

## **Nirit Rotem Lehrer - Candidate Statement**

For the last 2 years I have been a member of the board of World Physiotherapy (WP). I came into this role with extensive local and international experience, and quickly realised how important that experience is. But still there was a steep learning curve. There are quite a few complicated issues the board has to deal with, some of them ongoing from previous years, some of them new. To best deal with them you need a good understanding of many aspects of the profession and its structures, a strategic view to comprehend the implications and opportunities, and creativity to help find the best course of action. To be effective in this role I also believe you need to demonstrate leadership within a group of leaders, to have the ability and confidence to influence, to listen and be able to relate to different viewpoints and cultures and to have the capacity to work things until resolution. I believe I have shown that I have that capability, in the short 2 years I have been on the board, together with my experience at the European Region (ER-WP). I further believe that continuity is especially important at this time with the consequential issues the board is in the midst of dealing with.

For over 10 years I have been taking part in the promotion of professional matters within the ER-WP. In this time, I have learned, through the interactions with you, of the various issues concerning Member Organizations (MOs), on professional, educational and organizational levels. I have also witnessed the way the ER-WP can help and guide not only with those issues but also with representation of the profession in Europe and cooperation with other organizations. Along this process I have contributed to many activities of the region including preparation of position papers, the addition of thematic working groups, my membership in the cancer group, webinars, infographics and more. I have been involved at the international level with activities that dealt with the main issues in physiotherapy: advanced practice, direct access, developing new domains of practice and more.

I greatly appreciate the important work done at the international level. I believe that as a very diverse profession, dealing with so many facets of health and illness, the role of WP and ER-WP in setting the standards, of educational, professional, organization and ethical issues, and clarifying positions is extremely important and is of great service to the MOs. With increasing uncertainty around the world in general, and specifically health care systems and lately international programs, I think we face very challenging times and will need to be very vigilant on how we react quickly to changes. This will require WP to be agile and responsive to any challenge that might arise. I think I have proven that I am able to contribute in that. Being able to deal with change seems to be, not a matter of choice any more but a necessity.

The ER-WP is a leading force in global physiotherapy, with many MOs with vast experience and knowledge. While we have been good at sharing those within the region, I believe there is a place and a potential for the MOs and the region to contribute further to the global community. We can harness our experience in order to support countries who wish for such assistance. In the last 2 years I have began to promote that. I think we are on the right path, but it takes time. I ask for this time to keep advancing and developing our work with other regions and MOs who can benefit from it.

I believe that my experience and my long term participation in the ER-WP, and now as board member of WP, and understanding of the issues and the work at the national and international organizations, will assist me in being effective as the ER-WP board member. I further believe that I have proven my dedication to all things physiotherapy and am willing to put a lot of hard work and conviction as a board member of WP.

I kindly ask for your support.