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Candidate Statement  
Professor Nihad Almasri, PT, Ph.D.

Dearest physiotherapy organizations all around the world:

I am writing this letter to express my willingness to serve as a General Board Member in the World Physiotherapy to represent the Middle East region. If I am elected, it will be an honor to bring a perspective from my area to the World Physiotherapy honored board. I would like to thank my representative organization the Jordanian Physiotherapy Society and the other physiotherapy associations who supported my nomination and believed in me.

I am a full professor of pediatric physiotherapy at the University of Jordan. I have worked in academia since 2010. My academic experience exceeds 11 years in Jordan both in undergraduate and graduate programs. I was one of the first Ph.D. in Physiotherapy holders in Jordan which allowed me to be engaged in academic, clinical, leadership, advocacy, and research activities nationally and internationally during the past two decades.

At the *academic* level, I was involved in curricula development for graduate and undergraduate programs in Jordan, Palestinian authorities, and Tajikistan. These experiences were always invaluable in that they provided me with a chance to network with wonderful teams and wonderful therapists from all around the world. They granted me the chance to play a role in changing the historical paradigm of physiotherapy from a top-down approach to an interactive model and from a profession that aims to provide services that develop, maintain, and restore people's maximum movement and functional ability only to a profession that helps people maximize their quality of life, looking at physical, psychological, emotional, and social wellbeing. I advocated for the role of physiotherapists in health spheres of promotion, prevention, treatment/intervention, habilitation, and rehabilitation. Our experience in Jordan extended to include the development of the first graduate-level program in the country through curriculum development, implementation, and auditing to improve the quality of education. In Palestine, I was engaged in developing the physiotherapy program curriculum of the American University of Jenin in the Palestinian authorities. The AUJ requested the development and implementation of an entry-level physiotherapy program curriculum to meet international standards. In Tajikistan, I was honored to serve as a World Physiotherapy mentor in developing the first physiotherapy program in Tajikistan. Activities of this project were curriculum development, implementation, and bridge training.

At the *clinical* level, I have worked as a pediatric physiotherapist since 2003 in Jordan and the USA. My area of expertise is children with physical disabilities in acute care and school-based settings. I am also a consultant at one of the largest medical centers in Jordan in my area of specialty, Pediatric Physiotherapy. Although I am not a full-time clinician, I maintain my clinical work record which keeps me equipped to teach and supervise students in academia. I also run

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continuing education training regularly through the Jordanian physiotherapy Society (JPS) what I enjoy the most is the opportunity for networking, sharing, and meeting physiotherapists from the region.

At the *leadership and advocacy* level, I have served in many managerial positions including Head of the physiotherapy department, Dean Assistant for students' affairs and quality assurance, and the Dean of the School of Rehabilitation at the University of Jordan. I was the first Dean of the graduates of the School of Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Jordan and the youngest in the history of the university. Management positions come with a lot of duties starting from human resources management, quality assurance of academic programs nationally and internationally, fundraising activities, budgeting, and understanding of policies and regulations. All of these activities have equipped me with valuable skills that I would like to bring forward if I am elected. In addition to management, I have worked as a consultant for the World Physiotherapy in Tajikistan, a working group member of the WHO rehabilitation competencies framework, a working group member of the cerebral palsy interventions package developed by the WHO. I am a member of the Global Research on Developmental Disabilities Collaborators (<https://www.under5disabilities.org/>), the Physiotherapy Database of Volunteers and Experts, the working group that develops educational curriculum standards in physiotherapy for the World Physiotherapy, and the Global Rehabilitation Health Worker Certifications team.

I am in good standing with the Jordanian Society of Physiotherapy since 2010. I was elected as the secretary-general for the society for two terms (2010, 2016). During that time, I was the contact person with the WCPT working to enhance the Jordanian society's role in improving physiotherapy practice in Jordan and connecting it to the WCPT committees. I have enjoyed professional activities over the past two decades through the Jordanian society such as examining different educational guidelines in high-, middle- and low-income countries, participating in accreditation committees, quality assurance in higher education, applying and participating for capacity building Erasmus plus projects where the aims were to improve quality of higher education, and leading teams to achieve academic-related tasks. These experiences were always invaluable for networking and contributing to my professional path.

**Research** has been always my passion, my vision is to impact the field of childhood disability and pediatric rehabilitation in the Middle East, and beyond. My research has created new possibilities for children with disabilities, their families, and their communities. I am committed to creating an infrastructure for research in childhood disability and pediatric rehabilitation in the region through networking and capacity building among researchers in the Middle East. I work to make evidence-based methods of pediatric rehabilitation service delivery in the Middle East that are culturally sensitive available. I am the developer of the first cerebral palsy register in a Middle-income country and the Arabic world. Since 2010, I have received 7 national and international grants (≈500,000.0 USD). In addition, I successfully administered the projects (e.g., staffing, research protections, budget), collaborated with other researchers from Sweden, the USA, Canada,

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and Australia. I received many national and international awards to recognize my accomplishment in research and leadership in Jordan. I have more than 50 peer-reviewed publications and many peer-reviewed presentations and presented Jordan and in more than 10 Arabic, European, and American countries.

My *dream* is “Therapists without borders”, reflecting my desire to connect with researchers and therapists from my region and from around the world. My *long-term goal* is to contribute to the growth and development of the physiotherapy profession in the Middle East. Organization members in the middle east have been through many challenges starting from wars and conflicts, limited resources, inflexible traditional models of health care, and underrepresentation at the international level. This position represents a unique opportunity for me to fulfill my goal and to bring the unique perspective of member organizations to the board of world physiotherapy. I further understand the duties required by the board member, if I am elected, will require time commitment; I plan to be on unpaid leave during the coming two to three years which will give me adequate time to fulfill the requirements of this position. Effective teamwork, management experience skills, cultural sensitivity, self-motivation, high organizational skills, and passion for physical therapy are some of the qualifications I am delighted to possess and will continue to develop if I can. This opportunity will allow me to serve my profession at an international level which will be indeed an honor and pleasure.

To All those wonderful physiotherapists who are reading my statement, if I will get your trust and your voting, I pledge to carry out the responsibilities of this position to the best of my abilities. I love the Physiotherapy profession and I love the Middle East region and I am truly humbled by the prospect of serving on the board of the World Physiotherapy.

Yours sincerely,



Nihad Almasri, PT, PhD