World Physiotherapy

WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY AWARDS PROGRAMME 2027

The World Physiotherapy awards programme recognises outstanding contributions and leadership by individual physiotherapists and groups to the profession and/or global health at an international level.

Mildred Elson award

Mildred Elson was the founding president of WCPT (1953-1956) and a driving force in establishing the confederation. She believed strongly in the benefits of physiotherapists working together nationally and globally. At the second general meeting she said that the future depended on every single physiotherapist working with their patients, professional associations, professional colleagues and private individuals towards a common goal – "the recovery of the patient, physically, socially and economically".

The Mildred Elson award is the highest honour that World Physiotherapy can bestow. It is for outstanding leadership contributing significantly to the development of physiotherapy internationally. Only one Mildred Elson award is given at the time of each World Physiotherapy general meeting and congress.

History

The Mildred Elson award was established in 1987 with funds donated to WCPT by the American Physical Therapy Association. Mildred Elson, the first president of WCPT, was also the first recipient of the award.

1987: Mildred Elson – WCPT inaugural president 1953-1956

1991: Elizabeth McKay – WCPT secretary general 1970 - 1986

1995: Geoffrey Maitland - clinician, teacher and author

1999: Joan Walker - educator, researcher

2003: Marilyn Moffat - educator, clinician, author, WCPT president 2007-2015

2007: Jules Rothstein - researcher, writer, educator

2011: Stanley Paris - author, clinician, teacher

2015: Kari Bø - clinician, researcher, teacher

2019: Anne Moseley - clinician, teacher, researcher, and member of Australian Physiotherapy Association

2023: Margot Skinner - clinician, educator, researcher, and member of Physiotherapy New Zealand

For details of the 2023 recipient of the Mildred Elson Award, please see the World Physiotherapy website at 2023 award recipients | World Physiotherapy.

Awardee attributes

The awardee will have contributed to the profession internationally and demonstrated one or more of the following attributes:

- leadership and commitment to the promotion of the profession
- distinguished contributions to the profession in the areas of administration, education, patient care, and/or research
- positively influenced others toward higher levels of achievement and/or attainment of professional goals.

Criteria

Criteria used by the awards committee to review the applications will include the following:

- breadth of impact - contribution to the enhancement of professional development within and external to the physiotherapy community

- contribution to the advancement of the profession as a whole through innovation - the development of a new contribution or advancing the knowledge base of the profession – and/or furthering the aims of the organisation and/or the profession
- previous recognition of contributions, leadership and high quality achievements that demonstrate originality as demonstrated by other awards and honours documented in the nominee's curriculum vitae
- professional (beyond physiotherapy) public visibility of contributions, as demonstrated by publications, presentations, invited lectures, appointed and elected positions held, and other information in the nominee's curriculum vitae
- evidence of enduring quality of contributions, or potential for continuing effects of contributions to the profession.

Eligibility

Nominations must be submitted by World Physiotherapy member organisations.

Nominees must be members of a World Physiotherapy member organisation and they cannot be a member of the current World Physiotherapy executive board.

The application form must be completed and submitted with the information listed on the form, along with a minimum of three and a maximum of five statements/letters of support that may focus on a specific aspect of the nominee's career and contribution, or cover all aspects. The letters are to be co-ordinated by a principal nominator and must reflect the criteria listed above which will be used to evaluate the nominations.

In the event of a nomination being unsuccessful, the awards committee may agree to contact the member organisation to determine if they wish the individual to be considered for another award.

International service award

Awards for international service are to honour individuals who have made a significant contribution to physiotherapy internationally and/or within their region.

More than one award may be given at the time of each World Physiotherapy general meeting and congress.

For details of the 2023 recipients of the International service awards, please see the World Physiotherapy website at 2023 award recipients | World Physiotherapy.

Nominations are accepted from member organisations, specialty groups. All nominations should indicate the area in which the majority of the nominee's work has taken place.

Eligibility

- Nominees must be members of a World Physiotherapy member organisation.
- The nominees will have demonstrated leadership, made distinguished contributions and/or had a high impact on the profession at an international or regional level through service in one or more of the following areas:
    - practice
    - education
    - research
    - management/administration
    - advocacy

Criteria

Criteria used to judge the nominations will include evidence of the following:

- sustained contribution of service to important professional issues in one or more of the areas outlined above
- regional and/or international impact of services and contributions such as regional/international consultative or collaborative work; advancement of subgroup development and growth; leading/initiating multisite research and educational programmes
- professional and/or public visibility of contributions, as demonstrated by clinical services, publications, presentations, invited lectures, appointed and elected positions held, and other information in the nominee's curriculum vitae
- services resulting in the advancement of the profession in one or more of the areas listed above.

Humanitarian service award

This award is to recognise individual physiotherapists who have improved people's lives through their exceptional care, compassion, dedication and personal commitment.

Previous recipients of this award, Alberto Cairo in 2007, Ann Schmidt in 2011, Diana Hiscock in 2015, and Lorena Enebral Pérez, Daniel Wappenstein Deller in 2019, and Valerie Taylor in 2023, each epitomised this extraordinary level of dedication.

For details of the 2023 recipients of the Humanitarian service award, see the World Physiotherapy website at 2023 award recipients | World Physiotherapy.

Normally only one Humanitarian service award is given at the time of each general meeting and congress. However, in exceptional circumstances, such as in 2019, two may be given.

Nominations are accepted from member organisations, specialty groups and partner organisations.

Eligibility

- Any physiotherapist who has shown personal commitment and dedication and is held in high esteem by peers.
- Normally, the physiotherapist will be a member of a member organisation but recognising that this may not always be appropriate for this award, e.g. there may not be a member organisation in the country the nominee resides in, it is not a requirement for the award.
- Nominees for this award may have carried out their work at a national or international level and their work may take place in one or more of a variety of sectors, for example non-governmental or humanitarian organisations. Nominees may have made their contribution as an employee or volunteer.

Criteria

Criteria used to judge the nominations will include evidence of the following:

- exceptional service over a continued or sustained period of time
- national or international impact of personal contribution
- professional and/or public recognition of contributions
- impact of the personal commitment on the lives of others.

Leadership in rehabilitation award

This award is to recognise an individual or group/organisation that has made an exceptional contribution to international rehabilitation and/or global health. The individual or group nominated do not need to be physiotherapists and may have made a significant contribution in areas such as:

- leading rehabilitation programmes in e.g. disaster areas, war-affected zones, areas of humanitarian need
- ensuring that populations have adequate access to rehabilitation services through direct service delivery and/or advocacy and awareness raising initiatives
- initiating new rehabilitation education and/or research programmes.

For details of the recipient for the Leadership in rehabilitation award in 2023, see the World Physiotherapy website at 2023 award recipients | World Physiotherapy.

Only one Leadership in rehabilitation award may be given at the time of each World Physiotherapy general meeting and congress.

Nominations may be submitted by member organisations, specialty groups and partner organisations.

Eligibility

- Any individual from any country is eligible for the award.
- Any group/organisation is eligible for the award.
- While it is expected that individual physiotherapists will be nominated in other categories of awards, if a group or organisation is nominated, physiotherapists are not precluded from being part of the group.
- The work recognised may have occurred in one or more countries or areas of the world.

Criteria

Criteria used to judge the award will include evidence of the following, but not all criteria listed below need to be met, for nominations to be considered for this award:

- the individual, group or organisation filled an unmet need of those without resources or avenues to receive necessary rehabilitation either for the short or long term
- the individual, group or organisation provided access to rehabilitative health, education and/or research programmes and information
- the individual, group or organisation advocated for and/or raised awareness of a need which resulted in actions that responded to that need being addressed
- the services or programmes were recognised by the recipients and their community leaders as being beneficial to a significant number of people in need
- the service or programmes initiated show ongoing evidence of sustainability (if relevant)

Recognition of service to World Physiotherapy award

In addition to awards through nomination, World Physiotherapy recognises individuals who have contributed to World Physiotherapy as chairs of regions and subgroups and through membership of committees.

Recognition of service awards are determined by the World Physiotherapy executive board and are not open to nomination.

Nominations for all awards other than those for recognition of service, are received and reviewed by the World Physiotherapy awards committee who make recommendations to the World Physiotherapy executive board.