

# WORLD CONFEDERATION FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY

by Sheena Irwin-Carruthers

Plans are going ahead for the General Meeting and 12th International Congress of WCPT, to be held in Washington DC, from 25-30 June 1995. The theme of the Congress is "Dimensions of Excellence". Early registration fees are expected to be in the region of \$275. WCPT has asked member organisations to take the following into consideration when choosing a voting delegate:

- they must be able to speak fluently
- they must be familiar with the rule of the General Meeting
- they must be prepared to attend all meetings

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in July 1994. The 1999 Congress will be held in Japan. The SASP has extended an invitation to WCPT to hold an Executive Committee meeting in South Africa between the 1995 and 1999 General Meetings.

Several private practitioners attended the Private Practitioners International Meeting in Hong Kong in December 1992. A report on the meeting, which contains full and abridged texts of most of the keynote sessions and papers, accounts of private practice in some countries and discussion of the issues central to private practice, is available from WCPT Headquarters for the sum of fifteen pounds sterling. The report on the final session - the "Forum of Issues" - is germane to all aspects of physiotherapy and will be published in the SASP Journal.

A report on the meeting of the Executive Committee of WCPT, held in Yokohama, Japan, has been received from Geoffrey Moyo, the representative for the African Region. At present only four of the proposed five Regions are functioning and WCPT is to provide financing in order to get the South American region off the ground.

The functioning of the regions will be evaluated between now and 1995. Evaluation forms are being sent out and member-organisations are asked to be frank and honest in their assessment of the system.

The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy has made an award worth 3 500 pounds sterling for ten years for developing nations. This could be used to send a representative from a member-organisation to Europe for a period not exceeding one year, or to finance a visit by a member of the CSP to assist a developing country. WCPT has made 10 000 pounds sterling available for applicants from developing countries to attend the October 1993 course on ageing, to be held at the United Nations

Institute on Ageing, in Malta. Two applications were submitted from SASP members.

We were delighted that the immediate past President of WCPT, Brian Davey of the Australian Physiotherapy Association, was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Nominations are invited from member-organisations for the third Mildred Elson award. Nominated individuals should have contributed to physiotherapy on an international level.

## WCPT-Africa

In February this year the Danske Fisioterapeuter organised a workshop on organisation and management, including industrial relations, for members of the Zimbabwe Physiotherapy Association and the Zambia Society of Physiotherapy. The SASP was invited to send a representative and Ntina Themba attended the workshop and brought back many ideas.

In March the Executive Committee of WCPT-Africa met at the SASP headquarters in Johannesburg. In addition to myself (as Regional Treasurer), Frances Glauber was invited to attend as an observer and Jo Beenhakker was asked to participate in the planning session for the 1994 General Meeting and Congress, to be held in Nairobi, Kenya.

The theme for this first Regional Congress will be:

Reach for Rehabilitation

Physiotherapy in a Changing Africa

An interesting programme is planned. The General Meeting will be held on the Tuesday and the Congress on the Wednesday and Thursday, with papers in the mornings and workshops in the afternoons - the workshops being on quality assurance on the Wednesday and on education on the Thursday. It is hoped that AJ Fernando, the President of WCPT, may agree to lead the workshop on education. Pre-Congress courses are planned on myofascial techniques, CBR and OMT, and post-Congress courses on sports injuries and stroke.

Lucy Bendle, of Eastern Province, was asked to represent the Region at two congresses on quality assurance held in the Netherlands during June. Lucy was chosen because she helped to develop the quality assurance programme in this country and has undertaken to run the workshop on quality assurance at next year's Regional Congress.

WCPT-Europe continues to give support to the Region, for which we are very grateful. Individual member-organisations are encouraged to twin with individ-

ual member-organisations in WCPT-Europe and the SASP is investigating this. Congratulations to Namibia on submitting their application for WCPT membership so soon after forming their own national organisation.

One piece of good news for the SASP is that regional capitation fees for 1993 have been waived. Those countries in arrears with capitation fees will be given 1993 as a period of grace to submit their fees. All member-organisations will be expected to pay capitation fees again as from 1 January 1994.

The next meeting of the Regional Executive was held in Harare during August with representatives from all five member-organisations of the region. The planned Congress was discussed in detail and the venues of Nairobi for the General Meeting at Congress and Mombasa for the pre- and post congress workshops should prove attractive to all visitors to Kenya. The WCPT headquarters also commended WCPT-Africa on their extraordinary progress and the great strides they are making.



## OBSTETRIC ASSOCIATION - PHYSIOTHERAPY IN WOMEN'S HEALTH

by M Pretorius

There is a worldwide trend among physiotherapy obstetric groups to change their name from "obstetric physiotherapy" or "obstetric and gynaecologic physiotherapy" to "Physiotherapy in Women's Health". For example, the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (ACPOG) are considering changing to "The Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Women's Health" (ACPWH). The committee of the OA feels that similar change could be considered in South Africa, so as to broaden the scope covered by the Association. Obstetric physiotherapy as such has a considerable contribution to make in prevention and education and as such should form an important part of health care.

For physiotherapists to be able to fulfill their role in primary, secondary and tertiary health care in obstetrics (and women's health) it is imperative that they be sufficiently exposed to obstetrics in their undergraduate training.