

Press release

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For immediate release

New Zealand physical therapists to address WCPT Congress 2015

Physical therapists from New Zealand will be among the main speakers at the profession's largest and most important international gathering, the WCPT Congress 2015, to be held next year in Singapore on 1st – 4th May.

The New Zealand physical therapists taking part are profiled in the attached sheets.

They will be contributing to focused symposia featuring prominent international speakers from across WCPT's five regions. Focused symposia are core congress sessions providing a forum where cutting edge research and practice perspectives can be explored and debated on issues of global relevance to the profession.

"We've had more proposals for focused symposia than ever before, which means we have been able to select topics with high calibre speakers that physical therapists all over the world will be excited to hear from," said Aimée Stewart, Chair of WCPT's International Scientific Committee, which has responsibility for putting together the programme for the WCPT Congress. "Focused symposia are a very popular feature of our congresses, drawing large audiences. They provide the opportunity not just to hear from world authorities, but to engage with them in discussion."

Each focused symposium is organised by a convenor, who leads an international group of speakers through linked research-focused presentations. The symposium ends with key take-home messages for practice, research, education, management and policy.

"WCPT's priority is to make the congress as engaging as possible for as many people as possible, whether they be physical therapists in clinical practice, research or education," said Aimée Stewart.

About the WCPT Congress

The WCPT Congress is organised every four years by the World Confederation for Physical Therapy. The last congress, held in Amsterdam in 2011, attracted 5,000 people. The 2015 congress will be held in Singapore on 1st – 4th May.

Further details about the symposia and the programme for WCPT Congress 2015 may be found at: www.wcpt.org/congress/fs

Please contact Tracy Bury if you have specific queries: tbury@wcpt.org.

Note to WCPT member organisations

Please use this information in your magazine, journal, newsletter or social media channels to help attract delegates to WCPT Congress 2015 and celebrate the inclusion of speakers from your country or region. It may also be forwarded to your local or national media.

List of speakers from New Zealand

Speaker: Margot Skinner

Symposium: THE THIRD PHYSICAL THERAPY SUMMIT ON GLOBAL HEALTH: HEALTH-BASED COMPETENCIES

Their role: Presenter

Biography:

Academic Qualifications PT, PhD Positions/Appointments Deputy Dean/Associate Dean, Undergraduate Studies, and Senior Lecturer, School of Physiotherapy, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand WCPT Executive Member Fellow New Zealand College of Physiotherapy Honorary Life Member of Physiotherapy New Zealand. Dr. Skinner co-ordinates the cardiovascular/pulmonary sections of the physiotherapy entry-level curriculum at the School of Physiotherapy, University of Otago. She has had a long standing interest in the physiotherapy management for people with chronic diseases including the diseases of lifestyle and the management of sleep disordered breathing. She is also involved in the development of interprofessional education as a model for clinical education and in promoting the particular health benefits an interprofessional approach can bring to rural and disadvantaged communities. Through her role as a member of the WCPT Executive, she has developed an in-depth understanding of the priorities for improving global health and physiotherapy's contribution physiotherapy. She served as the Asia Western Pacific Representative to both the First and Second Physical Therapy Summits on Global Health and is a strong proponent of the need for curricula to be line with health priorities.

Publications/Presentations Dr. Skinner has travelled and lectured in many countries in particular in the Asia Western Pacific Region and is an international advisor on the development of physical therapy education in China. She has 25 peer-reviewed articles. Research Information Her scholarly interests have focused on non-communicable conditions She has had a long-standing interest in professional affairs at the local, national and international levels. Professional Practice/Background Cardiovascular/pulmonary physical therapy.

Speaker: Gillian Margaret Johnson

Symposium: INTEGRATING EVIDENCE INTO LOWER LIMB PROSTHETIC REHABILITATION IN TODAY'S WORLD

Their role: Convenor

Biography:

Dr Gillian Johnson holds a Diploma in Physiotherapy (1972), Diploma for Graduates (1992), Master of Science (1995) and PhD (1995) from the University of Otago. She is also a Fellow of the New Zealand College of Physiotherapy, New Zealand. Gillian is currently a Senior Lecturer at the School of Physiotherapy, University of Otago and is a former Chair of the New Zealand College of Physiotherapy (2008-2012) and former Associate Dean of Postgraduate Studies (2007-2008) at the School of Physiotherapy. She has published extensively in peer-reviewed international journals (30 publications) in the area of musculoskeletal physiotherapy including on the topic of persons with a lower limb amputation (5 publications) and has delivered 24 platform presentations at national and international conferences on a wide range of topics.

Her current research interests include spinal health and posture and, quantifying kinematic analysis in different clinical populations including measurement of balance in persons with a lower limb amputations. Examples of her publications relevant to the proposed focus symposium include the following: Jayakaran P, Johnson G, Sullivan SJ (2013) Turning

performance in persons with a dysvascular transtibial amputation. *Prosthetics & Orthotics International* 37(1):65-9.
Jayakaran P Johnson GM, SJ Sullivan (2013) Concurrent validity of the Sensory Organization Test measures in unilateral transtibial amputees *Prosthetics and Orthotics International* 37(1):65-9
Jayakaran P, Johnson GM, SJ Sullivan (2012) Instrumented measurement of balance and postural control in persons with lower limb amputation - a critical review. *International Journal of Rehabilitation Research* 35 3 187-196.

Speaker: Hemakumar Devan

Symposium: INTEGRATING EVIDENCE INTO LOWER LIMB PROSTHETIC REHABILITATION IN TODAY'S WORLD

Their role: Presenter

Biography:

Hemakumar Devan is a doctoral candidate at the Centre for Health, Activity and Rehabilitation in School of Physiotherapy, University of Otago, New Zealand. On qualifying as a physiotherapist Hemakumar worked for two years as a senior physiotherapist in a multi-disciplinary amputee clinic in India. He has since completed his Master's degree in Manual Therapy (2011) from the School of Physiotherapy, University of Otago. Hemakumar's research interests are in the area of pain mechanisms, rehabilitation and musculoskeletal problems in persons with disability and his doctoral thesis is looking at lumbopelvic movement patterns in people with lower limb amputation and low back pain. Hemakumar has two manuscripts published and several conference platform presentations on the topic of people with major amputations. He has also successfully awarded two research grants between 2011-12 for his investigation into people with lower limb amputation and low back pain.

Details of his publications are given below:

Devan, H., Kanagasabai, P. (2012). Effects of motor imagery in phantom pain management following amputation: A review of literature. *Indian Journal of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy*, 6, 49-53.
Devan, H., Tumilty, S., & Smith, C. (2012). Physical activity and lower-back pain in persons with traumatic transfemoral amputation: A national cross-sectional survey. *Journal of Rehabilitation Research & Development*, 49, 1457-1466.

Speaker: Janice Mueller

Symposium: MANAGING INFORMATION AND MEASUREMENT TO ACHIEVE EXCELLENCE IN SERVICE PROVISION

Their role: Presenter

Biography:

Janice Mueller, NZRP. MNZSP. MNZCP.ADP(Paediatrics). MBA (Dist) Janice is a management consultant and Registered Physiotherapist with over 29 years of experience in the physiotherapy profession, Allied Health and Executive-level health sector leadership and management roles. She has extensive relationships and networks nationally and internationally with clinical leaders and managers. In her consultant capacity Janice has completed a number of allied health and physiotherapy specific service reviews, corporate policy development, undertaken a number of workforce development projects and worked with healthcare systems in both New Zealand and Australia regarding allied health organisational structures. She has lectured widely nationally and internationally on allied health organisational design, leadership, supervision and workforce development. From 2002 to 2012 Janice was executive Director Allied Health, Scientific and Technical for Auckland DHB, responsible for quality, patient safety and clinical governance in

partnership with CEO, CMO and Executive Director of Nursing as a member of the executive team. Janice was responsible for 2000 allied and public health, scientific and technical staff across the DHB. Janice is a life member of the New Zealand College of Physiotherapy, a current member of the New Zealand Physiotherapy Board and Chair of the Allied Health Leaders of Australia and New Zealand.

Speaker: Jean Hay-Smith

Symposium: EXERCISE ADHERENCE: INTEGRATING THEORY, EVIDENCE AND BEHAVIOUR CHANGE TECHNIQUES

Their role: Convenor

Biography:

Jean Hay-Smith PhD MSc DipPhys MPNZ. Jean is an associate professor in rehabilitation, and an associate professor in women's health at the University of Otago. She trained as a physiotherapist, specialising in women's health. Her master's degree research investigated postnatal superficial dyspareunia and her PhD thesis examined the effectiveness of pelvic floor muscle training for stress urinary incontinence in women. Jean is a foundation editor (and reviewer) for the Cochrane Incontinence Review Group. She has first or co-authored 15 Cochrane systematic reviews, including 8 on pelvic floor muscle training. Jean has published quantitative and qualitative research, holds (has held) research grants investigating the effects of and adherence to pelvic floor muscle training, supervises postgraduate thesis students, and teaches evidence based practice at postgraduate level. Her current research focus is the development of the interventions (including operationalisation of these using behaviour change techniques) for the Optimising Pelvic floor exercises to Achieve Long-term benefits (OPAL) trial (www.opaltrial.co.uk).

Speaker: Hilda Mulligan

Symposium: EMERGING USE OF INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN REHABILITATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Their role: Convenor

Biography:

Hilda Mulligan obtained a BSc in physiotherapy in South Africa in the 1970's, and after immigrating to New Zealand, completed her Masters in Health Science and then PhD at the University of Otago. She has had many years of clinical work both in South Africa and New Zealand, with a special interest in children and adults with disability. She is a Lecturer at Otago University's School of Physiotherapy in New Zealand, with wide research interests that include the promotion and facilitation of physical activity for children and adults with disability, and rehabilitation and community participation for children and adults with disabling conditions. She has over 25 publications in peer reviewed journals, is an Executive Member of the IOPTP subgroup (paediatrics) and networks widely with colleagues from around the world.

Speaker: Parimala Kanagasabai

Symposium: EMERGING USE OF INTERACTIVE TECHNOLOGY IN REHABILITATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Their role: Presenter

Biography:

Parimala Kanagasabai is a PhD student at the School of Physiotherapy, University of Otago, New Zealand. She is a physiotherapist with a Masters degree in Paediatric Physiotherapy from Manipal University in India. Her research interests are in developmental intervention and paediatric rehabilitation. Her PhD research is investigating leisure participation experiences and challenges of children with physical disability in New Zealand.

Speaker: Jon Warren

Symposium: ADVOCACY IN PHYSICAL THERAPY: STRATEGIES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS

Their role: Presenter

Biography:

Jon Warren MHS, PGD Sports Med, Dip MT, MNZCP is an assistant professor with the doctoral physical therapy program at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences in San Diego. He teaches in the musculoskeletal track, and ethics. He is a New Zealand educated physiotherapist with postgraduate qualifications in musculoskeletal and sports medicine and is a member of the New Zealand College of Physiotherapy. For 20 years he ran his own successful private clinic in Napier, New Zealand. He has also worked with both provincial and national representative sports teams and has toured both nationally and internationally in that capacity. He represented the profession in New Zealand for many years from provincial through to international levels in many capacities, including four years as President of Physiotherapy New Zealand. During this time he was involved with spearheading the renaming and rebranding of Physiotherapy New Zealand and the development of the Physiotherapy Specialist as a regulated title. Since graduating, Jon has worked in Canada, United Kingdom, Ireland and the United States.

Speaker: David Baxter

Symposium: EVIDENCE BASED USE OF ELECTROPHYSICAL AGENTS FOR MANAGING MUSCULOSKELETAL PAIN

Their role: Presenter

Biography:

G David Baxter New Zealand BSc Physiotherapy, Doctor of Philosophy Currently Dean of Physiotherapy at Otago Previously Professor at Ulster University, Northern Ireland Lecturer for 15 years, international speaker 142 publication in PubMed peer-reviewed journals plus several book chapters, majority on EPAs and musculoskeletal pain.