

Education Task force

Impact of COVID-19 on physiotherapist entry level education

2021 Webinar series

Webinar #5: Reimagining physiotherapist entry level education – learning from COVID-19

Meet our moderators and speakers



Dr. Emma Stokes is the head of the newly established Department of Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Science at Qatar University. She has worked in education for almost 25 years and is on leave from Trinity College Dublin where she is an associate professor and fellow. Her research and teaching focus on professional practice issues for the profession. She has taught and lectured in over 40 countries around the world.

In 2015, she was elected to serve as president of World Physiotherapy. She was re-elected for further four years in 2019. She has experience as member and chair of boards in Ireland and internationally in a diversity of settings including education, health, research and regulation.



Dr. Patricia Almeida is an Executive board member and President of European Network of Physiotherapy in Higher Education (ENPHE).

She is a Senior lecturer at the Department of Physiotherapy, Alcoitão Health School – Portugal, and Head of Education, HANZE University of Applied Sciences -The Netherlands. She is the President of the Neurology group of specialist Portuguese Physiotherapy Association.



Dr. Karim Martina Alvis Gomez, Physiotherapist-National University of Colombia; Master of Health Administration; PhD Economic Sciences. She is a Titular Professor - National University of Colombia (Universidad Nacional de Colombia) and Academic Coordinator Master's Degree in Disability and Social Inclusion - National University of Colombia (Universidad Nacional de Colombia).

Since 2014 Karim has been the Director of the Latin American Center for the Development of Physiotherapy and Kinesiology (CLADEFK). She has held various positions including the Director of the Research Group on Mechanical and Neuromechanical Analysis of the Human Body Movement- National University of Colombia (Universidad Nacional de Colombia), Member of the National Council of Human Talent in Health- Ministry of Health - 2018- 2020, Member of the Education Task Force of the World Physiotherapy 2020 - to date; Vice President Colombian College of Physiotherapists 2020 - to date; Former President of the Colombian Association of Physiotherapy (2016-2018).



Olajide Olawale is a Professor of Physiotherapy at the University of Lagos, Nigeria. He received his foundational training in Physiotherapy at the same university where he also obtained a PhD in Physiology with Stroke Rehabilitation as focus of his research. He has been involved in provision of clinical physiotherapy care for about 40 years and has carried out research activities involving exploration of different domains of stroke rehabilitation.

From 2005 to 2008, he served The Commonwealth (as a technical expert under the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation, CFTC) to plan and run the entry level programme in Physiotherapy at the University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana.

He is a Fellow of Nigeria Society of Physiotherapy and a two-term Chairman of the Education Committee of the society. He is currently engaged in service provision, teaching and curriculum development for physiotherapy up to doctoral level. He is an external examiner in Physiotherapy to 12 universities in Nigeria, Ghana and South Africa.



Dr. Suh-Fang Jeng obtained her doctoral degree of Applied Kinesiology from Boston University in the USA in 1993. She is the Chairperson of World Physiotherapy- Asia Western Pacific (AWP) region, Professor of School and Graduate Institute of Physical Therapy at National Taiwan University, Executive Board of Taiwan Physical Therapy Association (TPTA), Associate Editor of Pediatric Physical Therapy, and Editorial Board of Physical Therapy Journal. She served as the Associate Dean of National Taiwan University College of Medicine, President of TPTA, and AWP treasurer.

Dr. Jeng has worked in neonatal care, education and professional advancement, regional networking and collaboration, and disaster/pandemic management. Her areas of expertise include early assessment and intervention of high-risk infants, professional promotion and advocacy, and international collaboration.



Barbara Sanders is Professor of Physical Therapy and Chair of the Department of Physical Therapy at Texas State University. She received physical therapy education at the University of Kentucky and completed PhD in educational leadership at the University of Texas. She has been working at Texas State for over 30 years, where she is responsible for development of the curriculum for entry level education for physical therapists at the baccalaureate, masters, and the doctoral level. The program has grown from an enrollment of 16 students per cohort with four faculty to 44 students per cohort with 18 faculty.

Prior to Texas State, she was faculty at University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and the University of Kentucky. Barbara is one of the first PTs to become a Board-Certified Sports Specialist, a credential held since 1987 and currently with emeritus status. She is an active member of APTA, served in leadership positions at the local, chapter, section, and national level. She has been two term President of the Texas Physical Therapy Association as well as Chief Delegate; two term President of American Council of Academic Physical Therapy – concluded in Oct 2020, and Vice-Chair of the Texas Board of Physical Therapy Examiner. Her clinical practice has been in Kentucky, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Tennessee, and Texas; in acute care, rehabilitation, home health, long-term care, outpatient orthopaedics and sports.