

**Candidate Statement**

**Stacy de Gale**

For the last 20 years, my life has been one deeply immersed in the profession of physiotherapy. Not only that of being a clinician, but being blessed enough to have been mentored and inspired by the professional giants who proceeded before me; the physiotherapists who worked and still work in the trenches of our profession. The Marilyn Moffats, the Jacqueline Rouses, the Sandra Mercer-Moores of the world. These are a few of those whose shoulders I stand upon. My deep desire to ensure that every Member Organization has a voice, that each one is appropriately represented, and is part of the global physiotherapy movement through collaboration and active service, has been continually fuelled with each passing moment. With this passion and positive intent, I am desirous of continuing for another term on the executive board of World Physiotherapy.

I have served in a variety of capacities from President of the Physiotherapy Association of Trinidad and Tobago, to Chair of the North America Caribbean Region of World Physiotherapy and now as an Executive Board member in my second term. All the afore-mentioned were elected posts which have uniquely positioned me to be an effective member of the executive team; clear indication of the trust and open relationships between the leadership of the profession and myself.

Given my active involvement, inspiring journey and profound experience at these strategic levels, there has been obvious growth in my strategic thinking accompanied by an even deeper yearning to continue the work that I have begun. In an organization that boasts over 120 members of varying languages, cultures and identities, the need for a high level of thinking is

vital to ensure that no organization is alienated and that the needs of our members are met despite these challenges. This is a seemingly insurmountable task, as many of us know that even at a local level, there are intricacies in satisfying our physiotherapists and stakeholders.

It is paramount for an executive to harness the best that *you* have to offer through continued communication, collaboration, strategic vision, strategic planning, and strategic execution. My maturity as a professional along with my innate humanity, my call to serve and willingness to stand against the grain, positions me to be a vital addition to the executive team.

During the past two terms as an Executive Board member of World Physiotherapy, we were charged with the responsibility to place the organization on a strategic pathway. Many of our activities have never before been executed by World Physiotherapy in its almost 70 years of existence and yet we have steadily engaged, and stayed in touch with the heartbeat of our member organizations.

Given my extensive love and devotion for my profession, my love for humanity, my cultural sensitivity and cultural humility, my heartbeat is in tandem with each organization. As a result I am sometimes called the “voice of the small country”, as I continue to ensure that in high level considerations, we (as a World body), recognize the unique capabilities and needs of smaller physiotherapy communities. Whilst performing in my role as Executive Board member I continue to underscore the need for appropriate capacity building projects for underserved and under-resourced professional organizations. I have led the call that we reach out to countries where there may be no formal representation, but where there are physiotherapists with the same needs and concerns as the rest of us. My subconscious motto is that “No one should be left behind and the needs of ‘all’ despite size and location must be addressed in due

course.” I am and will continue to be ‘that’ voice, which whispers.... and....which ‘shouts’ on behalf of *all*.

This love of humanity, has also positioned me to be a member of the finance committee, assisting in maintaining our fiduciary responsibilities. As current chair of our membership committee, along with the management and staff of World Physiotherapy, I hope to broaden our scope, so as to ensure that we facilitate and strengthen frameworks necessary for organizations to hit the ground running in their advocacy, leadership, and succession planning projects.

Every effective team or board requires members of varying skill sets. We must exude and live diversity and inclusion, not only of colour, race or creed; but diversity and inclusion in thought and in action. I provide such diversity. I provide that challenge to the status quo and I contribute to spirited discussion with the backing of my experiences and my willingness to listen, learn and grow. My ability to network effectively is without question and this augurs well for an organization such as World Physiotherapy which represents such a diversity.

There are many who seek fame, fortune and favour when applying for positions such as these.

There are those who make promises which they are unable to keep.

There are those who are unable to be a team player and unable to foster trust.

There are those unwilling to sacrifice their time, talent and treasure.

Being a board member is a position that I hold to be sacred and one that I take seriously. I have for many years, sacrificed without regret, my own personal and clinical aspirations as I believe that I have been placed here to encourage action at the global level; to not be afraid to be

stretched by new experiences. This position is not one of empty promises, but one where through collaboration with *you*, strategic action can be applied. My ability to give hope, advice and contribute to a vision of the future, have allowed me to experience a feeling of positivity, strength, respect and trust with everyone I meet in every corner of the world.

I can only hope that my service, sincerity and integrity, can not only cause you to select me as a board member, but can further inspire us all to continue to work tirelessly for our profession and leave a better legacy than the one we met before.

Respectfully submitted,

*Stacy de Gale*

*Lover of Physiotherapy*