
Press release

For immediate release

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First key sessions for World Physiotherapy Congress 2027 announced

World Physiotherapy is pleased to announce the first key sessions at the world's largest gathering of the profession – World Physiotherapy Congress 2027, to be held in Guadalajara, Mexico, 14-16 May 2027.

The congress programme includes 23 focused symposia featuring approximately 90 presenters from 38 countries/territories.

Focused symposia are core sessions where cutting edge relevant topics will be explored from an international and diverse perspective. The sessions include high profile speakers who will create insightful and engaging learning experiences that ultimately inform, inspire, involve, and empower participants. Details of the newly announced symposia and speakers are provided in the attached sheets.

Judith Deutsch, chair of World Physiotherapy's congress programme committee (CPC), said: "The CPC was delighted with the breadth and quality of the proposals it received. We are pleased to present the focused symposia which cover a range of topics — from health economics, AI and planetary health to, palliative care, standards for clinical education, and workforce planning. Physiotherapy practice, research, and advocacy are presented at a high level. Unusual offerings such as physiotherapy's role in skin health and scar recovery and sessions on graphic medicine and medical humanities in physiotherapy education round out the list.

"Sessions bring together presenters from different health systems and income settings to work through a shared problem, so participants aren't just hearing a single expert's view — they are seeing how the same issue plays out across very different contexts. We have specifically encouraged presenters to focus on interaction with the audience. We are looking forward to some lively sessions."

Each focused symposium is organised by an expert in the field, who leads an international group of presenters working together and engaging with the audience to draw out the relevance, challenges, applicability and take-home messages.

View the focused symposia for World Physiotherapy Congress 2027: <https://wp2027.world.physio/focused-symposia/>

Submit your abstract before the 29 September deadline: <https://wp2027.world.physio/abstracts/>

Register for congress: <https://wp2027.world.physio/registration/>

World Physiotherapy Congress 2027 is organised by WCPT Trading Limited
3rd Floor South, Chancery Exchange, 10 Furnival Street, London EC4A 1AB, UK
www.world.physio

@WorldPhysio1951



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EDITOR'S NOTES

About physiotherapy

Physiotherapists are experts in developing and maintaining people's ability to move and function throughout their lives. With an advanced understanding of how the body moves and what keeps it from moving well, they promote wellness, mobility and independence. They treat and prevent many problems caused by pain, illness, disability and disease, sport and work-related injuries, ageing and inactivity.

Physiotherapists are educated over several years, giving them a full knowledge of the body's systems and the skills to treat a wide range of problems. This education is usually university-based, at a level that allows physiotherapists to practise independently. Continuing education ensures that they keep up to date with the latest advances in research and practice. Many physiotherapists are engaged in research themselves.

About World Physiotherapy

World Physiotherapy is the profession's global body representing over 600,000 physiotherapists from member organisations in 129 countries/territories. More information: www.world.physio

Note to World Physiotherapy member organisations: please use this information in your magazine, journal, newsletter or social media channels. It may also be forwarded to your local or national media.

Contact Mia Lockner: communications@world.physio

Focused symposium: **NO MORE ROULETTE – IT’S TIME TO DEFINE A MINIMUM STANDARD FOR CLINICAL EDUCATION UNITS**

Moderator: Alice Jones (Australia)

Speakers: Jia Han (China), Minh Nguyen (Vietnam), Narasimman Swaminathan (Oman)

Focused symposium: **HUMANIZING PHYSIOTHERAPY EDUCATION AND PRACTICE: INTEGRATING MEDICAL HUMANITIES, GRAPHIC MEDICINE AND SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**

Moderator: Maria Jesus Mena-Iturriaga (Chile)

Speakers: Mattia Bisconti (Italy), Almudena Buesa (Spain), Catherine Sanhueza (Chile)

Focused symposium: **IMPLEMENTING EVIDENCE-BASED PHYSIOTHERAPY INTERVENTIONS: INSIGHTS FROM DIVERSE LOW-AND MIDDLE-INCOME CONTEXTS**

Moderator: Cynthia Swarnalatha (United Kingdom)

Speakers: Balamurugan Janakiraman (India), Olowe Olajide (Nigeria), Paula Rezende Camargo (Brazil)

Focused symposium: **ADVANCED PRACTICE AND PHYSIOTHERAPY-LED MODELS OF CARE: WHY HEALTH ECONOMICS MUST SHAPE THEIR FUTURE**

Moderator: David Christiansen (Denmark)

Speakers: Oluwatoyin A. Adeniji (United Kingdom), Rose Gagnon (Canada), Simon Lafrance (Canada)

Focused symposium: **UNLOCKING GLOBAL RESEARCH EXCELLENCE: PROMOTING GREATER CONDUCT AND PUBLICATION OF PHYSIOTHERAPY RESEARCH IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES**

Moderator: Alexandre Lopes (United States)

Speakers: Ranjeeta Acharya (Nepal), Mark Elkins (Australia), Christine Muya (Kenya)

Focused symposium: **SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYABILITY: RETHINKING PHYSIOTHERAPY’S ROLE IN WORK PARTICIPATION AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH**

Moderator: Gayline Jr. Manalang (Philippines)

Speakers: Douglas Gross (Canada), Glykeria Skamagki (United Kingdom), Yvonne van Zaanen (Netherlands)

Focused symposium:	THE PEARLS AND PERILS OF ACCESS TO PHYSIOTHERAPY - ARE WE IMPROVING OR REDUCING GLOBAL HEALTH EQUITY?
Moderator:	John Hammond (United Kingdom)
Speakers:	Tobba Sudmann (Norway), Mfonobong EdoAbasi Udoh (Nigeria), Mike Ukoha (United States)

Focused symposium:	PALLIATIVE REHABILITATION FOR ALL: AN INTERACTIVE INTERNATIONAL EXPERT PANEL ON GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES
Moderator:	Jo Bayly (United Kingdom)
Speakers:	Luna Gauchez (Belgium), Jane Manson (United Kingdom), Davidson John Okwudili (Nigeria)

Focused symposium:	EMPOWERING OLDER ADULTS TO MANAGE PAIN THROUGH PAIN SCIENCE EDUCATION: BRIDGING CONTEXTS AND APPROACHES
Moderator:	Anabela Silva (Portugal)
Speakers:	Josimari DeSantana (Brazil), Emilio Puentedura (United States)

Focused symposium:	MULTI-LAYER ADVOCACY FOR REHABILITATION: EMPOWERING STAKEHOLDERS ACROSS EVERY LEVEL AND IT'S IMPACT IN ADVANCING REHABILITATION
Moderator:	Gustavo Pérez Reina (United States)
Speakers:	Graziella Lippolis (Belgium), Remla Shirina (Tanzania)

Focused symposium:	GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON ADVANCED PHYSIOTHERAPY PRACTICE: IMPROVING ACCESS, QUALITY, AND EFFICIENCY IN MUSCULOSKELETAL CARE ACROSS DIVERSE HEALTH SYSTEMS
Moderator:	François Desmeules (Canada)
Speakers:	Darryn Marks (Australia), Merete Nørgaard Madsen (Denmark), Alberta Amissah Nyarko (Ghana)

Focused symposium:	INTEGRATING PHYSIOTHERAPY AND MENTAL HEALTH IN CRISIS: BUILDING RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABLE REHABILITATION
Moderator:	Farah Al Dweik (Jordan)
Speakers:	Farahdina Bachtar (Indonesia), Leora Hudak (United States), Moisés Magos (Mexico)

Focused symposium: **THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION – CAN PLANETARY HEALTH AND AI CO-INHABIT A PHYSIOTHERAPY CURRICULUM?**

Moderator: Cuisle Forde (Ireland)

Speakers: Donald Manlapaz (Philippines), Fanny Poget (Switzerland), Andrea Ribeiro (Portugal)

Focused symposium: **THE ROLE OF PUBLIC HEALTH PHYSIOTHERAPY IN ADDRESSING GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGES**

Moderator: Dawn Magnusson (United States)

Speakers: Nalin Kumar (India), Bernardo Pinto (Portugal), Oscar Urrejola (Chile)

Focused symposium: **EVIDENCE EXISTS, EQUITY DOESN'T: WHY NEONATAL PHYSIOTHERAPY FAILS IN LMICS AND WHAT MUST CHANGE NOW**

Moderator: Fatma A. Hegazy (United Arab Emirates)

Speakers: Sonia Khurana (United States), Bhamini Krishna Rao (India), Omnia Mohammed (Egypt)

Focused symposium: **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES, LOCAL PRACTICE: EQUITY, EDUCATION, AND ACCESS IN PELVIC AND WOMEN'S HEALTH PHYSIOTHERAPY**

Moderator: Corlia Brandt (South Africa)

Speakers: Benedetto Giardulli (United Kingdom), Ellen Mensa Bonsu (Ghana), Carina Siracusa (United States)

Focused symposium: **STRENGTHENING STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND JOINT ADVOCACY LINKING MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND PHYSIOTHERAPY GLOBALLY**

Moderator: Ismaila Kebbie (Sierra Leone)

Speakers: Leslie Angama Mueller (Switzerland), Marcela Antúnez-Riveros (Chile), Joseph Martial CAPO-CHICHI (Benin)

Focused symposium: **DIGITAL REHABILITATION IN PRACTICE: SCALING THROUGH PRIMARY CARE, COST-EFFECTIVENESS, AND HUMAN-CENTERED ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

Moderator: Nukhba Zia (United States)

Speakers: Eeva Aartolahti (Finland), Hilmi Zadah Faidullah (Indonesia), David Tumusiime (Rwanda)

Focused symposium: **FUTURE-PROOFING PHYSIOTHERAPY: BUILDING A DIGITALLY READY WORKFORCE**

Moderator: Jackie Lidgard (United Kingdom)

Speakers: Euan McComiskie (United Kingdom), Mark Merolli (Australia), Fran Theron (Ireland)

Focused symposium: **INNOVATIONS IN PRECISION PHYSIOTHERAPY FOR PAIN CARE: DIGITAL PHENOTYPING AND MULTIMODAL REHABILITATION**

Moderator: Natalie Perkins (Australia)

Speakers: Claudio Akiyama (Argentina), Kenneth Johnson (United States)

Focused symposium: **TRANSITION TO ADULT SERVICES IN RESPIRATORY PHYSIOTHERAPY: CURRENT CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

Moderator: Harriet Shannon (United Kingdom)

Speakers: Anri Human (South Africa), Sarah Rand (United Kingdom)

Focused symposium: **GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES ON HOME-BASED STROKE REHABILITATION: BARRIERS, FACILITATORS, SUPERVISION, TECHNOLOGY, AND IMPLEMENTATION ACROSS CONTINENTS**

Moderator: Rudri Purohit (United States)

Speakers: Juan-Pablo Appelgren-Gonzalez (Chile), Gajanan Bhalerao (India), Etienne Ngeh (Cameroon)

Focused symposium: **BEYOND THE SCAR: THE ROLE OF PHYSIOTHERAPY IN SKIN HEALTH, FUNCTION AND RECOVERY**

Moderator: Esteban Fortuny (Chile)

Speakers: Patricia Froes Meyer (Brazil), Jill Meirte (Belgium), Richard Liebano (United States)
