

THE IOPTP NEWSLETTER

THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS IN PAEDIATRICS

IOPTP PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KAREN HURTUBISE

Wow - How time flies! It is hard to believe that the World Physiotherapy Congress 2023 in Dubai was already a year ago! While we have strived in our first year of the new IOPTP Executive Committee and Board to keep the presidents of our 35-member organisations (and counting!) updated on these activities, we are hoping that this newsletter may not only reach them, but also the members of our member organisations- i.e., the physiotherapy students interested in paediatrics, paediatric PTs working diligently with children and families to improve outcomes and well-being, and paediatric PT researchers identifying new mechanisms to target in treatment, developing new measurement options to better capture the differences physiotherapy can make in children and families lives, and those designing, trialling and evaluating novel interventions aimed at further enhancing access to PT services around the world and the capacities, capabilities, performance and, quality of life of the children and families we serve.

As part of my Message for this Newsletter, I am pleased to share with you the activities IOPTP has been involved in, and since Dubai and in preparation for World Congress 2025 in Tokyo. Further information on some of these initiatives are contained in this edition of the Newsletter, prepared by the Communication Committee Chair, Cherie Zischke (Thank you, Cherie!).

WORLD CONGRESS

General Meeting: As you will note in the first pages of the Newsletter, we said goodbye to members of the Executive Committee and welcomed others at the Dubai General Meeting. At World Congress 2023, Dr. Sheree York (USA) completed her term as IOPTP President. Sheree was the last of the original IOPTP officers to serve on the Executive Committee of the IOPTP. Moreover, Sheree was elected as the first Secretary of the IOPTP, when IOPTP was accepted as a speciality group at the World Congress in Vancouver, Canada in 2007, and served on the Executive Committee for 16 years, in the roles of secretary and president.



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For her dedication and years of service to the IOPTP, I had the privilege and honour of presenting Sheree with IOPTP's Dr. Barbara Connolly Service Award at the General Meeting.

While we said farewell to Sheree, we also welcomed Dr. Li Chiou-Chen (Taiwan) to the Executive Committee, as Member-at-Large. To meet and learn more about Dr. Chiou-Chen, please see her profile on page 8 . We also welcomed new members to the IOPTP Board, Dr. Kirstin Macdonald (Australia), Co-Chair, of the Research Committee (with Dr. Kine Johanson) and Dr. Carissa Wengrovius (USA) Chair of, Programming Committee. Our Committee Chairs – new and seasoned – will be profiled in a future issue of the Newsletter. Welcome to the new members of the Executive Committee and the Board and thank you for your commitment to paediatric physiotherapy.

Networking Session: In addition to the extensive paediatric Congress programming and the more formal meetings (e.g., General Meeting), a networking session was also held in Dubai. These sessions are typically held during every World Physiotherapy Congress as one way of fulfilling our objectives of advancing practice by communication and exchange of information and of fostering cooperation between physical therapists practising in paediatrics throughout the world. The IOPTP Board (i.e., executive members and committee chairs) also use these sessions to connect with and get feedback from members, and paediatric PT's around the world on topics and issues IOPTP have been focused on the years leading up to the Congress, and to gain input and insights from an international audience on challenges facing the profession around the world. The topics for the 2023 Networking Session included: 1) Issues in Education – Entry-level Curricula vs. Specialisation for Paediatric PT; 2) Issues in Research (Ethics; Funding & Mentorship); 3) School-based Physiotherapy; 4) PT for Infants Born Prematurely; 5) Spinal Manipulation and Mobilisation Guidelines for Infants, Children, and Adolescents. In addition to sharing their different and varied global experience on these topics, attendees were asked to identify resource requirements, webinar topics, and existing websites. The information collected has and will continue to guide the IOPTP activities and initiatives. Please note that preparation for a Networking Session for World Congress 2025 in Tokyo (May 29-31) is already underway. Keep a look out for the networking session in the program (see [World Congress 2025](#) for more information) and if you have topic suggestions, please feel free to share them with us (at president@ioptp.org).

WEBINAR SERIES 2023-2024

Started in 2022 in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and as means of investing in our objective of encouraging improved standards and consistency of practice in paediatric care by physiotherapists, IOPTP offered 3 webinars during 2023 and collaborated with the African Region at the request of World Physiotherapy to offer a fourth to paediatric physiotherapists or those treating this population in this region. In total, these webinars attracted 615 registrants from around the world (for details on the topics, please see the heading Webinar Series in the Newsletter).

The information collected during the Dubai Networking Session has informed the topic selection and prioritisation for the 2024 IOPTP webinar series. Details for Webinar 9-Advanced Practice Physiotherapy in Paediatric Orthopaedics have recently been announced (save October 9th, 2024 in your calendars!). Please see our social media networks for registration information and speaker profiles.

Special thanks to the Webinar Committee Chair (Dr. Barbara Connolly), as well as its members (Dr. Nikki Milne (IOPTP Secretary), Dr. Donna Cech (Co-Chair Education Committee), Dr. Kine Johanson (Co-chair Research Committee); Dr. Durga Shah (Co-Chair Practice Committee), Dale Scalise-Smith (Past-Chair Programming Committee and Vice-President IOPTP); Cherie Zischke (Chair Communication Committee), for ensuring access to such high-quality speakers and content. Also, our gratitude is extended to those who accepted to present and share your expertise with the global paediatric physiotherapy community.

To continue to offer accessible high-quality professional education, investments into the software infrastructure required to ensure sustainability are being investigated. Recently, the Education Committee also distributed a member survey to explore (among other things) if any changes are needed to the current webinar structure and format. Results are still being collected and analysed; we hope to share the results in the next newsletter issue. In the meantime, please follow us on our social media networks to stay up to date on our webinar offers or see our YouTube channel for recordings of previous presentations (see details in the newsletter).

Release of Spinal Manipulation and Mobilisation Position Statement

As highlighted in the Networking session and showcased later in this Newsletter, the IOPTP and the International Federation of Manipulative Therapists (IFOMPT) released a joint evidence-based position statement on spinal mobilisation and manipulation in infants, children, and adolescents. This statement comes after years of tireless work by an international taskforce that reviewed and synthesised the research and consulted and debated with experts in the field. A sample of the available materials are provided in the Newsletter. For more resources, please consult the IOPTP website (see IOPTP website: <https://www.ioptp.org>). Special kudos go out to Dr. Nikki Milne (IOPTP secretary), who represented IOPTP and the other taskforce members for their important contribution to the field of paediatric physiotherapy and for the guidance provided in this statement to ensure our vulnerable population is protected from risks and harms. We invite you to consult the array of publications associated with this initiative to appreciate the extensive and exemplary efforts that went into developing the evidence foundation for this statement. This is another example of IOPTPs commitment to improved standards and consistency of practice in paediatric care by physiotherapists.

Condition Specific Practice Resources and Guidelines – Coming Soon!

The Practice Committee has collected practice guidelines (in various languages) related to common conditions assessed and treated by paediatric physiotherapists (e.g., torticollis, cerebral palsy, brachial plexus injuries, Duchenne's muscular dystrophy, cystic fibrosis) from our member organisations and created a synthesis of the guidelines with e-links to each of them. This multi-year project is in its final review phase and will soon be shared via our website. This is yet one more way IOPTP is striving to meet its objective of improving standards and consistency of practice in paediatric care by physiotherapists. We would like to acknowledge the work of Dr. Durga Shah, Co-chair, Practice Committee in leading this initiative.



IOPTP RESEARCH GRANT

Again, this year, the IOPTP invited submissions for its Research Award. Led by the Chairs of the IOPTP Research Committee (Dr. Kine Johanson and Dr. Kirsty Macdonald), this initiative is one way IOPTP is investing in our objective of encouraging scientific research and promoting opportunities for the spread of knowledge of new developments in the field of paediatrics. IOPTP is dedicated to the goal of improving the quality and delivery of services to children and their families; providing support to paediatric physiotherapists early in their research careers is one way IOPTP invests in the achievement of this goal. This year a record number of submissions were received and reviewed. New to the process this year, each applicant was offered written reviewer feedback on the submissions. We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to the members of the Research Committee for reviewing the submission and for providing detailed, supportive and constructive feedback to the applicants.

Two \$7,000 USD awards were granted. Please join me in extending sincere congratulations to Eliza Collier, Australia for her study titled Constraint Induced Movement Therapy for the lower extremity for children with unilateral cerebral palsy - a pilot study protocol (CIMT-Leg) and to Caitriona O'Shaughnessy, Ireland, for her study titled A "Motor Learning Based Intervention for Lower Extremities (MOBILE)" to target walking performance in ambulant children with Cerebral Palsy: A Feasibility Study. We hope to be able to share with you the study abstracts, as well as the study progress and findings via future Newsletter issues, and through our social media channels.

STRATEGIC PLANNING AND UPCOMING MEMBER NEEDS SURVEY

In addition to being involved in the variety of initiatives mentioned above, the Executive Committee has been involved in developing the next strategic plan. To date, the information from the IOPTP Committees has been collected (e.g., activities that were completed, those that are ongoing, and new initiatives). The Executive Committee met on June 19, and on July 30, 2024. While previous strategic plans were reviewed, the Executive Committee also engaged in a TRIZ, part of the Liberating Structures suite of activities (<https://www.liberatingstructures.com/home/>). Consequently, the Executive Committee has developed and approved a Member Needs Survey during our meeting on the August 20th, 2024. The survey will be distributed (via email) shortly. Your participation in completing the survey would be greatly appreciated – it is the only way we can include your feedback and input into the next Strategic Plan, and better meet your organisational needs and those of your members in the years ahead.



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In a quest to keep you informed and to improve communication with our member organisations, share further details about these and other initiatives, answer questions, and vet new organisations wishing to join IOPTP, we would like to schedule a virtual General IOPTP Membership Meeting. Please mark your calendars for October 29th, 2024. A meeting invite and link will follow in the upcoming weeks.

Call for Committee Volunteers: Throughout this column, you have been introduced to various IOPTP initiatives. Please note that all these activities are completed by dedicated volunteers – IOPTP has no paid staff. While our Board (Committee Chairs and Executive Members) have any activities we would like to move forward, we are limited by the number of volunteers we have at our disposal.

Currently, most committees are seeking volunteers, interested and willing to engage in global initiatives through our various committees. For example, our Communication Committee needs a Newsletter Editor, and Social Media Manager to expand our content and presence on these platforms. Our dream would be to have representatives from each of our member countries on each of the IOPTP committees! If you want to join one of these dynamic groups, or know someone, and are a member of an IOPTP member organisation (see list on our website: <https://www.ioptp.org>), please contact me (president@ioptp.org).

Take care, be kind, and stay safe.
Sincerely,



Karen Hurtubise, PT, PhD
President, IOPTP
Email: president@ioptp.org



THE NEW IOPTP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



IOPTP President
Karen Hurtubise
Email: president@ioptp.org

I am a paediatric physiotherapist, health services manager, clinical researcher and post-doctoral fellow at the CanChild Centre for Childhood Disability Research, McMaster University, Canada. I have over 30-years of experience as a paediatric clinician. I have worked across the childhood lifespan, from premature infants in the NICU, to transitioning young people into adult services and the community. My work has focused on children and youth with chronic conditions, including those with neurodiversity (cerebral palsy, autism spectrum disorder), young people with pain-related disability and those with childhood cancer. I have also worked in many settings including highly specialised paediatric healthcare facilities, child development and paediatric rehabilitation centers, and community-based services (e.g., pre-school, schools).

As a manager, I oversaw the operations of a large paediatric medical diagnostic and rehabilitation intervention portfolio in a regional paediatric healthcare facility. In this role, I led numerous quality improvement and re-design initiatives targeting multiple paediatric rehabilitation services and diagnostic clinics with the aim of improving timely access to care for children and their families. Furthermore, I had the privilege of co-authoring a business case proposal to expand rehabilitation services and, thanks to a large philanthropic donation, had the opportunity to lead the implementation and evaluation of some of the approved services (e.g., an integrated paediatric chronic pain clinic and intensive interdisciplinary pain treatment program, a transition clinic for youth with chronic conditions to adult services, a life skills community summer program).

My research has built on these experiences. Moreover, my interests have focused on the development, implementation and evaluation of health and rehabilitation services. My research aims to better understand the experiences of children, young people, and caregivers with services in the healthcare setting, and engaging them, and other partners (e.g., teachers) in health service (re)design and improvement. To do so, I have experimented with a variety of innovative participatory, qualitative, and mixed-method research approaches. As a result of this work, I have become interested in exploring the role, use (and non-use), drivers, implementation, and outcomes of novel service delivery models (e.g., digital care) and co-designing services with partners and those with lived experience to improve access to services for children and families to meet their needs in a timely fashion. I have been involved in the development and delivery of rehabilitation curricula (e.g., paediatrics, program development, quality improvement, and program evaluation) for multiple graduate programs across Canada and have negotiated, designed, implemented and evaluated emerging role rehabilitation (e.g., physiotherapy, occupational therapy) student placements (e.g., primary care medical clinics, community organisations).

I served 8 years on the Executive Committee and Board of the IOPTP, fulfilling the role of secretary and vice-president prior to being elected President in 2023. In addition, I am a long-serving member of the Child Healthcare Canada Scientific Committee, belong to the Canadian Physiotherapy Association Past-President's Council, and recently served on the Board and chaired the Programming Committee of a local not-for-profit therapeutic riding and equine-wellness program for children and young people with physical, cognitive, emotional, and social challenges.

In my spare time, I enjoy running and hiking, cooking, travelling with my husband, Karl, and spending time with our 4.5-year-old grandson, who teaches me everyday valuable lessons on how to see, perceive and interact with the world differently.



**IOPTP Vice President
Dale**
Email: vicepresident@ioptp.org

Dale Scalise-Smith, PT, DPT, PhD, is an experienced academic leader with a demonstrated history of working in the higher education industry for more than 30 years. She holds emeritus status as Professor, Dean and Vice President for the School of Online and Extended Studies at Utica University (Utica, NY). Dr. Scalise-Smith earned her PhD at the University of North Carolina in Interdisciplinary Infant Studies with a cognate in developmental motor control. Her research is focused on early intervention for children with disabilities, as well as family adaptation and community engagement.

Dr. Scalise-Smith serves as the Vice President for the International Organisation of Physiotherapists in Paediatrics (IOPTP), a subgroup of World Physiotherapy. Dr. Scalise-Smith led faculty, clinicians and students on five humanitarian trips to Albania and Romania. Providing therapeutic services to children and adults, educating ministry level officials about physical therapy services for citizens with neuromuscular impairments, dysfunction and disabilities. Dr. Scalise-Smith was invited as academic consultant to institutions Trinidad-Tobago and Egypt. She conducted feasibility studies focused on developing entry-level physical therapy programs (DPT) at the respective institutions, with recommendations to university leadership on the internal and external regulatory requirements necessary.

Recent publications:

Scalise-Smith, D. (2021). Normal movement development across the lifespan. In R. T. Lazaro & D. A. Umphred (Eds.), *Umphred's Neurorehabilitation for the Physical Therapist Assistant* (3rd ed., pp. 37-60). Slack.

Scalise-Smith, D. L., & Umphred, D. A. (in press). Movement analysis across the lifespan. In R. T. Lazaro, S. G. Reina-Guerra, & M. U. Quiben (Eds.), *Movement Analysis Across the Lifespan* (8th ed.). Elsevier.



**IOPTP Secretary
Nikki Milne**
Email: secretary@ioptp.org

Dr Nikki Milne (PhD) is a paediatric physiotherapist and Associate Professor at Bond University, Australia. Nikki is the newly appointed Secretary of the International Organisation of Physiotherapists in Paediatrics (IOPTP) after completing a four year term as the IOPTP Member at Large. As the international paediatric representative to the Paediatric Spinal Taskforce, Nikki has recently published an informative scoping review exploring the effectiveness of spinal manipulation and mobilisation with paediatric populations which can be found at: <https://bmcpediatr.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12887-022-03781-6>.

Her research demonstrates the lack of evidence for utilising spinal manipulation and mobilisation in paediatric populations. Associate Professor Milne is also leading an international research project on Paediatric Physiotherapy Curriculum in Entry-Level Physiotherapy Programs. She is currently analysing the 4th Round of the Delphi Survey and is aiming to have the project report published for use by the profession in 2025. Nikki has also been highly engaged with the IOPTP webinar series offered in 2022/23 and looks forward to supporting the IOPTP members during her term as Secretary.

Recent publications:

Milne, N., Longeri, L., Patel, A. et al. Spinal manipulation and mobilisation in the treatment of infants, children, and adolescents: a systematic scoping review. *BMC Pediatr* 22, 721 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12887-022-03781-6>

Gross, A. R., Olson, K. A., Pool, J., Basson, A., Clewley, D., Dice, J. L., & Milne, N. (2024). Spinal manipulation and mobilisation in paediatrics – an international evidence-based position statement for physiotherapists. *Journal of Manual & Manipulative Therapy*, 32(3), 211-233. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10669817.2024.2332026>

Dice JL, Brismée JM, Froment FP, Henricksen J, Sherwin R, Pool J, Milne N, Clewley D, Basson A, Olson KA, Gross AR. Spinal manipulation and mobilisation among infants, children, and adolescents: an international Delphi survey of expert physiotherapists. *Journal of Manual & Manipulative Therapy*. 2024 Mar 15:1-1.



**IOPTP Treasurer
Barbara Connolly**

As the founding president of the IOPTP, I am happy now to serve our organisation in a different role, that of Treasurer for the next 4 years. It is thrilling to see how we have grown since the IOPTP was approved as a subgroup in 2007. I was President of the IOPTP from its inception in 2007 until 2015 and most recently was the IOPTP secretary. I have been a physical therapist for over 50 years and have had the opportunity to serve at the national and international level in many different ways. I love our profession and embrace the challenge that each of these opportunities have presented! I received my BS degree in physical therapy from the University of Florida; a DPT degree from the University of Tennessee; a M,Ed. degree in special education with a minor in speech pathology and an EdD in curriculum and instruction from the University of Memphis. I am a Professor Emeritus at the University of Tennessee Health Sciences Center where I served as Chair of the Physical Therapy Department for 24 years and Dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences for the 2 years before I retired. Altogether, I was a faculty member for 37 years and had the dream job which entailed teaching, research and clinical practice. I was a Trustee for the Foundation for Physical Therapy, a foundation dedicated to funding physical therapy research for 9 years and served as President of the Foundation from January 2015 - December 2016. In the American Physical Therapy Association, I was on the APTA Board of Directors, on the initial APTA Pediatric Speciality Council, and the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialists. Additionally, I was President of the Section on Paediatrics of the APTA from 2002 - 2006.

In my role as an educator and researcher, I have authored more than 32 publications in peer reviewed journals, have written 21 book chapters and have co-authored or edited eight textbooks for physiotherapists. The 4th Edition of my textbook, *Therapeutic Exercise in the Development Disabilities* was published in January 2020.

Clinically, I am certified in NDT and in SI. Even in my retirement from academic, I continue to provide professional development courses both nationally and internationally.

Personally, I love to walk on the beach, see new places and meet new friends. I enjoy travel and in particular to visit my two grandchildren (ages 9-months and 3-years). What I am now learning about paediatrics is amazing! I look forward to the next 4 years of serving the IOPTP and meeting many of you through our webinars and at WPT meetings.



**IOPTP Member at Large
Li-Chiou Chen**

My name is Li-Chiou Chen and I am a faculty member in the Department of Physical Therapy at Fooyin University in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. I teach paediatric physiotherapy courses and undertake research on physical activity and motor development in children with and without special needs. Before working in academics, I had worked in hospitals as a paediatric physiotherapist for more than 10 years. As a clinician and researcher, I am passionate about how to maximise health and well-being of children with special needs. As a teacher, I am enthusiastic in ensuring that entry-level PT graduates have the knowledge, skills and passion to work with children and families.

I am grateful to serve as the member at large for the IOPTP. With the new role, I look forward to reaching out to member organisations and to making connections among paediatric physiotherapists around the world.



RESEARCH UPDATES FROM THE IOPTP

PAEDIATRIC MANIPULATION & MOBILISATION EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE POSITION STATEMENT

IOPTP AND IFOMPT

In May 2024, the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists (IFOMPT) and the International Organisation of Physiotherapy in Paediatrics (IOPTP) developed and released an evidence-based position statement outlining the benefits and harms of utilising spinal manipulation and mobilisation techniques for the treatment of infants, children and adolescents. Resources developed during this project are now available on our website: <https://www.ioptp.org/> and these will soon be released in a variety of additional languages

A paper entitled *Spinal manipulation and mobilisation in paediatrics – an international evidence-based position statement for physiotherapists* was published in June, 2024, in the *Journal of Manual & Manipulative Therapy*.

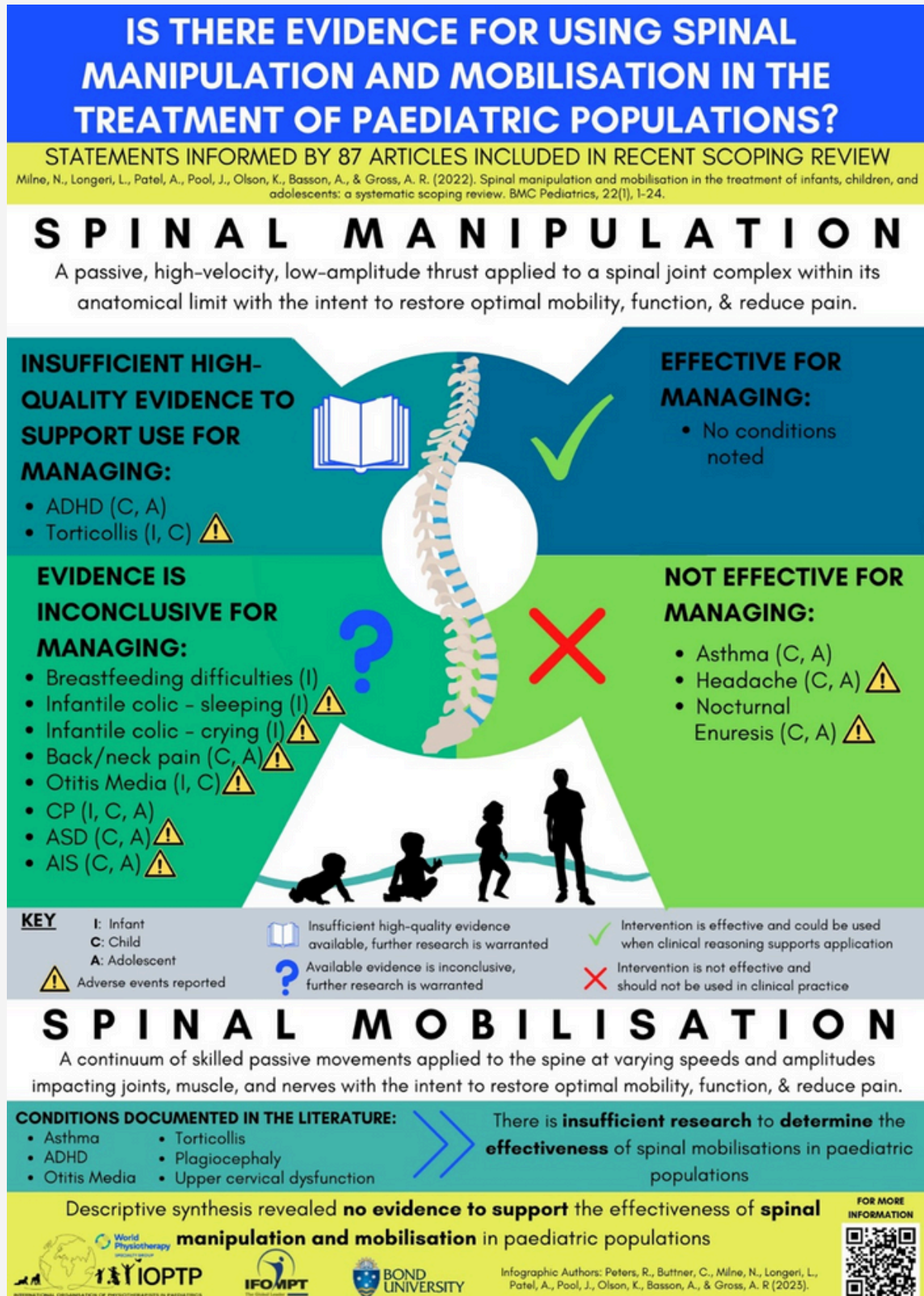
Citation: Gross, A. R., Olson, K. A., Pool, J., Basson, A., Clewley, D., Dice, J. L., & Milne, N. (2024). Spinal manipulation and mobilisation in paediatrics – an international evidence-based position statement for physiotherapists. *Journal of Manual & Manipulative Therapy*, 32(3), 211–233.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10669817.2024.2332026>



PAEDIATRIC MANIPULATION & MOBILISATION EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE POSITION STATEMENT

The following infographics shared below have been taken from the position statement.



PAEDIATRIC MANIPULATION & MOBILISATION EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE POSITION STATEMENT

PSYCHOMETRIC PROPERTIES OF CLINICAL OUTCOME ASSESSMENTS USED TO EXAMINE EFFECTIVENESS OF SPINAL MOBILISATION AND MANIPULATION FOR PAEDIATRIC POPULATIONS

STATEMENTS INFORMED BY 18 ARTICLES INCLUDED IN 2 RECENT SYSTEMATIC REVIEWS

MANIPULATION

A passive, high-velocity, low-amplitude thrust applied to a spinal joint complex within its anatomical limit with the intent to restore optimal mobility, function, & reduce pain.



MOBILISATION

A continuum of skilled passive movements applied to the spine at varying speeds and amplitudes impacting joints, muscle, and nerves with the intent to restore optimal mobility, function, & reduce pain.

PARENT- AND OBSERVER- REPORTED OUTCOMES

- Pediatric Asthma Quality of Life Questionnaire (PAQLQ)
- Paediatric Quality of life Inventory (PedsQL)
- Autism Treatment Evaluation Checklist (ATEC)
- Crying Diaries
- Scoliosis Quality of Life Index (SQLI)
- Visual Analog Scale - exertion (VAS-exertion)



CLINICIAN-REPORTED AND PERFORMANCE OUTCOMES

- Postural assessment
- Cobb angle
- LATCH (Latch, Audible swallowing, Type nipple, Comfort, Hold)
- Alberta Infant Motor Scale (AIMS)

QUALITY

OF CLINICAL OUTCOME ASSESSMENTS

Evaluation of evidence for all COAs was performed by using the GRADE (Grading of Recommendations, Assessment, Development and Evaluations) system. This classified the evidence of each COA into four levels of certainty, which were "High", "Moderate", "Low", and "Very Low"

HIGH

Alberta Infant Motor Scale (+)



LOW

Cobb Angle (?)



MODERATE

ATEC (+)

LATCH (+)

PedsQL (+)

PAQLQ (?)



VERY LOW

SQLI (?)

Crying Diaries (?)

VAS-exertion (?)

Postural Assessment (?)



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
on 1st review



KEY

Outcome Ratings: (+) sufficient, (?) indeterminant

Infant



Child



Adolescent



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
on 2nd review



Infographic Authors: Peters, R., Buttner, C., Milne N., Gross, A., Hayton, T., Basson, A., Olson, K., Ang, O., Pool, J. (2023).

PAEDIATRIC MANIPULATION & MOBILISATION EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE POSITION STATEMENT



PHYSIOTHERAPY EXPERT OPINION: SPINAL MANIPULATION AND MOBILISATION FOR PAEDIATRIC POPULATIONS

International Expert Survey Aim
A Delphi survey was conducted to build consensus between expert international PTs on spinal mobilisation & manipulation for infants, children, and adolescents.

Manipulative Therapy
Safety concerns and limited scientific evidence require expert opinion on the use of manipulation or mobilisation for spinal conditions in paediatric populations.

Infants
Experts agreed that manipulation or mobilisation is not recommended for infants across all conditions, impairments, and spinal levels.

Children
Experts agreed manipulation is not recommended for children to treat most conditions and spinal levels. Mobilisation may be recommended for pain / stiffness.

Adolescents
Experts agree manipulation and mobilisation may be recommended for adolescents to treat spinal region-specific joint hypomobility and pain.

Non-Musculoskeletal Conditions
Experts agree that manipulation and mobilisation is not recommended to treat most non-musculoskeletal conditions - asthma, congenital abnormalities, colic, breast feeding, cerebral palsy, etc.

**EXPERT
PHYSIOTHERAPY
OPINION**
on spinal manipulation
& mobilisation for
paediatric populations

Contact us
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World Physiotherapy
IOPTP
INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS IN PAEDIATRICS

Infographic Authors:
Gross AR, Olson K, Dice J, Brismee JM, Fromer Milne N, Pool J, Basson A, Clewley D. (2024).

Reference: Milne, Nikki; Gross, Anita R.; Olson, Kenneth; Dice, Jenifer; Brismee, JM; Froment, FP; et al. (2024). Paediatric Spinal Manipulation Taskforce_10. Infographic_Delphi_FINAL. figshare. Media. <https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.26038831>

PAEDIATRIC MANIPULATION & MOBILISATION EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE POSITION STATEMENT

World Physiotherapy Specialty Group Position Statement- May 2024

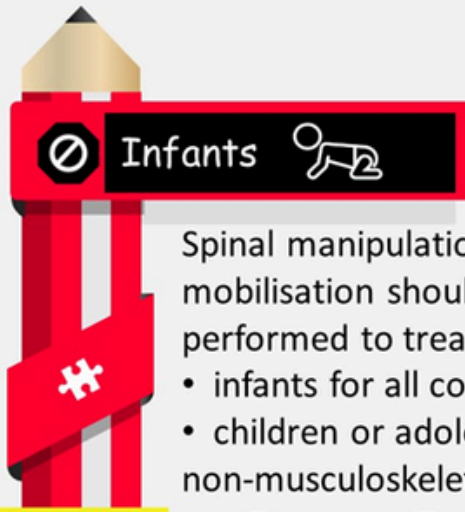
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1 in 4
Mild Harm

Severe Harm Unclear

There is a risk of severe harm in infants, children, and adolescents – risk rates are unclear



Spinal manipulation & mobilisation should **not** be performed to treat

- infants for all conditions; or
- children or adolescents for non-musculoskeletal conditions.

Physiotherapy Position Statement: Paediatric Spinal Manipulation & Mobilisation



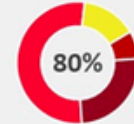
100%

Infants manipulation mobilisation



100%

Infants All conditions Musculoskeletal & Non-musculoskeletal i.e., asthma, ADHD, Autism, breast feeding, cerebral palsy, colic, enuresis, otitis medius



80%

Children & Adolescents All non-musculoskeletal conditions Some Musculoskeletal conditions i.e., torticollis, scoliosis neck & back pain headache



Spinal mobilisation or thoracic manipulation may be appropriate to treat spinal musculoskeletal conditions in children.

Neck & low back manipulation should **not** be performed to treat children



No evidence of high certainty is available to recommend manipulation or mobilisation in paediatric populations. Further research is needed.

Spinal manipulation and mobilisation may be appropriate to treat spinal musculoskeletal conditions in adolescents.

Not appropriate (Red) Maybe appropriate with sound clinical reasoning (Yellow) Yes, is appropriate (Green)

Sources of Information



www.ifompt.org
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Infographic Authors:
Gross AR, Olsen K, Milne N, Pool J, Clewley D, Basson A, Dice J, Brismee JM. 2024

PAEDIATRIC MANIPULATION & MOBILISATION EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE POSITION STATEMENT

World Physiotherapy Specialty Group Position Statement-May 2024 Page 2 of 2

Spinal Manipulation or Mobilisation for various CONDITIONS in paediatrics

Meter Reading:  Not Appropriate  May be Appropriate  Recommended

Non-Musculoskeletal Condition MANIPULATION or MOBILISATION	Infant	Child	Adolescent
Asthma	●	●	●
ADHD	●	●	●
Autism	●	●	●
Breastfeeding	●	●	●
Cerebral palsy	●	●	●
Infantile colic	●	●	●
Nocturnal enuresis	●	●	●
Otitis media	●	●	●
Musculoskeletal Condition MANIPULATION	Infant	Child	Adolescent
Scoliosis	●	●	●
Neck and back pain	●	●	●
Torticollis	●	●	NA
Headache	●	●	●
Upper Cervical Including KISS	●	NA	NA
Plagiocephaly	●	NA	NA
Musculoskeletal Condition MOBILISATION	Infant	Child	Adolescent
Scoliosis	●	●	●
Neck and back pain	●	●	●
Torticollis	●	●	NA
Headache	●	●	●
Upper Cervical Including KISS	●	NA	NA
Plagiocephaly	●	NA	NA

Sources of Information



www.ifompt.org
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Infographic Authors:

Gross AR, Olsen K,
Milne N, Pool J, Clewley
D, Basson A, Dice J,
Brismee JM. 2024

WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY CONGRESS 2023

UPDATE

The World Physiotherapy Congress 2023 took place in Dubai from 2nd - 4th June 2023.

Representatives and members of the IOPTP attended from all over the world, including:

- Israel
- United Arab Emirates
- United States of America
- Australia
- Canada
- Guatemala
- United Kingdom
- Latvia
- Korea
- Italy
- Philippines
- Japan
- Taiwan



Many events were organised throughout the Congress to bring our members together and discuss current paediatric physiotherapy practice

- Discussion Session: Paediatrics – Early Intervention
- IOPTP General Meeting
- IOPTP booth
- Focused symposium
 - Paediatric Physiotherapy: Promoting Health Literacy, Physical Activity, and Participation
- Paediatric Networking Session
- Paediatric Podium Presentations



IMAGES FROM THE WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY CONGRESS 2023



IOPTP New Executive Committee



IMAGES FROM THE WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY CONGRESS 2023



WORLD PHYSIOTHERAPY CONGRESS 2025

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

The World Physiotherapy Congress 2025 will take place in Tokyo from 29th - 31st May 2025. The World Physiotherapy Congress is a fabulous platform to share your research with the world!

World Physiotherapy is currently calling for abstract submissions.

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: 3rd October

For further information about the submission guidelines, or to submit your abstract, please head to the World Physiotherapy 2025 Tokyo website: <https://wp2025.world.physio/#>



29-31
May
2025

World
Physiotherapy
Congress 2025
TOKYO | 東京

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
SUBMISSIONS OPEN: 20 JUNE
DEADLINE: 3 OCTOBER

UPCOMING EVENTS

EARLY CHILDHOOD VOICES CONFERENCE 2024

The Early Childhood Voices Conference 2024 (ECV2024) is a multidisciplinary international conference providing a platform to share research about innovative methods, theories and partnerships with children, families and practitioners that supports social justice during early childhood and within the early childhood sector.

ECV2024 is organised by the Charles Sturt University Early Childhood Interdisciplinary Research Group as an opportunity to present research in a virtual online space.

ECV2024 is online and asynchronous. There is no registration fee and no fees to present or view the presentations due to Charles Sturt University's motto "For the public good".

To register, please visit: <https://cvent.csu.edu.au/event/0d591439-4c54-4f18-8620-1f37f00582f4/summary>



Charles Sturt
University

25-28 November 2024

Early Childhood Voices
Conference 2024

Learn more →

Free to register
and participate



Abstract submissions
close 29 July 2024

Children from across the globe are invited to be a part of this conference by submitting a drawing of themselves playing. These drawing will be displayed throughout the conference bringing attention to the importance of play in early childhood. Please see details in the image below if you know of a child who would like to submit a drawing as a part of this conference.



Charles Sturt
University



Children Draw/Create Playing Global Online Gallery

We would love to include your child's drawing/creation in our Early Childhood Voices 2024 Global Online Gallery.

Children from across the world are invited to "draw/create a picture of you playing" and describe their artwork. The drawings are not supposed to be a work of art – whatever your child creates (even if it's lines or marks) is perfect! Or your child could make a creation out of anything, such as blocks, sticks or clay, and take a photo.

Drawings will be displayed in the Early Childhood Voices 2024 Global Online Gallery on YouTube.

Submissions close 23 September 2024

Submit a drawing and find out more:
→ csu.edu.au/ecv2024-children





IOPTP COMMITTEE UPDATES

IOPTP INTRODUCES WEBINAR SERIES

The IOPTP is thrilled by the reception of the IOPTP Webinar Series. As fulfilment of a part of the Strategic Plan of the IOPTP, a number of webinars were presented and made available to our member organisations across 2022, 2023 and now into 2024. Over the course of the webinars, we have seen hundreds of physiotherapists register for one or more of the sessions representing all regions of the WPT. Webinars that have been presented so far are listed below. Additional information can be found on our website with webinars 1, 2, 3 and 5 also available to view on our new YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/@IOPTP

- **Webinar 1:** Paediatric Essentials and Recommended Contact Areas in Entry Level Professional Physical Therapy Education: A Global Perspective
 - **Presenters:** Dr. Donna Cech (USA), Dr. Yasser Salem (USA), and Dr. Nikki Milne (Australia).
- **Webinar 2:** Practical approaches to physical activity and participation interventions and/or experiences for children with disabilities and their families
 - **Presenters:** Dr. Manon Bloemen (Netherlands), Dr. Anu Kinnunen (Finland), Dr. Margaret O'Neil (USA), and Dr. Dale Scalise-Smith (USA).
- **Webinar 3:** Promoting Physical Fitness in School Aged Children and Adolescents in Pediatric Physiotherapy
 - **Presenters:** Dr. Manon Bloemen (Netherlands), Dr. Anu Kinnunen (Finland), and Dr. Margaret O'Neil (USA).
- **Webinar 4:** Early developmental interventions for infants who are born preterm and/or with cerebral palsy
 - **Presenters:** Dr. Kine Johansen (Sweden), Professor Alicia Spittle (Australia), and Dr. Cathy Morgan (Australia)
- **Webinar 5:** School-Based Physiotherapy
 - **Presenters:** Eda Cinar PT, PhD (Canada), Kirstin Macdonald PT, PhD (Australia) and Connie Johnson PT, DScPT (USA)
- **Webinar 6:** Spinal Muscular Atrophy
 - **Presenters:** Tine Duong PT, PhD (USA), Durga Shah PT, PhD (USA) and Carolina Tesi Rocha MD (USA).

IOPTP COMMITTEE UPDATES

IOPTP INTRODUCES WEBINAR SERIES

- **Webinar 7:** Qualitative Research in Paediatric Physiotherapy
 - **Presenters:** Kine Johansen PT, PhD and Ragnhild B. Håkstad, PhD, PT
- **Webinar 8:** Ethical Considerations for Paediatric Physiotherapy Research
 - **Presenter:** Prof. Brenda Morrow (PhD, BSc [Physiotherapy], PG Dip (Health Res Ethics), PG Dip Pall Med (Paed)).

Materials such as video recordings, PowerPoint presentations or resource materials from the four webinars are available on the IOPTP website at www.ioptp.org. Announcements about the remaining 2024 series will be posted on the IOPTP website, as well as on the IOPTP Facebook page, and the Friends of the IOPTP Facebook page.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Over the past 12-months, we have been increasing our social media presence by developing our own YouTube Channel, Instagram and LinkedIn pages (see details below). Please follow us on our social media channels for updates about the IOPTP.



YouTube: www.youtube.com/@IOPTP



Instagram: [ioptp.physiotherapy](https://www.instagram.com/ioptp.physiotherapy)



LinkedIn: International Organisation of Physiotherapists in Paediatrics

Over the next few months, the Communication Committee will be working on updating our website. Further details of the update will be posted via our social media sites.

SUBMISSIONS FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER

Submissions are now being sourced for our next newsletter. If you have any updates or news stories that you would like to share with our readership, please contact the Chair of the Communications Committee, Cherie Zischke: communication.ioptp@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER COMPILED BY THE IOPTP COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

For submissions or questions regarding the newsletter please contact the newsletter editor and Chair of the IOPTP communication committee:

Cherie Zischke PT, PhD candidate | communication.ioptp@gmail.com

