

Candidate Statement

For

Board Member – World Physiotherapy North America Caribbean region

Sibyl Edward, P.T., D.P.T.
February 10, 2025

I am quite honored to present myself as a candidate for **Executive Board member-NACR**. **This position** could very well be regarded as a culmination of years of dedication to a profession that has truly become my abiding passion.

In 1990, I graduated from the University of the West Indies School of Physiotherapy, becoming only the 2nd physiotherapist to have graduated from Mona, Jamaica. Following this initial training, I returned to St. Lucia with a fervent interest in seeing the profession grow locally. Given the small population size of St. Lucia, there has always been a dearth of professionals, and any attempt at formulating an organization aligned with the interests of the profession was always a daunting task. There was an initial attempt at a St. Lucia Sports Association and then an Allied Health Association, but unfortunately, those initiatives, while informative, were decidedly unsuccessful. Then, in 2011, with a small team of ten, I embarked on the formulation of the Physiotherapy Association of Saint Lucia (PASL) Inc., which was incorporated as a non-profit company in June 2013.

However, my dream was always to ensure that PASL Inc. was represented globally by meeting the criteria for becoming a member of World Physiotherapy. The tiresome and rigorous process, though daunting at times, was always accompanied by a pang of hunger and steadfast thirst, which culminated in PASL Inc. being admitted as a member of the World Physiotherapy (formerly World Confederation for Physical Therapy) at the 2015 Congress in Singapore. Assistance from the then North America Caribbean Region Executive and fellow Member Organizations was immeasurable, and teamwork resulted in ‘dream work’!

While serving as the Secretary of PASL Inc., I also functioned as the Association’s Chairperson, and in January 2016, I was elected as President, charged with the mammoth task of redefining the Association! My team and I worked on a strategic plan to improve the structure of the organization by re-examining and streamlining the Bylaws and Constitution. There was also the need to develop Practice Standards for the profession, and I initiated this exercise while simultaneously pushing for stronger representation of the Association on the Allied Health Council of St Lucia by accepting a position as an Ad hoc Committee member.

Therefore, my tenure at the helm saw the organization progress amidst fluctuating membership and finances, and one can now reflect and admire how we moved from a fledgling group to a structured organization on which one can continue to build. Upon the end of my eligible two terms as President, I was voted in as Secretary and then Treasurer, roles in which I continued supporting subsequent elected Presidents.

My various exposures locally, as challenging as they were, fueled my quest and desire to ensure that the Association maintained a regional presence by attending most online meetings and all AGMs hosted by the World Physiotherapy North America Caribbean region. Those continuous interactions at the regional level (including exposure to aspects of governance and strategic planning related to the region) certainly opened my eyes to how much more I could contribute to the region and led me to accept the nomination as Vice Chair in 2019. Your enthusiastic support facilitated my election as Vice Chair, a position I held for almost two years for which I was profoundly grateful.

During the pandemic, as a Region, we grappled with issues not altogether unique to small organizations like ours as COVID-19 taught us that we are all equal and we can all be affected equally. As the Vice Chair of World Physiotherapy North America Caribbean region, and together with the enormous support of World Physiotherapy, we had to reexamine the way we do things, but as a region, our strength and resilience saw us through. The two years as Vice Chair also gave me a broad view of how much more I could contribute to the Region, and this was one of the reasons why I enrolled in the first cohort of participants in the educational and extremely relevant Leadership Program facilitated by World Physiotherapy. This, along with your support and that of World Physiotherapy, provided me with the ladder and the tools I needed to be elected as the Chair of the region when the role became vacant.

Over the past two years, together with the executive committee, we have seen our region rise to noticeable heights. There was a need for focused executive committee meetings with a view to developing plans that met the needs of the region while supporting the agenda of World Physiotherapy. This led to productive meetings, multiple educational and well-attended regional

Webinars and Communications Calls, and a successful AGM, resulting in a rejuvenated group of member organizations with their individual success stories.

Also, being part of the Membership Committee of World Physiotherapy over the past two years has broadened my knowledge and interest in the work of World Physiotherapy in advancing the profession across the globe, birthing an increasing zeal for me to continue contributing to the profession. This zeal and interest, combined with my wealth of professional experience at the leadership level, my ability to motivate patients and students, my deep interest in ethics, diversity, equity, inclusion, and the environment, and my passion for advocating as a team for the profession, has led me to reach out to you again as I am challenged to present myself as your next Board Member from NACR!

Given the professional foundation and additional attributes, I am blessed with, I am confident that as part of the team of professionals currently comprising the World Physiotherapy Board, I can contribute positively to the organization's work of advocating for the profession globally.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sibyl Edward". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sibyl" written in a more stylized, connected manner than the last name "Edward".

Sibyl Edward, P.T., D.P.T.