



International Federation of Physical Therapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

Minutes of Second IFPTOHE General Meeting

Date: 15 March 2021

Time: 11.00 am UK time

Venue: Online Microsoft Teams Meeting

1. **Welcome.** Rose Boucaut welcomed everybody to the virtual General Meeting and started off by introducing the support crew to the virtual meeting members.

- Theresa Flynn- Presiding Officer & Returning Officer (Ireland)
- Sjan-Mari Van Niekerk- Technical Officer (South Africa)
- Beatriz Sanz-Bustillo Aguirre - Returning Officer (Spain)
- Nancy Wanyonyi- Minute taking (Kenya)
- Liina-Paabo – Stand-by support in case of any technical problems (Estonia)

Theresa Flynn, Presiding Officer, highlighted the Agenda was shared with Member Organisations and asked if anyone has any other matters to be discussed for “any other business” once the day’s Agenda had been covered.

2. **Roll call of member organisations present in the virtual AGM** (Rose Boucaut)

In total 20 Attendees from the following countries:

| Member Organization | Subgroup | Representatives & Attendees |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Australia | Occ. Health Physiotherapy Australia | Caro Bontrup, Rose Boucaut, Barbara McPhee, David Worth |
| Brazil | National subgroup of the Brazilian Association of Physiotherapists | |
| Denmark | Danish Society for Physiotherapy in Occupational Health | |
| Estonia | Estonian Association of Physiotherapists | Liina Paabo |



International Federation of Physical Therapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

| | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| Finland | Association of Finish physiotherapists in occupational health | |
| Greece | PanHellenic Physiotherapists Association. | Vasiliki Sakellari, Lefteris Bournousouzis |
| Iceland | Icelandic Physiotherapy Association | |
| Ireland | Chartered Physiotherapists in Occupational Health and Ergonomics | Theresa Flynn |
| Japan | Japanese Society of Physical Therapy section on occupational health | Satoshi Okohara |
| Kenya | Kenyan Society of physiotherapists | Nancy Wanyonyi |
| Malta | Maltese physiotherapists in occupational health& ergonomics | |
| Netherlands | Dutch Association for Occupational and Work related physiotherapy | Marlene Lutgert, Yvonne van Zaanen |
| New Zealand | New Zealand, the Occupational Health physiotherapy group | |
| Norway | Norwegian physiotherapists Association. Occupational health and Ergonomics interest group | |
| Peru | The Peruvian Association of Physiotherapy | Amelia Kuroiwa |
| Slovenia | Slovenian Association of physiotherapists | |
| South Africa | South Africa Occupational Health and Special Interest group | Marisa Coetzee, Sjan- Mari Van Niekerk |
| Spain | Spanish Association of physiotherapists | Beatriz Sanz-Bustillo Aguirre |
| Sudan | Sudanese Physiotherapy Association | |
| Sweden | Swedish section of ergonomics | Kerstin Stigmar |
| Switzerland | Physio Swiss | Apologies received |
| Uganda | Ugandan Association of Physiotherapy | |
| UK | Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Occupational Health and Ergonomics. | Nicola Suckley |
| Associate Member elect Philippines | | Zyra Sicat |
| Chile | Visitor | Marco Leppe Zamora |

3. Confirmation of the previous minutes. (Theresa Flynn).

Minutes of the first general meeting held in Geneva in 2019 were received and accepted as a true record.

Proposed: Nicola Suckley, Seconded: Yvonne van Zaanen



International Federation of Physical Therapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

4. Introduction to the voting process and the results (Theresa)

It was noted, with thanks, that World Physiotherapy assisted with the process of electronic voting in early March, 2021. Seventeen Member Organisations participated in the voting process, out of the 23 IFPTOHE Member Organisations. Theresa Flynn welcomed Beatriz Sanz-Bustillo Aguirre as Returning Officer to present the outcomes as follows:

5. Election of Member Organisation

The Ghana Physiotherapy Association was voted to become a Member Organization of IFPTOHE

6. Election of Executive Committee Member

Vasiliki Sakellari was voted on to the IFPTOHE Executive Committee.

7. Name Change to IFPOHE

Voters approved the proposed subgroup name change from International Federation of Physical Therapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics (IFPTOHE) to International Federation of Physiotherapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics (IFPOHE).

Members were given time to consider/comment on the voting process, there were no comments or discussion.

8. Presentation of the President's report (Rose Boucaut, Australia)

The President started off her remarks by commenting on the voting process by welcoming the Ghana Physiotherapy Association as an IFPTOHE Member Organization and congratulated and welcomed Vasiliki Sakellari to the Executive Committee. She looks forward to working with both.



International Federation of Physical Therapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

Rose thanked all those who participated in the voting process and notified members that the name change from IFPTOHE to IFPOHE had just gone through the first stage to align itself with World Confederation of Physical Therapists (WCPT) name change to World Physiotherapy and that it will thereafter be taken through the constitutional process for the subgroup's name change to be finalized.

Rose explained the role of the Executive Committee is to serve the Member Organisations as a team and hence welcomed members to get in touch with this committee at any time with suggestions and ideas that they have for the subgroup.

The President commended the Executive Committee for their hard work since the Geneva 2019 meeting as they portrayed professionalism, reliability and trustworthiness in their work by having the best interests of IFPTOHE at heart. Rose expressed her gratitude and farewell to Frederick Larsson from Denmark and Rosi Padula from Brazil who have stepped down from the Executive Committee; she wished them well in their future endeavors and hoped that they would reconnect with the subgroup in the future.

Rose's third point was on encouraging Member Organisations to collaborate. She reported that the Baltic Group held a Congress in late 2020 and invited some IFPTOHE Executive Committee members as speakers. At around the same time the Irish group was wanting to host a webinar and the IFPTOHE Vice- President Yvonne van Zaanen came up with the ambitious idea of getting the two groups together which worked out very well. Rose commended the two groups for embracing this idea and teaming up together to make things happen especially during this COVID time. She applauded them for being brave and trying something really different which they were not sure would work. She further emphasised that that's the attitude needed to achieve big goals for IFPTOHE in the future.

World Bank contacted IFPTOHE about recruiting OH physiotherapists in different regions in 2020, seeking physiotherapists with ergonomics experience to work in Kenya and has subsequently also contacted IFPTOHE about OH physiotherapy opportunities in Europe and India. Hopefully these interesting opportunities will continue and will be posted on LinkedIn and/or Facebook.



International Federation of Physical Therapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

In February 2021, an educators' meeting was convened with Columbia, which is not yet a Member Organization for IFPTOHE, but hopes to be in the future. The meeting went very well and the group anticipates interesting collaborative activities in the future. IFPTOHE encourages occupational health educators in the physiotherapy undergraduate and post graduate training to belong to this group.

The President also has a role in liaising with World Physiotherapy (WP) which holds regular sub-group meetings, providing opportunities to hear how other subgroups work. WP has been very supportive for example with their management of the recent voting process, and we thank them for this.

The President and Vice President share the liaison role involving encouraging membership of interested Member Organisations and Associate Members and supporting them through the process of application. They are also laying foundations for future subgroup development. Regular Newsletters and an Annual report are produced by the Executive Committee.

The Presiding officer thanked the President for her report and introduced each Executive Committee member for them to give a report of the achievements in the group to date.

9. Executive Committee Members Reports

Yvonne de Leeuw -van Zaanen, the Vice President of IFPTOHE Yvonne is the current chair of the Dutch subgroup.

Yvonne reported on the recent developments about 'Lighten the Load' in Europe which is a European risk management campaign to prevent musculoskeletal complaints and to manage existing complaints. IFPTOHE joined as a campaign partner on the 22nd February 2022 with an aim of bridging the gap between the risk management and the complaints management. This comes with a benefit of receiving supply of materials and promoting topics for all the member organizations of IFPTOHE. She further encouraged persons in European countries to join the campaign by citing an example of the Netherlands who benefited by giving a webinar at the kickoff of the campaign together with the Ministry hence benefiting the country.



International Federation of Physical Therapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

Yvonne referred back to Geneva 2019 and the aim of providing a logo for IFPTOHE. The proposed logo was sent to member organisations for their ideas and input. Finally the committee came up with a logo which includes blue and white collar workers as well as movement, exercise and mental health. The final logo was shared via a newsletter to all member organisations.

The Vice President also reported on the info-graphic, made in the Netherlands and translated into English for all M.Os to use. She hopes that when someone has resources in their country that we can work together to translate it for use in all the member organizations. She then handed over to Marisa who was creative with the logo and the website.

Marissa Coetzee IFPTOHE's secretary from South Africa shared the website tab with members from her screen. She further explained that "in the last two years since our group became an official subgroup of World Physiotherapy, one of our aims was to have a website that people can consult for more information. So we created the website ourselves and we used a free web design editor. So now we have a website where people can learn more about us as a sub group and about our activities." <https://ifptohe.wixsite.com/ifptohe>

She stated that the website contains IFPTOHE's mission, vision and the constitution. "We have information about our committee members, COVID-19 resources that we collated last year when the pandemic broke out, with information about how to work from home. Just your general ergonomic set up, physical and mental health and so forth. We also have newsletters, information on how to become a member and most importantly, we have information about occupational health and ergonomics as a special interest of physiotherapy from an educational and research perspective."

She went on ahead to report that Kjerstin from Sweden put together the education section on the website for us. Marisa also made mention of IFPTOHE's presence on social media platforms such as Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. She also talked about the research in process initiative which allows current researchers such as PhD students, postdoctoral students, and anyone actively doing research in the field to share their work in a short 3 minute video, and this video is posted on our website and on Facebook to create awareness, both networks and linking researchers from across the globe.



International Federation of Physical Therapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

She encouraged anyone interested to share his or her ongoing research on her email shared at the end of the presentation.

In closing, the website and all social media platforms are used as a way of communicating with physiotherapists with other healthcare professionals and the general public by drawing attention to and promoting our profession.

Kjerstin Stigmar a physiotherapist working at Lund University in Sweden where she does research, teaches and also has a lot of connections with their surrounding society. She reported that since she was elected as a member of the executive committee she has been engaging by providing an infrastructure like building roads for the future for the committee's work. She was also engaged in vision and mission. Creation of IFPTOHE and improving communication at social media and at Facebook especially and proposed for considerations of different type of legislations like privacy legislations. And also securing Contacts with all physios over the world. And it's really challenge to key to get in contact and to stay in contact. She then went ahead to talk about her responsibility as IFPTOHE's Education Officer and what they worked on with Marisa for the website. She reported of the recent first meeting with the colleagues in Columbia that launched that meeting for PTs interested in the field of under graduate programs in physical therapy, so we hope that this can develop and we maybe can have a teacher exchange in the future.

Kjerstin has plans for webinars during this year with interesting topics and welcomed members to share their ideas of the same to the committee. She also made mention of an important event in Geneva where she and a couple of colleagues had an opportunity of reaching a broader audience through a Focused Symposium where they highlighted the importance of talking about work. She encouraged members to not only keep these talks inside the occupational health and safety but rather have a mission of talking about work in all sectors.

Finally, she spoke about the economics for the subgroup by mentioning that IFPTOHE doesn't have a Treasurer yet, and they have not dealt with any economics or funding to date. Discussions are still ongoing for the pros and cons for this, and in the future there IFPTOHE may need a Treasurer.



International Federation of Physical Therapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

Nicola Suckley, the Public Relations officer for IFPTOHE is based in the UK and Vice-chair of the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Occupational Health and Ergonomics (ACPOHE, UK). She led the development of the vision and mission statement for IFPTOHE. Nicola outlined how this was achieved by looking at what World Physio vision, and mission standard is and ideally try and tailor this to our specific area of expertise. They also looked at the various individual member organisations, vision and mission statements which enabled them to pull together and summarize something that's personal and specific to IFPTOHE. Hence the vision of IFPTOHE is to “support development, develop and promote the international practice of physiotherapists working in occupational health and ergonomics in order to improve the health and well being of the global workforce.” <https://ifptohe.wixsite.com/ifptohe/vision-and-mission>

Nicola explained how the vision and mission gave the subgroup an overall aim and objectives to be working from and as a committee they strive their best to ensure that everything that they were working on was always guided by the mission and objectives.

An example of this, is a guidance document ACPOHE have been working on in the UK. The guidance document advises on how employees can be supported in returning to work post COVID-19. The committee felt this would be helpful to talk about during the AGM and share with the wider audience.

The ACPOHE guidance has three different objectives:

1. **The wider Physiotherapy community**, aiming to educate all Physiotherapists on the importance of having the wider health and work conversation. It is important that everybody feels confident to be doing that particularly early on in rehabilitation.
2. **The wider Occupational Health community**, aiming to promote the role of occupational health physiotherapy particularly in relation to our role in facilitating return to work for employees directly or indirectly effected by Covid-19.
3. **Occupational Health Physiotherapists** aiming to support occupational health physios to think about the skills that we already own and how we can apply these to supporting employees returning to work following the global pandemic.



International Federation of Physical Therapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

ACPOHE welcome feedback from the IFPTOHE membership regarding the document. The guidance document is hosted on the ACPOHE website, is also accessible through IFPTOHE.

Vasiliki Sakellari, the newly elected executive committee member from Greece, made her maiden speech stating that she was from the recently established Hellenic Subgroup of Occupational Health and Ergonomics and just elected for the Executive Committee of IFPTOHE and thanked all the people who directly and indirectly voted for her. She stated that related to her previous work i her main interest is in educational research. Her vision is to serve IFPTOHE as well as she can.

10. Upcoming Events (Yvonne van Zaanen highlighted these)

- World Physio Congress online 2021 and made merit awards for poster presentations and a Networking session for IFPTOHE on Friday 9th at 10.45 UTC.
- An online International Ergonomic Association Congress from 14th -18th June, 2021 in Vancouver (IEA)
- ICOH- Australia 2022
- World Physiotherapy Congress Tokyo 2023

11. Next General Meeting (Rose Boucaut)

Will take place in Tokyo in 2023 and Rose encouraged members to continue having virtual meetings for networking purposes. She also hoped for a face to face pre-congress meeting which the Japanese colleagues are happy to discuss. Members are encouraged to share any ideas they have about the upcoming events.

12. Any Other Business (AOB)

Marlene Lutgert (from the Netherlands) thanked the Executive Committee for their work well done in the years that they have been in office.

Marisa Coetzee thanked everyone who assisted the Executive Committee in all their tasks and specifically thanked Beatriz Sanz-Bustillo- Aguirre for enhancing the visual accessibility of the IFPTOHE website for all users.



International Federation of Physical Therapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

13. Closing of the meeting (Rose Boucaut) 12 noon.

The meeting was closed with there being no further business. The President thanked all who had taken their time to participate in this meeting. She also called for members to continue engaging in professional practice and sharing information through the designated social media platforms. IFPTOHE committee welcomes any offers of voluntary help for any work with the IFPTOHE Executive Committee.