

## Over 60 years of WCPT and Vision for the Future

### 1 Current situation and future vision of WCPT

Vice President of WCPT Emma Stokes

The vision of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy is 'to move physiotherapy forward so the profession is recognised globally for its significant role in improving health and wellbeing'. Emma Stokes is the Vice-President of WCPT and an Irish physiotherapist with a home in Denmark. She has participated in the global physiotherapy community since the late 1990s. In this lecture she will share her thoughts and experiences of being part of WCPT and the changes that she has seen in the time she has

been involved in the global physiotherapy community.

She will explore several aspects of how WCPT's vision for the future will develop and the key factors that will shape its vision and how it moves forward including the power of social media in making international connections, the influence of culture on health and the challenge to stay coherent and powerful in an increasingly diverse world of physiotherapy.

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### 2 The priority issues for WCPT

Secretary General of WCPT Brenda Myers

Since its founding in 1951 by 11 national physical therapy organisations, WCPT has grown to 106 member organisations representing over 350,000 physical therapists around the world. Physical therapy is now a truly global profession and is increasingly recognised for having a positive impact on the health of people.

This session will explore the challenges and opportunities facing WCPT as a result of increased recognition of the profession

and the Confederation's growing size and profile as it strives to be a cohesive force to unite, support and represent the profession internationally, WCPT has priority issues to address: variations in the needs and expectations of member organisations; changing expectations of individual physical therapists; and how to fully utilise the experience and expertise that exists across member organisations.

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### 3 AWP progress, future challenges and opportunities

President of Australian Physiotherapy Association Marcus Dripps

Marcus will discuss the progress of the physiotherapy profession across the Asia West Pacific region over the last 50 years. He will explore the challenges and opportunities for the future. Issues around standards of practice, regulation, career pathway

and professional development will be explored. In particular the role of membership organisations and the AWP regional group in supporting the development of professionals will be discussed.