

Malta, March 2021

Dear Colleagues

In 2018 the European region elected me to the board of WCPT for a 4-year term (2019 – 2023). So much has happened since then! Apart from the global Covid-19 pandemic that has reshaped our thinking and vision for contemporary health care and global leadership, our own world confederation has gone through significant change in its governance. We are now World Physiotherapy, we have a new Constitution endorsed by the Member Organisations which has impacted both on the way we operate at global and regional levels, as well as internally regulates the way in which the board is construed. My election for a 4-year term was reduced to 2 years for this cycle as an unintended consequence - as the board will now operate on a rotational system of elections that serves to ensure continuity. With me, the colleagues on the board elected from the North American and Caribbean region as well as the South American region find themselves in the same situation. Those two years are up amid the internal and external challenges as a direct consequence of the pandemic.

I have participated as board member since 2014 and my experience has been very interesting and stimulating. What I recognise through this experience is the energy and enthusiasm in all of us as we genuinely search for the best place for physiotherapy. The experience since the early months of 2020 has convinced me even more of what a strong profession we are. Our presence on the world stage is evidence of teamwork and resilience as well as an encouragement for all of us who participate in the activities of physiotherapy organisations and beyond.

Two years ago, I was also candidate for the role of vice President, and I remarked that contributing at a strategic and leadership level necessitated determination and courage to address naturally evolving issues which needed attention and that when we work together, we deliver successfully. Little did I know, or any of us anticipate, that the world would shortly pass through its toughest challenge in a century. Those thoughts resonate even more strongly today.

I am seeking your trust in me to continue in this role as board member, to continue the process that started in 2019, and I promise to do my utmost to continue representing World Physiotherapy by channelling our shared values into practical and tangible actions. It will not be easy, and I anticipate that the next two years will be tough. Yet I commit my energy and dedication so that World Physiotherapy continues to position itself as a major contributor towards a global agenda that ensures equity for all. World Physiotherapy must continue to be a positive influencer of good physiotherapy education, practice, research, and governance. We cannot ignore the fundamental challenges that are still being faced in the world of physiotherapy. We have a duty to ensure that the advancement of our profession remains sustainable, that it stays grounded by the core values of reciprocity and respect and that it remains relevant so that we continue to be respected and valued as a profession.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "John Xerri de Caro". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending to the right.

John Xerri de Caro