Dear Colleagues,

The executive committee (EC) of the International Organization of Physical Therapy in Mental Health (IOPTMH) is very pleased to send you a second newsletter. The IOPTMH is an official subgroup of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy (WCPT).

Every two years the IOPTMH organizes the International Conference of Physical Therapy in Psychiatry and Mental Health (ICPPMH). The next conference will be held in Utrecht (the Netherlands) with the theme: “Presence in the world of today” and organized by the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (NL) in cooperation with the IOPTMH. You will find more information soon on the conference website.

The EC has also had many contacts with our members throughout the year. Since our last conference in Edinburgh, the EC has been in touch with the different country members for financial support as the situation until now has been that the EC is entirely self-funded.

We are all aware of the challenging times we are living in, but we are nevertheless looking forward to the future with hope and confidence. The EC wish you a fruitful 2013.

Michel Probst, President
LivHelvikSkjaerven, Vice-president
**News from Italy**
Claudio Ciavatta, an Italian physiotherapist contacted the IOPTMH. He has written an article to promote physiotherapy in mental health. He wants to start a national network around a scientific and evidence-based practice in this field, through the Italian Association of Physiotherapists (Aifi, www.aifi.net) and their magazine "Fisioterapisti". [claudiociavatta@tiscali.it]

**News from Greece**
Prof. Stavros Stathopoulos PT, PhD, (General Hospital “O Evaggelismos”, Physical therapy department, Athens) contacted the IOPTMH to help him organize a physiotherapy conference related to mental health. The physiotherapy department of his hospital within the life-long learning procedures and under the aegis of the Pan-Hellenic Association of Physiotherapists (active member of W.C.P.T), is organising a conference in Athens on 25/5/2013 on “Specialized Physiotherapy intervention in psychiatric and mental health diseases”. This conference is a part of “Newest Horizons in the physiotherapy science.” [stavros.stathopoulos@yahoo.gr ; http://stavrosstathopoulos.weebly.com/index.html

**News from Poland**
The Polish association of Physiotherapy (PolskieTowarzystwoFizjoterapii) organised from 29-31 March 2012 an International Conference on “Life without Pain” in Zgorzelec. M. Probst and L. Skjaerven of the IOPTMH were invited to present a paper entitled, “Physiotherapy in Mental health care: a new opportunity for physiotherapists and Physiotherapy in Mental Health –Needs and visions from an Educational point of view, a global perspective”.

**News from Denmark**
Within the Danish physiotherapy conference (Fagfestival, 2012; 22-24 March 2012) in Odense J. Jensen and L.Lenike organized a symposium of physiotherapy in mental health (Udfordringer for fysioterapeuter I fremtidenspsykiatri, Challenges for physiotherapists in psychiatry of the future). The president of the IOPTMH attended the meeting and presented “The importance of research and documentation in Psychiatric Physiotherapy”

**News from Finland**
The Finnish association of physiotherapy organized a congress in Tampere in 2012 (17 & 18 April 2012). M. Patovirta organized a symposium “physiotherapy and mental health”. The body-mind association of Finland invited M. Probst to present two papers “Physiotherapy in Mental Health Care: a new opportunity for physiotherapists: Implications for clinical practice, education and research” and “Physiotherapy for patients with eating disorders”

**News from South Africa**
Christy Du Plessis and KatrienJordaan, two colleagues from South Africa (Bloemfontein) visited KU Leuven and the University Psychiatric Center, campus Kortenberg (Belgium) from 2 till 16 November. The topic of their visit was “Physiotherapy in mental health”. They followed courses, seminars, practical exercises, discussion and an introduction of Basic Body Awareness Therapy given by L. Skjaerven (12-13/11/2012).

**News from Norway**
A three day Consensus Seminar on the Theory of Basic Body Awareness Therapy (BBAT), will be organized in January 2013 by professor LH Skjaerven, Bergen University College, The seminar is aimed at teachers and candidates in the International Association for Teachers in BBAT.
The 4th International Conference

The Conference took place from the 8th-10th of February 2012 with 130 participants from 19 countries and 5 continents. The programme was made up of 80 abstracts and all the speakers were selected from these to present their work. The aim is to encourage and stimulate an international and scientific agenda within mental health physiotherapy.

The conference offered a full programme and aimed to make use of the event to demonstrate a range of specialities and interests. The participants were able to choose from sessions on research, clinical projects, organization, and physiotherapist’s role in teams, movement experience and a book stall.

The Conference was supported by NHS Lothian. Contact was made with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, the Chartered Physiotherapists in Mental Healthcare and the World Confederation of Physical Therapists to encourage their support. The Scottish Government through the AHP Advisor on Mental Health gave financial support for the conference.

The abstract book is available on www.icppmh.org

“Meet colleague from all over the world to exchange experience and thoughts about our field.”

“Promoting Quality of Movement – The Contribution of Physiotherapy to Mental Health and Wellbeing”
**REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 2012**

On the 9th of February, the 2nd general meeting of the IOPTMH took place, in Edinburgh. At this meeting, the EC presented the strategic plan for the further development of the organization and proposed the budget for 2012-2014. The main areas for the strategic plan are clinical practice, research and education and public relations. The strategic plan and the proposed budget were approved by the members of the general meeting (Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Norway, The Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, South Africa).

The minutes and the presentation will be published soon on [http://icppmh.org/](http://icppmh.org/)

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**PhD in the field of physical therapy and mental health: Congratulations Davy and Tove!**

**News from Belgium**


**News from Norway**

On the 26th of April 2012 at the University of Bergen (Norway), Tove Dragesund defended her doctoral thesis “Development of a Self-report Questionnaire in the Context of Norwegian Psychomotor Physiotherapy (NPMP)”.

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**The Executive committee of the IOPTMH**

- **President:** Prof. dr. Michel Probst, KU Leuven, Belgium
- **Vice President:** Ass.Prof. Liv Helvik Skjaerven, Bergen University College, Norway
- **Treasurer:** Superintendent physiotherapist Anne Parker Edinburgh, UK
- **Secretary:** to be announced
- **Member:** Ass. Prof. dr. Amanda Lundvik Gyllensten, Lund University, Sweden

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Information for the newsletter can be sent to info@icppmh.org