with other professions
- work environment
- support to UN conventions – rights of the child, persons with disabilities



# International collaboration

- WCPT works with other international health professional groups
  - to improve the quality of health services around the world, collaborating on subjects such as regulation and positive practice environments



- WCPT maintains official relationships with WHO and other government and non-government agencies
  - disability & rehabilitation
  - ICF



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# Why be a WCPT member?

Member = member organisation

- WCPT is the sole international voice for physical therapy
- participate in a range of projects to:
  - promote the profession
  - contribute to global health
  - encourage high standards of PT research, education and practice
- your organisation is recognised as the sole national authoritative body for PT
- website



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# Why be a WCPT member?

- World Physical Therapy Day: 8th September
- events including WCPT Congress – member discount
- communications: WCPT News, WCPT E-update and Congress Update
- worldwide professional policy development
- access to documents to develop the profession
- international collaboration opportunities & relationships with other international health professions, WHO and NGOs
- awards to recognise international leadership



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# Benefits to you

You = an individual PT

- You have an international voice as part of an organisation representing more than 300,000 physical therapists worldwide.
- You can have confidence that, if your national organisation is a WCPT member organisation, it is the sole authoritative body for physical therapy in your country.
- You have assurance that WCPT will help your organisation establish standards, develop education programmes and regulate the profession in your country.



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# Benefits to you

Register with WCPT on its website & have instant access to:

- **Forum:** contact with physical therapists around the world
- **International** work and study news and opportunities
- WCPT **subgroups** and their specialist knowledge
- WCPT **publications**
- **WCPT Congress:** attend the profession's largest international event and enjoy the members' discount to attend



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# Achieving professional unity



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diversity in:

- education
- distribution
- scope of practice
- social & political environment
- practice environment

**Challenge:**

ensuring a united global voice for PT



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# WCPT and its members working for physical therapists

- unite
- represent
- promote
- encourage high standards
- support
- collaborate



Ensuring a united global voice for physical therapy



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**World Physical Therapy**  
**2|0|1|1**

16th International WCPT Congress  
20-23 June 2011 Amsterdam Holland  
[www.wcpt.org/congress](http://www.wcpt.org/congress)

Join over 3,500 physical therapists from  
around the world in June 2011



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