

# IFPT HE

International Federation of Physical Therapists working in  
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

Annual report May 2019 - 2020





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# International Federation of Physical Therapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics

## About IFPTOHE and establishment

The International Federation of Physical Therapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics (IFPTOHE) subgroup was officially formed in May 2019 at the WCPT Geneva Conference.

Our international subgroup is made up of physical therapists working in occupational health, ergonomics and vocational rehabilitation.

## IFPTOHE Vision and Mission (updated 2020)

### Vision

To support, develop and promote, the international practice of Physiotherapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics, in order to improve the health and wellbeing of the global workforce.

### Mission

- To bring together, nurture and grow the international community of Physiotherapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics by providing a platform of communication, networking and information exchange.
- To define and achieve international standards of Occupational Health Physiotherapy and Ergonomic practice through the sharing and development of training, education and guidance.
- To promote evidence based practice and ongoing professional development through the sharing and support of research and training within the profession of Occupational Health Physiotherapy and Ergonomics.
- To collaborate with international stakeholders to participate in the development of policy and legislation within the global field of work and health.
- To be the specialist provider of work, health and safety advice and support to the wider Physiotherapy profession.



# International Federation of Physical Therapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics

## Committee and membership

### IFPTOHE Committee

The first IFPTOHE General Meeting was held in Geneva in May 2019, at which Executive Committee members were elected. The elected committee members, their position and role, are:

- Rose Boucaut (Australia) – Chair Person - Membership
- Yvonne de Leeuw (The Netherlands) – Vice Chair Person – Clinical Practice
- Marisa Coetzee (South Africa) – Secretary - Website
- Fredrik Lassen (Denmark) - Treasurer
- Nicola Suckley (UK) – Public Relations
- Kjerstin Stigmar (Sweden) – Education
- Rosimeire Simprini Padula (Brazil) - Research

We thank our retiring committee members Professor Rosimeire Simprini Padula (representing The Associação Brasileira de Fisioterapeutas do Trabalho (ABRAFIT)) and Mr Fredrik Lassen (representing The Danish Society for Physiotherapy in Occupational Health) and wish them well in the future.

### Executive Committee Membership Nominee 2021

IFPTOHE was happy to receive a nomination for IFPTOHE committee from Vasiliki Sakellari of the Panhellenic Physiotherapists' Association (Greece). Vasiliki has attended two recent executive committee meetings as an invited guest.

We still have one vacant position on the Executive Committee, please advise if this is of interest to you at your earliest convenience (note: only one nominee per Member Organisation (MO) is allowed on the Committee at the same time).

Due to Covid-19 pandemic electronic voting will take place in advance of and be announced at the General Meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021.

### Member Elect 2021

In 2020, IFPTOHE had 23 MOs (figure 1 IFPTOHE infographic) and the Ghana Physiotherapy Association has applied and is a member elect in 2021. Due to Covid-19 pandemic electronic voting will take place in advance of, and results will be announced at, the General Meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021. IFPTOHE received requests for information on how to become a MO from four World Physiotherapy member countries in South America, Asia and Africa and we welcome their future applications

Our first Associate Member joined IFPTOHE in 2020. Associate Membership is for interested physiotherapists to join the subgroup where their own national group or subgroup is not a MO of IFPTOHE.

**Email:** [rose.boucaut@unisa.edu.au](mailto:rose.boucaut@unisa.edu.au) (president)  
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**Website:** <https://ifptohe.wixsite.com/ifptohe>



# International Federation of Physical Therapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics

Current Member Organisations of IFPTOHE (as at Dec 2020)

Australia	Occupational Health Physiotherapy Australia
Brazil	Nacional subgroup Associacao Brasileira de Fisioterapeutas do Trabalho
Denmark	Danish Society for Physiotherapy in Occupational Health
Estonia	Estonian Association of Physiotherapists; occupational health physiotherapy working group
Finland	The Association of Finnish Physiotherapists in Occupational Health
Greece	The Panhellenic Physiotherapists' Association; subgroup established in 2021
Iceland	The Icelandic Physiotherapy Association (no national subgroup)
Ireland	Chartered Physiotherapists in Occupational Health and Ergonomics
Japan	Japanese Society of Physical Therapy section on Occupational Health
Kenya	Kenya Society of Physiotherapists (no national subgroup)
Malta	Physiotherapists in Occupational Health and Ergonomics
The Netherlands	Dutch Association for occupational and work-related physical therapy
New Zealand	Occupational Health Physiotherapy Group
Norway	Norwegian Physiotherapist Associations' occupational health and ergonomics interest group
Peru	The Asociacion Peruana de Teraistas Fisicos (no national subgroup)
Slovenia	The Slovenian Association of Physiotherapists (no national subgroup)
South Africa	Occupational Health Special Interest Group
Spain	The Spanish Association of Physiotherapists (no national subgroup)
Sudan	The Sudanese Physiotherapy Association (no national subgroup)
Sweden	The Swedish Section of Ergonomics
Switzerland	Physio Swiss (no national subgroup)
Uganda	The Uganda Association of Physiotherapy (no national subgroup)
United Kingdom	The Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Occupational Health and Ergonomics
Associate Member	One associate member from France





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# IFPTOHE

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INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

## 23 MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

**Africa:** Kenya, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda  
**Asia West-Pacific:** Australia, New-Zealand, Japan  
**Europe:** Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Malta, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands and United Kingdom  
**North-America and The Caribbean:** none  
**South-America:** Brazil, Peru

## 4 World Physiotherapy Regions




## 7 ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS



**Rose Boucaut** (Australia, president)  
**Yvonne de Leeuw- van Zaanen** (The Netherlands, vice president)  
**Marisa Coetzee** (South Africa, secretary)  
**Nicola Suckley** (United Kingdom)  
**Frederik Lassen** (Denmark)  
**Kjerstin Stigmar** (Sweden)  
**Rosimeire Padula** (Brazil)

## JOIN US

 On these platforms we will share practice, knowledge, new research about occupational health and ergonomics. [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

 [Read more](#) about how to become a member organisation.

## THE BENEFITS

- Speed up the growth of our profession
- Share information, ideas and resources easily
- Learning with and from each other
- Strengthen organisations
- Follow professional development including research, conferences and courses
- Standardise education and training



We support, develop and promote, the international practice of Physiotherapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics, in order to improve the health and wellbeing of the global workforce

Founded in Geneva in 2019  
[Subgroup World Physiotherapy](#)

Figure 1 IFPTOHE infographic 2020 - please download and use it in your practice. We thank The Netherlands (Association for occupational and work-related physical therapy) for developing this resource for use by IFPTOHE MOs and their members.

**Email:** [rose.boucaut@unisa.edu.au](mailto:rose.boucaut@unisa.edu.au) (president)  
[marisacoetzee@outlook.com](mailto:marisacoetzee@outlook.com)(secretary)

**Website:** <https://ifptohe.wixsite.com/ifptohe>





# International Federation of Physical Therapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics

## Objectives and achievements 2020

IFPTOHE objectives were shared with MO's in the newsletter of December 2019 as key features and function of the IFPTOHE subgroup:

### Development of [IFPTOHE website](#)



The IFPTOHE website provides information for our members and prospective members. The website serves as a repository for resources within the academic, clinical and research fields and aims to inform the public and practitioners of developments within the field of occupational health and ergonomics. The website went live early in 2020. Information about it was posted on LinkedIn and traffic to the website is encouraged with social media posts and a blog on the website.

### Development of IFPTOHE Logo

# IFPTOHE



A logo for the subgroup was developed. We invited every member organisation to send in their idea or a design of an appealing logo. MO's could even send in the logo of their national subgroup or another if this logo was a good example of what our IFPTOHE logo should look like.

The committee fulfilled this exciting process of choosing and designing the group logo in combination with the look and feel of the website This ensures an accurate representation of the subgroup in a modern society on all communication platforms.



# International Federation of Physical Therapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics

## Vision and Mission

Vision and Mission statements for IFPTOHE were developed based on WCPT/WP and Member Organisation objectives. Material on this was circulated in 2020 as part of the consultation process and published on IFPTOHE website and social media.

## Education and Research

General information on education is provided on the website, announced in newsletter April 4<sup>th</sup> 2020. Our ambition is to have an on-going dialogue with our colleagues all over the world, in order to increase our competence in the area of work and health. We will encourage this dialogue through our website, blog, social media and aim to share and/or launch webinars on PT in OHE.

## World Physiotherapy Congress 2021 (online)

The IFPTOHE committee is currently working alongside the WPC team to develop networking opportunities for our members. We have encouraged our peers to submit their abstracts for congress sessions. In 2021 a focused symposium is not arranged, we will aim to organize a focused symposium at WCP 2023 Japan.

## Summary of Activities Performed

Below is a list of activities performed by the IFPTOHE executive committee. It is structured around three topics: general, resources, and connecting with stakeholders.

### 1. **General**

- 11 Executive Committee Meetings have been held since May 2019
- Nine Newsletters were sent to Member Organisations (including February 2021)
- Providing and updating a Congress Agenda (newsletter & website)
- Social Media: generating traffic flow using LinkedIn and Facebook
- IFPTOHE Website launched
- IFPTOHE mission and vision reworked
- Guidance in education within the field of occupational health and ergonomics for Physical Therapists
- Keeping contact with our members eg via Newsletters and social media
- Keeping contact with World Physiotherapy (WP) and participating in WP subgroup-meetings
- Connecting with organisations interested in becoming MOs of IFPTOHE
- IFPTOHE welcomed their first Associate Member in 2020





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## 2. **Resources**

- IFPTOHE Logo developed
- IFPTOHE Infographic developed
- Website developed with resources on education, research, events, links
- Shared Covid-19 resources regarding Occupational Health and Safety (OHS)
- Shared resources about working from home and Return to work (RTW) after Covid-19

## 3. **Connecting with stakeholders**

- Lighten the load campaign, Europe, IFPTOHE application submitted (December 2020) to become a campaign partner in order to support MO's. (feedback expected February 2021)
- World Bank request for contacts in Africa (2020) – connected to Kenya PT with ergonomics experience
- Baltic Congress (December 2020) – IFPTOHE board collaboration with Estonia (MO), & Ireland (MO) in a joint webinar.

## Financial report

IFPTOHE currently works without fees from MOs. Therefore, currently there is no IFPTOHE financial report.

The Executive Committee is carefully considering the introduction of membership fees. Our considerations include: monies required for future activities, ground work that needs to be covered to prepare for fee-paying membership, how to administer fees eg fee structure, location of bank accounts, and currency to use.

We are slowly learning about how other WP subgroups manage their finances and the costs and benefits of this. It is fair to say that we are some way off having fees, so we welcome MO views on this topic.

## General Meeting

IFPTOHE General Meeting will be held virtual on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021, 10.00 am London (United Kingdom) time.



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## Future perspectives

Using the website as an information platform (ongoing)

Sharing information about global opportunities for future education, congresses, webinars etc

Sharing current and recent research via the website and social media platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn)

Welcome member of MO's to work together in projects of IFPTOHE

Members of the Executive Committee sharing information at various meetings

Starting low key activities to share with other occ health physios (such as free webinar sessions)

Joining with other WP subgroups to work together on resources and share knowledge

We would like to hear from you and your Member Organization (MO) so that we may share your activities with your fellow MOs! Please submit news and articles via social media (LinkedIn or Facebook) or direct to our secretary Marisa so she can share them more widely via IFPTOHE website.