

Press release

For immediate release

11 May 2019

Unanimous vote from WCPT's member organisations for new Constitution

Voting delegates from 106 physical therapy associations have voted unanimously for a new Constitution for the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT).

The vote took place on 9 May 2019, the second day of WCPT's General Meeting at the Starling Hotel Geneva, Switzerland.

Other business at the General Meeting included:

- approval of a motion on climate change proposed by the Japanese Physical Therapy Association
- approval of a policy statement on diversity and inclusion
- endorsement of ethical principles of health care in times of armed conflict and other emergencies
- confirmation of awards recognising the contribution of individual physical therapists to the global profession and to WCPT
- election of President, Vice President, Regional Board members.

Three new WCPT subgroups were also approved:

- International Organisation of Aquatic Physical Therapists (IOAPT)
- International Federation of Physical Therapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics (IFPTOHE)
- International Physical Therapy for HIV/AIDS, Oncology, Hospice and Palliative Care (IPT-HOPE).

Theo Ruitenbeek, [IPT-HOPE](#) board member, said: 'We are grateful and proud to be acknowledged and recognised by WCPT member organisations at the General Meeting. Our mission is to advance physical therapy management and prevention for people affected by oncology, palliative care, and HIV/AIDS throughout the world and across cultural groups.

'Now we can spread out this mission among all WCPT's member organisations. We hope WCPT's member organisations will join us in this important area of work and help make a difference to people's lives.'



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About the WCPT General Meeting and Congress

The WCPT General Meeting took place on 8 and 9 May. The WCPT General Meeting takes place every four years. The next General Meeting will take place in Tokyo, Japan, in 2023.

Note to WCPT member organisations

Please use this information in your magazine, journal, newsletter or social media channels. It may also be forwarded to your local or national media.

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Twitter [@WCPT1951](https://twitter.com/WCPT1951)

Hashtag #WCPT2019GM

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EDITOR'S NOTES

About physical therapy

Physical therapists (also known as physiotherapists) are experts in developing and maintaining people's ability to move and function throughout their lives. With an advanced understanding of how the body moves and what keeps it from moving well, they promote wellness, mobility and independence. They treat and prevent many problems caused by pain, illness, disability and disease, sport and work related injuries, ageing and inactivity.

Physical therapists are educated over several years, giving them a full knowledge of the body's systems and the skills to treat a wide range of problems. This education is usually university-based, at a level that allows physical therapists to practise independently. Continuing education ensures that they keep up to date with the latest advances in research and practice. Many physical therapists are engaged in research themselves.

About WCPT

WCPT is the profession's global body representing over 450,000 physical therapists/physiotherapists from member organisations in 121 countries. More information: www.wcpt.org.



**World Confederation
for Physical Therapy**