



International Federation of Physiotherapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

May 2026

Dear Member Organisations,

We bring you the second IFPOHE Newsletter for 2026, please share with your members.

Recent articles and blog of interest

Call for Contributions – Special Issue (JFMK)

The International Federation of Physiotherapists Working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics (IFPOHE) is pleased to highlight an opportunity for its members to contribute to the Special Issue “Posture, Balance, and Gait: Assessment Techniques and Rehabilitation Strategies—2nd Edition” in the Journal of Functional Morphology and Kinesiology (JFMK).

Following the success of the first edition, this Special Issue—guest edited by Prof. Vasiliki Sakellari and Prof. George Gioftsos—aims to showcase advances in research and innovative practices in posture, balance, and gait. Submissions may include original research, systematic reviews, and case studies focusing on areas such as assessment technologies, rehabilitation strategies, fall prevention, ergonomic interventions, and the integration of emerging technologies in clinical practice.

IFPOHE member organisations benefit from a 20% discount on the Article Processing Charge (APC). In addition, a limited number of 50% discounts and full APC waivers (100%) are available for high-quality invited submissions, subject to eligibility criteria and prior approval.

Submit your manuscript or learn more:

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/jfmk/special_issues/C731740M3W

Submission deadline: 31 August 2026

For further information, please contact the JFMK Editorial Office (jfmk@mdpi.com).

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Upcoming Events

- **Thursday, May 21, 12:00 PM**

Webinar: AI is coming to occupational health and healthcare generally, whether we are ready or not.
Description

The NHS 10 Year Plan commits £10bn to digital transformation and names AI as one of five transformative technologies. But what happens when the algorithm works and the system around it doesn't?

This session moves beyond the hype to examine the real challenges of integrating AI into OH practice. Drawing on recent evidence – including a simple framework on the ethical risks of healthcare AI – we will explore:

Where AI shows genuine promise for OH

Where it poses significant risks

How we can adopt AI safely, starting with low-risk applications while building the governance and training we need

This can be accessed on ACPOHE's Webinar recordings page

(<https://acpohe.csp.org.uk/content/acpohe-webinar-recordings>) available to all until 21st June (after which it will be available on our Members Webinar recordings page) for the recording of the webinar and to download the slides used in the webinar so you can watch it if you missed it or would like to rewatch it. These will also be available on our Work & Health Learning and Development Hub soon: <https://acpohelms.co.uk/>.

Please see attachments and these links for your reference:

[AI Guidance for UK Occupational Health Jan26.pdf](#)

[Home - AI in OH Collaboration Group](#)

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Thursday, June 11, 11:00 AM

ACPOHE Webinar: Beyond the Scribe: AI Capability, Safety, and Adoption in Occupational Health

Description

Report writing is one of the most time-consuming tasks in occupational health, from standard MSK assessments to complex ergonomic reports that can run to 25 pages and 12+ hours of valuable clinician time. In this webinar, Dr Harvinder Power, co-founder and CEO of Motics, will demonstrate how AI is changing the game for OH physiotherapists: cutting report turnaround, reducing errors, and freeing up clinical time.

Using real before-and-after workflow examples across three report types (standard OH assessments, complex cases, and ergonomic/DSE assessments) Harvinder will show what's possible today. He will also tackle the most common myths around clinical safety and data security, and share a practical framework to help clinicians and clinic owners evaluate, fund and adopt compliant AI with confidence.

[Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)

- [European Region World Physiotherapy](#), Madrid November 2026

We have had one successful submission from IFPOHE Titled – Occupational Health and Ergonomics: adding skills, knowledge and critical thinking or to your toolkit. Speakers Jose Gonzales Echevarria (Spain), Maija Paukkunen (Finland), Yvonne de Leeuw (Netherlands), and Rose Boucaut (Australia, Chair)

We are delighted to report that a Professional Skills Seminar will be conducted by members of IFPOHE Member Organisations. We hope to meet informally before the Congress and would be delighted if you might be free to join in an informal activity on the afternoon/evening of Wednesday November 4th . Details will follow in the future, but we hope sharing this date with you now might help inform your travel plans.

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- *World Physio Congress, Guadalajara 2027* [World Physiotherapy / Home](#)

Call for focused symposia – two submitted from IFPOHE, from the following

- 1) Yvonne (Netherlands), Doug Gross (Canada), Glykeria Skamagki (ACPOHE) and Gayline Manalang (Philippines, chair)
 - 2) Glenda Key (USA), Maria Trillos (Colombia) Marco Leppe (Chile) Rose (Australia, chair)
- ACPOHE (Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Occupational Health & Ergonomics) UK regularly runs webinars to share new information, guidance and education around topics pertaining to work and health. These webinars are open access with the content targeted at physiotherapists and other health professionals interested or practicing in this field.

[CLICK HERE to join our webinars mailing list](#) - you'll receive an email when we confirm booking details of our webinars.

IFPOHE Call for Activities – 2026

IFPOHE invites all Member Organisations to share their 2026 activities and initiatives (e.g., conferences, webinars, training, research, or advocacy actions) in occupational health physiotherapy and ergonomics.

Your input will help us: Showcase global IFPOHE activity

Strengthen collaboration across the network

Promote your initiatives internationally

Submit your activity to us @ ifpohe.worldphysiotherapy@gmail.com

Please include basic details (title, date, format, and whether participation or collaboration is open).

You may also send supporting materials (flyers, links)

Thank you for contributing to a stronger, more connected IFPOHE community.

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- Advance Notice: IFPOHE Executive Committee Elections will be held in early 2027. There will be at least one vacancy, possibly several, so if you are thinking you might like to join the Committee we welcome you! In advance you might like to learn what being an Executive Committee member involves so please contact us to hear about that. You may also like to attend a few Committee meetings prior to putting in your formal application. For the application itself you require support from your own organisation (ie IFPOHE Member Organisation if you have one, or your national organisation if you don't).

Feedback

The Committee seeks your feedback about what IFPOHE can do for your group, resource sharing and use of the Global Standards. A questionnaire was sent out with the March 2026 Newsletter to the office bearer in your country to complete.

Feedback will be shared in the next newsletter

Membership

Discussions are currently underway with the Mexico group which is interested in becoming an IFPOHE Member. Documentation is currently being completed.

Regional Meetings

To get to know others working in Occupational Health and Ergonomics in your World Physiotherapy Region the Executive Committee members from your region are working towards having a “get to know” you type of Zoom meeting .

The Asia Western Pacific Region IFPOHE Member Organisation leaders held a successful informal meeting in late March 2026. Representatives from Australia, Japan, the Philippines and New Zealand attended. We shared information about how things are going in our countries and ways we could share resources and continue building relationships. We anticipate other Regional Groups of IFPOHE will also meet in the future – just to get us all connected in a pleasant manner, to share ideas and resources.

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The next Asia Western Pacific Region.

Arranged for Tuesday 26th August, at 7.30pm NZ time (or nominate an attendee from your country) – to meet and greet each other via Zoom.

With our best wishes,

from the Executive Committee

Rose Boucaut (Australia, rose.boucaut@unisa.edu.au), Yvonne van Zaanen (The Netherlands), Marisa Coetzee (South Africa, marisacoetzee@outlook.com), Vasiliki Sakellari (Greece), Beatriz Sanz-Bustillo (Spain), Tracey Atkinson (United Kingdom), Claudia Rojas Silva (Colombia), Shane Meys (New Zealand)

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