



# International Federation of Physiotherapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics

December 2025

Dear Member Organisations,

We bring you the IFPOHE end of year Newsletter 2025, please share with your members.

## Achievements

*The committee has a new infographic to share understanding of who we are, our member organisations and the benefits of being a member of IFPOHE. Please display it at your workplace if you would like to do so.*

**26 MEMBERS ORGANIZATIONS**

**Africa:** Ghana, Kenya, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda  
**Asia West-Pacific:** Australia, Philippines, Japan, New Zealand and Indonesia  
**Europe:** Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, The Netherlands and United Kingdom  
**South America:** Perú, Colombia, Chile

**8 ELECTED BOARD MEMBERS**

**Rose Boucaut:** Australia - President  
**Yvonne van Zaanen:** The Netherlands - Vice president  
**Marisa Coetzee:** South Africa - Secretary  
**Vasiliki Sakellari:** Greece  
**Tracey Atkinson:** United Kingdom  
**Beatriz Sanz-Bustillo:** Spain  
**Shane Meys:** New Zealand  
**Claudia Rojas:** Colombia

**THE BENEFITS**

- Facilitate the growth of our profession
- Share information, ideas, and resources
- Learn with and from each other
- Strengthen organizations
- Follow professional development including research, conferences and courses
- Standardise education and training

**JOIN US**

International Federation of Physiotherapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics  
 <https://ifpoheworldphysiot.wixsite.com/ifpohe>

Together we support, develop and promote, the international practice of Physiotherapists working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics, in order to improve health and wellbeing of the global work force.

World Physiotherapy  
SPECIALTY GROUP  
Founded in Geneva 2019

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**Recent/Upcoming Events**



**Safe and healthy  
work in the digital age  
2023-2025**



**European Agency  
for Safety and Health  
at Work**



**The European Centre for Workers' Questions (EZA)** has rolled out a rich educational programme this autumn with a series of seminars dedicated to the impact of digitalisation on occupational safety and health (OSH). Organised in October and November by EZA's member organisations across Europe, the events address the challenges and opportunities posed by digital transformation for workers, employers, and social dialogue.

Topics include the implications of digitalisation and for the value of work and workers' rights, the role of the European Pillar of Social Rights in safeguarding OSH in the digital era, and discussions on AI in day-to-day work, its risks and opportunities.

Other seminars focus on the latest developments in digital work, including, monitoring systems, digital platforms, smart working, , as well as thought-provoking debates on the broader meaning of work in the digital age.

**Healthy Workplaces - Safe and healthy work in the digital age 2023-2025.**

**Editorial for the 1st Edition of the Special Issue "Posture, Balance, and Gait: Assessment Techniques and Rehabilitation Strategies" in the Journal of Functional Morphology and Kinesiology (JFMK).**

"Executive Committee Member Prof. Vasiliki Sakellari, together with Prof. George Giotfos, has published the Editorial for the 1st Edition of the Special Issue "Posture, Balance, and Gait: Assessment Techniques and Rehabilitation Strategies" in the Journal of Functional Morphology and Kinesiology (JFMK).

Editorial link: <https://www.mdpi.com/2411-5142/10/4/457>



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*We warmly thank the JFMK Editorial Team for their excellent collaboration, as well as the IFPOHE members and colleagues for their valuable contributions.*

*Following the success of this first edition, the 2nd Edition has now been launched and is open for submissions on innovative assessment methods, rehabilitation strategies, fall prevention, ergonomic interventions, and technology integration.*

*Call for Papers: [https://www.mdpi.com/journal/jfmk/special\\_issues/C731740M3W](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/jfmk/special_issues/C731740M3W) “*

### **Feedback**

The IFPOHE Executive committee held a strategic planning meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2025. The purpose was to reflect on IFPOHE's direction and priorities for the coming years and to revisit our Mission, Vision, and Values, strengthen our shared understanding, and plan practical next steps to guide IFPOHE's continued growth. Overall, the meeting was collaborative and constructive, with a clear focus on improving organisational clarity, strengthening committee processes, and ensuring the sustainability and relevance of activities moving forward.

We are very grateful to Dr Sjan-Mari van Niekerk (PhD, Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland) who structured, chaired and facilitated this meeting.

The next steps are:

- Proceed with forming a working group to refine the vision and mission, incorporating feedback from the meeting and examples from other organisations.
- Refine and rank the list of core values, ensuring they reflect both internal and external perspectives and address cultural diversity.
- Review and update task allocations, ensuring tasks are shared and support is available as needed.
- Continue regular feedback and engagement with member organisations to ensure activities remain relevant and valued.
- Schedule the next committee meeting before the end of the year to review progress and address outstanding actions.

We will keep you updated in the coming newsletters as this work progresses. If you have any suggestions, please let us know



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## Membership

Discussions are currently underway with the Argentine group which is interested in becoming an IFPOHE Member.

Brazil is no longer a member of World Physiotherapy thus they are no longer a Member Organisation of IFPOHE which has meant that in accordance with the IFPOHE Constitution our Executive Committee Member, Rosie Simprini Padula (Brazil), is no longer be able to be part of the Executive committee, however, she has very kindly agreed to still support the IFPOHE work.

We thank Rosie so much for her contribution on the committee and look forward to welcoming Brazil back at a future time.

## Notifications, Recent Events

Our Executive committee member Tracey Atkinson attended the UK ACPOHE (Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Occupational Health & Ergonomics) Annual Conference on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025. This year's theme, **"When Your Office Has No Ceiling,"** explored how we can thrive in evolving and often less-conventional work environments. It delved into how design, culture, and innovation intersect with health, empowering professionals to break boundaries and flourish wherever their "office" may be.

**Presenters included** expert speakers who explored a wide range of topics relevant to occupational health and performance in diverse workspaces:

- **Anna Tee** – *Appreciative Inquiry, an opportunity to challenge our assumptions (or the real AI!)*
- **Lina Chauhan and Darren Mackay** – *Influencing Work Culture from Physiotherapist Perspectives*
- **Sarah Upjohn** – *Occupational Health Physiotherapy for Musicians*

**There were interactive Workshops – Hands-on, Practical Learning to deepen practical skills**

- **From Field to Function: Effective Return-to-Work Planning for Outdoor Professionals** - Karli Gibson
- **Work Well, Live Well: An Intro to Ergonomics** -Paul Shawcross
- **From Data to Diagnosis: How AI Enhances Musculoskeletal Health** – Cardinus

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

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All of the sessions were extremely informative and also gave Tracey the opportunity to promote IFPOHE and the work that it does and provide networking opportunities to benefit the membership.



ACPOHE Executive Committee at the Study Day, September 2025, Cardiff, Wales, UK

This will be the last newsletter of 2025. We want to thank all IFPOHE Member Organisations for their continued support throughout 2025 and wish you all a happy holiday season and new year when it comes.

From the Executive Committee

Rose Boucaut (Australia, [rose.boucaut@unisa.edu.au](mailto:rose.boucaut@unisa.edu.au)), Yvonne van Zaanen (The Netherlands), Marisa Coetzee (South Africa, [marisacoetzee@outlook.com](mailto:marisacoetzee@outlook.com)), Vasiliki Sakellari (Greece), Beatriz Sanz-Bustillo (Spain), Tracey Atkinson (United Kingdom), Claudia Rojas Silva (Colombia), Shane Meys (New Zealand)