

Savionne Francis

Candidacy Statement

World Physiotherapy Board Member: North America and Caribbean Region

I am honored to submit my candidacy for the position of Board Member for World Physiotherapy, on behalf of the North America and Caribbean region. With over twelve years of experience as a Senior Physiotherapist practicing locally in my home Jamaica, I have dedicated my career to clinical excellence, leadership, advocacy, and advancing the physiotherapy profession on both a local and global scale. My journey has been defined by a passion for patient-centered care, professional development, and policy reform—values that align closely with the mission and vision of World Physiotherapy.

Commitment to Advancing Physiotherapy

My professional path has been shaped by a deep commitment to improving access to quality physiotherapy services. From my early days as a student physiotherapist in public hospitals to my tenure as President of the Jamaica Physiotherapy Association (JPA), I have consistently worked to elevate our profession and empower physiotherapists to provide the best care possible. I am a staunch advocate for Direct Access in Jamaica, championing efforts to remove barriers to physiotherapy services and ensure patients receive timely, effective interventions. This advocacy has led to budding international collaborations, as we strive to make Direct Access a reality in Jamaica.

Leadership and Impact

My physiotherapy leadership began as a student when I served as class representative, advocating for my classmates. After completing my physiotherapy degree, I continued this trajectory by serving in multiple executive roles within the JPA, including Secretary, Public Relations Officer, President, and currently Immediate Past President. During my tenure, I spearheaded initiatives focused on professional development, mentorship, policy advocacy, and reorganizing the operational framework to enhance efficiency and effectiveness.

I worked closely with stakeholders to enhance education opportunities for physiotherapists, introduce innovative continuing education programs, and amplify the voice of our profession within Jamaica's healthcare system. I have also represented Jamaica on international platforms, including the World Physiotherapy Congress in Dubai, where I presented as part of a World Physiotherapy panel on Direct Access, sharing insights on our journey and implementation strategies.

Clinical Expertise and Professional Development

As a specialist in pelvic health, lymphoedema management, wound care, and ergonomics, I am deeply committed to advancing specialized physiotherapy services within the Caribbean and beyond. Recognizing the need for expertise in these areas, I have dedicated myself to training fellow physiotherapists and corporate professionals, ensuring that best practices are integrated into healthcare delivery. My recent scholarship from the International Pelvic Pain Society has further reinforced my dedication to elevating pelvic health standards, allowing me to educate and mentor clinicians across Jamaica.

Perspectives for World Physiotherapy

As a Board Member, my vision is to align with and support World Physiotherapy's Strategic Plan 2022 and beyond, ensuring that physiotherapy continues to evolve and thrive on a global level. My strategic focus includes:

1. **Evolving and Sustainable** – Strengthening the global capacity of member organizations by fostering leadership development, financial sustainability, and tailored support mechanisms that address diverse healthcare systems. I will work to enhance resource-sharing initiatives and improve organizational resilience across all regions, ensuring long-term sustainability for physiotherapy worldwide.
2. **Influence and Reach** – Advocating for global policy reforms that increase access to physiotherapy services and improve patient outcomes. I will work collaboratively with international member organizations, specialty groups, and stakeholders to enhance the visibility and impact of physiotherapy in public health policies, ensuring its integration into multidisciplinary healthcare frameworks across different continents.
3. **Knowledge Connector** – Promoting evidence-informed best practices by facilitating access to high-quality research, data, and insights on a global scale. I will support knowledge exchange initiatives that empower physiotherapists with the latest clinical and research advancements, ensuring that our profession remains at the forefront of patient-centered care and contributes to improved global health outcomes.

By integrating these strategic pillars into my vision, I aim to reinforce World Physiotherapy's objectives while fostering international growth, innovation, and collaboration.

Conclusion

My journey into physiotherapy was deeply personal. As a teenager experiencing severe back pain, I witnessed firsthand the transformative power of physiotherapy. That experience ignited my passion for the profession, and my commitment has only grown stronger over the years. I believe that physiotherapy is not just a profession but a movement—one that has the potential to redefine healthcare delivery and improve countless lives. If given the opportunity to serve on the World Physiotherapy Board, I will bring my leadership experience, advocacy skills, and unwavering dedication to advancing our profession.

I look forward to the possibility of working collaboratively with colleagues from across the world to shape the future of physiotherapy. Thank you for considering my candidacy, and I am excited

about the opportunity to contribute meaningfully to the growth and success of World Physiotherapy.