INPTRA 2021 Will Be in Dublin!

It's official, INPTRA 2021 will be in Dublin, Ireland! We will include more information on the conference, including specific dates, in future issues of INPTRA Network News!
INPTRA 2019 Pictures

Pictures from the 2019 INPTRA Conference in Geneva are up on our Facebook page, check them out and tag yourself!

Digital Practice White Paper

We currently have 154 completed survey responses representing the following countries:

Australia  Germany  Malaysia  Philippines  Ukraine
Austria  Greece  Malta  Poland  United Arab
Bahrain  Guyana  Nepal  Qatar  Emirates
Benin  Haiti  New Zealand  South Africa  United Kingdom
Bolivia  Iraq  Nigeria  South Korea  United States
Brazil  Israel  Pakistan  Switzerland  
Canada  Jordan  Palestine  Taiwan  
Finland  Lebanon  Peru  Tanzania  

The World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) and the International Network of Physiotherapy Regulatory Authorities (INPTRA) established a joint Digital Physical Therapy Practice Task Force to develop a white paper addressing physical therapy practice and regulation in the digital age. This white paper is an initial look at international digital practice and proposes a definition and purpose for digital physical therapy practice while exploring benefits, current limitations, regulatory concerns, guidelines, and considerations for educational programs.

A survey was created in the hopes of obtaining your feedback on the white paper. The WCPT and INPTRA boards of directors and the task force members want to ensure this report is a global representation of digital physical therapy practice. Therefore, we need your help! We encourage you to take a moment to read the white paper and respond to the survey with as much detail as possible. This is a short survey that will only take a few minutes to complete. If you have any questions please email us at info@INPTRA.org.

The survey will close October 17, 2019!

Take the Survey!

Nigeria’s PT Regulation Journey

By Habeeb Ololade, Nigeria

Physiotherapy in Nigeria started about sixty years ago, immediately after the Second World War, when the Nigerian government employed two physiotherapists to rehabilitate wounded soldiers returning from the war. These two physiotherapists trained technicians to assist with this effort. The first formal physiotherapy training program started in Nigeria in 1959. Physiotherapy as a profession had no regulatory body until 1993; the regulation was passed into law in 1989 and the agency/board was set up in 1993. Ever since then, there has been an expansion of training programs and control of standards of practice.
Physiotherapy in Nigeria is a first contact health care profession under self-supervision. The practice of physiotherapy is under strict monitoring and regulation by the Medical Rehabilitation Therapist Board (MRTB), the body responsible for the regulation and control of training and practice of physiotherapy. The minimum requirement to practice in Nigeria is a bachelor’s degree in physiotherapy and a license from the MRTB. License renewal is yearly, procedures to register and acquire license in Nigeria are stated on the website: [www.mrtb.gov.ng](http://www.mrtb.gov.ng).

There is a strict code of conduct for physiotherapy professionals that is clearly stated in the handbook given to each profession alongside the license (every year).

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**Poland’s PT Regulation Journey**  
**By Dalia Woznica, Poland**

Despite relative economic development and increasing expenses on the rehabilitation system, the physiotherapy labor market was inefficient and waiting time for the service has been extended.

Physiotherapists in Poland have been tired of helplessness. The majority of them worked on private service, which was not regulated in any way. Polish society was at risk of improper treatment that might cause a lack of trust and undermine PT professional authority.

In 2009 a group of PTs formulated the Polish Physiotherapy Association, which became an ignition that set the Polish physiotherapist profession afire. Since then nationwide promotion of the profession occurred through all social and traditional media. The association set up the draft Act on the PT profession. The draft was signed by over 100,000 citizens—only that guaranteed a ministerial response within three months. The medical and political objections prolonged the implementation process. To demand action, physiotherapists in Poland organized two national strikes.

Finally, after five years of struggling, in 2016, the president of Poland signed the Act on the PT Profession. As a result, the Polish Chamber of Physiotherapists was established. The first and most important goal of the chamber was to implement a national registration system. It turned out that physiotherapists were the third largest group among health care professionals in Poland, and, simultaneously, the fourth largest physiotherapist society in Europe! Our voices have been heard and impact on decisions has improved.
Regulatory Research in the News

Title: The PRONE score: an algorithm for predicting doctors’ risks of formal patient complaints using routinely collected administrative data

Insurance agencies, medical boards, and/or regulatory bodies for the most part are passive regulators. These agencies typically only respond after there is a complaint, meaning that something bad has to happen first. This study focused on developing a tool that will identify practitioners that are at risk of becoming the subject of repeated malpractice claims in the hopes of preventing or decreasing the number of future complaints. The Predicted Risk of New Event (PRONE) score can be used to identify a doctors’ future risk of complaint using four variables: medical provider’s specialty, gender, complaint count, and elapsed time since the last complaint. Results of this study yield strong validity and reliability for assessing a medical provider’s risk factors of attracting recurrent complaints.

This article is important to analyze as the PRONE score could possibly be used to help regulators identify information to target quality improvement interventions and prevent substandard care and patient dissatisfaction; it could also be used as a flagging tool, where trouble shooting patterns can be identified and dealt with before a malpractice complaint is filed. Using this tool to identify risk factors within the physiotherapy practice might be difficult because of the low number of patient complaints and/or malpractice claims. Do you think this tool would be valuable in your practice?
An upcoming webcast, "PT Regulation and Practice in China," will delve into current training and regulation of physical therapists in China. Speakers will share case examples from experience in building collaborations between US and Chinese universities and Australian and Chinese universities to train future PT and PT educators in the United States who return to China. An email with more information regarding the upcoming webcast will be sent out soon!

July was a productive month, we hosted two different webcasts! The first, held on July 2, 2019, was about the Roadmap to Regulation in Nigeria and Poland. During this webcast we learned about the difference in regulation in each of these countries and how they got to where they are now.

The second webcast, held on July 24, 2019, covered regulatory trends around the world as regulators consider fundamental changes to the current system. The speaker examined global initiatives and approaches that appear most promising relating to the governance of regulators, their oversight, and enhanced transparency about individual practitioners.

If you were not able to attend these presentations, we encourage you to view the recordings on our website.

If you would like to share an idea for a future webcast, or would like to participate in one, please let us know info@INPTRA.org.

INPTRA Regulatory Guiding Principles

These principles on physiotherapy have been developed to provide guidance both to already-established regulatory authorities and, in particular, to those countries where physiotherapy regulation is developing or has not yet been developed. This version is based on feedback from attendees of the INPTRA 2015 conference in Singapore.

The principles provide specific areas that should be addressed in a regulatory model for physiotherapy.

While not all the principles may be feasible at the current time within a particular jurisdiction, they should provide guidance for future change.

The principles also provide the foundation for the collection of data, evidence, and resources related to each of the principles. We are continuously growing our network and providing information to various countries around the globe. This is why we are happy to announce that the INPTRA Regulatory Guiding Principles document is now also available in Spanish! If you would like to read this document in Spanish please email us at info@INPTRA.org.

Are You a Regulator?

Click "Agencies" under "Regulatory Resources" on the INPTRA website to view country information.

- Have we included your country?
- Is your country’s regulatory agency information correct?
Welcome to INPTRA Membership!

We would like to announce our new members as of the last newsletter.

Individual Members:
Cindy Potter
Dave Relling
Kathryn Dale
Robin Zappin
Tom Pennington

We are excited to have your support! We encourage you to share this news with your colleagues and remember that even if your organization is already a member you could further support INPTRA’s goals by becoming an individual member of INPTRA.

Membership is open to national and state/provincial physiotherapy regulatory authorities and associations. We also welcome individual members, affiliates, and partners. Learn more about membership and dues.

Submit Your Country’s Regulatory Profile

We have made it easier to submit your country’s regulatory profile! All that you have to do is fill out this survey. In the survey you will be asked for the following information:

- Your contact information in case we have a question for you (this information will not be public)
- The name of the country that you are informing us about
- Education requirements for physical therapists in that country
- Information regarding Physical Therapy (PT) practice in that country (e.g., questions regarding direct access, professional designation used, names for professional organizations)
- Information regarding regulation of PTs (e.g., regulatory model and description, scope of practice).

INPTRA’s team will review the survey responses and work on posting your country’s profile to our website. If you have any questions or feedback regarding our survey please email us at info@inptra.org.