

Press release

For immediate release

18 June 2025

Physiotherapists' outstanding abstract presentations recognised at World Physiotherapy Congress 2025

The following awards for outstanding abstract presentations were made at the World Physiotherapy Congress 2025, 29-31 May 2025, in Tokyo, Japan.

Judging was based on a combined assessment of abstract and presentation quality.

World Physiotherapy outstanding ePoster awards

Winner: Christos Nikitas (Greece): Comparing outcome measures for risk of falls in older people with comorbidities

Runner-up: Daisuke Matsumoto (Japan): Association among neighborhood walkability, social participation, and disability incidence in community-dwelling older adults: a 3-year prospective cohort of KAGUYA study

World Physiotherapy outstanding poster awards

Winner: Katia Nobrega (Brazil): The role of physiotherapy in improving sexual health in people with Parkinson's Disease

Runner-up: Elia Swai (Tanzania): Children and adolescents with physical disabilities – describing characteristics and disability-related needs in the Kilimanjaro region, north-eastern Tanzania

World Physiotherapy outstanding platform awards

Winner: David Keene (United Kingdom): Supervised versus self-directed rehabilitation for adults aged 50 years & over after ankle fracture: the AFTER multicentre randomised controlled trial.

Runner-up: Yazeed Qashwa (United Kingdom): Falls as a global public health concern: modified Delphi study to determine the functional activities during which near-falls occur.

World Physiotherapy outstanding platform awards: early career researcher

Winner: Matheus Silva d'Alencar (Brazil): Parkinson's Affordable Neuro-movement Detection and Analysis (PANDA) system: new approach for objective assessment in clinical set of Postural Instability.

Runner-up: Fernanda Galleguillos (Chile): Outcome measures of physiotherapy interventions in intensive care unit: A systematic mapping from 2004 to 2023.

World Physiotherapy outstanding platform awards: Africa region

Joint winner: Hellen Myezwa (South Africa): HIV from the rehabilitation perspective: is it waxing or waning?
State of the art

Joint winner: Conran Joseph (South Africa): Functioning priorities of persons with spinal cord injuries in the Republic of South Africa – results from a national survey

World Physiotherapy outstanding platform awards: Asia Western Pacific region

Winner: Hina Vaish (India): Comprehensive evaluation of physical function and respiratory health in middle-aged women: a comparative study of premenopausal and postmenopausal groups

Runner-up: Yu-Jung Cheng (Taiwan): Establish a non-invasive mouse model & analyze RNA profile to observe the exercise effects on disuse-induced muscle atrophy

World Physiotherapy outstanding platform awards: Europe region

Winner: Deborah O'Connor (United Kingdom): Opening the doors: the impact of physiotherapy students working with care home residents within interprofessional teams.

Runner-up: Giulia Fregna (Italy): Head-mounted display treatment for improving upper limb impairment in subacute stroke survivors: preliminary data of multicenter randomized controlled trial.

World Physiotherapy outstanding platform awards: North America Caribbean region

Winner: Sandra Squire (Canada): Enhancing recruitment and retention of physiotherapists through a value-based new graduate rotation program at Vancouver General Hospital

Runner-up: Felipe González-Seguel (United States): Artificial intelligence-powered software for automated analysis of skeletal muscle ultrasonography

World Physiotherapy outstanding platform awards: South America region

Winner: Juan Lee-Goic (Chile): Postural muscle performance across critical illness recovery: a prospective study

Runner-up: Gisela Miyamoto (Brazil): Healthcare costs of osteoarthritis in Brazil over 2018: A registry-based cost-of-illness study

World Physiotherapy outstanding ePoster awards: early career researcher

Winner: Sayori Takeda (Japan): The neural basis of intermanual transfer in tool-use motor learning

Runner-up: Rodrigo Núñez-Cortés (Chile): Social barriers associated with not engaging in physical activity in older adults with musculoskeletal pain

World Physiotherapy outstanding poster awards: early career researcher

Winner: Manabu Miyazaki (Japan): The effects of mental practice on brain activity and hamstring flexibility in healthy young men

Runner-up: Maria Elisa Pimentel Piemonte (Brazil): Improvement in motor function of the paretic arm after serious games-based training in people with Stroke: a randomized clinical trial

World Physiotherapy outstanding ePoster awards: Africa region

Winner: Sam Ibeneme (Nigeria): Effectiveness of home-based exercise programs in enhancing function, activity, and participation in children with cerebral palsy: systematic review and meta-analysis

Runner-up: Dorothy Ekua Adjabu (Ghana): Development and validation of a novel intervention to promote physical activity among postpartum women in a low resource setting

World Physiotherapy outstanding ePoster awards: Asia Western Pacific region

Winner: Zhuo Wang (China): Analysis of ground reaction force during ascending and descending staircases of varying heights in persons with knee osteoarthritis

Runner-up: Daichi Yamada (Japan): Relationship between vastus medialis muscle elasticity during quadriceps setting and knee extensor strength

World Physiotherapy outstanding ePoster awards: Europe region

Winner: Yael Steinfeld Mass (Israel): Cross-cultural adaptation, validation, and psychometric evaluation of the International Hip Outcome Tool 12 (iHOT12) to Hebrew

Runner-up: Tom Herbert (United Kingdom): Co-production of a peer support programme for adults living with chronic non-cancer pain using intervention mapping

World Physiotherapy outstanding ePoster awards: North America Caribbean region

Winner: Inae Gadotti (United States): Head and neck posture, deep neck flexors performance and tongue force in healthy young and older adults.

Runner-up: Weiqing Ge (United States): Community design for safe and accessible physical activity pop-up demonstration in a disadvantaged community: a policy, systems, and environmental approach

World Physiotherapy outstanding ePoster awards: South America region

Winner: Daniela Cristina Carvalho de Abreu (Brazil): Mobility as a predictor of new falls in older adults following hip fracture

Runner-up: Elisete Carvalho (Brazil): Early nasal CPAP in the delivery room in a maternity member of the Brazilian QualiNeo strategy: associated factors

World Physiotherapy outstanding poster awards: Africa region

Winner: Chuka Umeonwuka (South Africa): Prism adaptation therapy improves rehabilitation outcomes in spatial neglect patients at sub-acute phase of recovery: A double-blinded randomized control trial

Runner-up: Olabisi Akinwade (Nigeria): Efficacy of mobile phone-based physical activity intervention in pregnancy on maternal and child health outcomes (full and fit mama study)

World Physiotherapy outstanding poster awards: Asia Western Pacific region

Winner: Salim Khan (Pakistan): Hip displacement and its association with gross motor function classification system and type of cerebral palsy

Runner-up: Kayoko Nonaka (Japan): The association between the development of professional identity and burnout among Japanese physiotherapists.

World Physiotherapy outstanding poster awards: Europe region

Winner: Per Sjöström (Sweden): Predictors of knee extensor muscle strength one year after total knee arthroplasty – a prospective longitudinal study

Runner-up: Merete Brandal (Norway): Neurodevelopmental outcome at 2-3 years in a group of drug-exposed children

World Physiotherapy outstanding poster awards: North America Caribbean region

Winner: Paula Ferreira (United States): Effects of circadian rhythm on brain activity during a dynamic balance task

Runner-up: Ruth Barclay (Canada): Self-reported and performance-based factors associated with community ambulation in older adults: Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging

World Physiotherapy outstanding poster awards: South America region

Winner: Daniel Arellano (Chile): Prone position as a protective strategy during the onset of spontaneous effort in patients with ARDS on mechanical ventilation

Runner-up: Maria Vassiliu Hacke (Chile): Assessment of tools for the detection of sarcopenia in older adults

Specialty group awards

A number of World Physiotherapy specialty groups also presented awards for outstanding abstract presentations in their clinical areas.

[International Organisation of Aquatic Physiotherapists \(IOAPT\)](#)

Billy So (Hong Kong): Integrating artificial intelligence in aquatic exercise: applications of the underwater analysis system and wearable sensors

[International Confederation of Cardiorespiratory Physiotherapists \(ICCrPT\)](#)

Derek King Wai Yau (Hong Kong): Effect of quality of recovery-15 score on self-rated health status at 90 days after cardiac surgery in patients undergoing prehabilitation

[International Society for Electrophysical Agents in Physiotherapy \(ISEAPT\)](#)

Matías Loch (Chile): Evaluation of peripheral muscle thickness using ultrasound in mechanically ventilated critically ill patients at trauma hospital

[International Physical Therapists for HIV/AIDS, Oncology, Hospice and Palliative Care \(IPT-HOPE\)](#)

Katrine Toftdahl (Denmark): Perspectives on the treatment of sequelae after cancer: an interview study of primary care physiotherapists

[International Organisation of Physiotherapy in Mental Health \(IOPTMH\)](#)

Daisuke Fujita (Japan): Effect of transcutaneous vagal nerve stimulation on heart rate variability in recovery phase following Stroop test

[International Neurological Physiotherapy Association \(INPA\)](#)

Yuto Kameyama (Japan): Sarcopenia affects physical function of stroke patients in the convalescent ward: A prospective cohort study

[International Federation of Physiotherapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics \(IFPTOHE\)](#)

Doug Gross (Canada): Evaluating effectiveness of telerehabilitation services among injured workers treated in a Canadian workers' compensation system: A population-based study

[International Association of Physiotherapists working with Older People \(IPTOP\)](#)

Kitsana Krootnark (Thailand): Effectiveness of low-intensity home-based exercise in community-dwelling elderly with mild cognitive impairment: Randomized Controlled Trial

[International Organisation of Physiotherapists in Paediatrics \(IOPTP\)](#)

Merete Brandal (Norway): Neurodevelopmental outcome at 2-3 years in a group of drug-exposed children

[International Organization of Physiotherapists in Pelvic and Women's Health \(IOPPWH\)](#)

Xin Zhang (China): The Factors Influencing Shoulder Mobility Disorders in Patients after Radical Breast Cancer Surgery: A Cross-Sectional Study

[International Federation of Sports Physical Therapy \(IFSPT\)](#)

Takuya Kitaguchi (Japan): Impact of sport type on second injuries of the anterior cruciate ligament: Analysis of ipsilateral and contralateral failures

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EDITOR'S NOTES

About physiotherapy

Physiotherapists are experts in developing and maintaining people's ability to move and function throughout their lives. With an advanced understanding of how the body moves and what keeps it from moving well, they promote wellness, mobility and independence. They treat and prevent many problems caused by pain, illness, disability and disease, sport and work related injuries, ageing and inactivity.

Physiotherapists are educated over several years, giving them a full knowledge of the body's systems and the skills to treat a wide range of problems. This education is usually university-based, at a level that allows physiotherapists to practise independently. Continuing education ensures that they keep up to date with the latest advances in research and practice. Many physiotherapists are engaged in research themselves.

About World Physiotherapy

World Physiotherapy is the profession's global body representing over 600,000 physiotherapists from member organisations in 129 countries. More information: www.world.physio