



International Federation of Physiotherapists
working in
Occupational Health and Ergonomics

30 July 2026

Dear Member Organisations,

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

Recent Publication

New Resource Highlight: Special Issue Honouring Prof. Svend Erik Mathiassen

IFPOHE is pleased to share a valuable new publication for members interested in occupational health, physiotherapy and ergonomics. IISE Transactions on Occupational Ergonomics and Human Factors has published a special issue honouring the scientific contributions of Prof. Svend Erik Mathiassen, co-edited by Mr Pieter Coenen.

The issue focuses on variation in physical activity at work, including methods for measuring variation, its effects on performance, well-being and health, and strategies for promoting healthy work variation through workplace interventions. Available at: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/uehf21/14/3>

Upcoming Events

1. World Physio Congress, Guadalajara 2027 [World Physiotherapy | Home](#)

1.1. Opportunities to Participate Physiotherapy Congress: [Congress | World Physiotherapy](#)

Call for Abstracts

IFPOHE encourages members to share their research and professional innovations at the World Physiotherapy Congress 2027, which will take place 14–16 May 2027 in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Abstract submissions are invited for:

- Original research
- Systematic and scoping reviews
- Meta-analyses
- Special interest reports
- Case studies

Submissions should present new developments in clinical practice, education, management, policy, or research relevant to physiotherapy. World Physiotherapy also provides guidance resources, FAQs, and online drop-in sessions to support prospective authors during the submission process.

For further information and submission details, please visit the World Physiotherapy website.



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1.2. Call for Clinical Seminars

World Physiotherapy is also inviting Specialty Groups to submit proposals for 60-minute Clinical Seminars at the World Physiotherapy Congress 2027.

Clinical Seminars are an interactive forum for discussing practical clinical questions through case-based presentations delivered by an international panel. Collaborative submissions between specialty groups are encouraged to broaden participation and showcase diverse clinical perspectives.

Submission deadline: 25 August

2. ACPOHE Webinar Series

2.1. [New Discoveries in the Causes of Fibromyalgia-type Chronic Pain](#)

Date: 5 August 2026

This webinar will present emerging research on "**sngception**", a newly described anatomical and neurological pathway involved in chronic musculoskeletal pain. The session explores recent discoveries on acid-induced chronic pain mechanisms and their potential implications for understanding and treating conditions such as fibromyalgia.

This webinar is open to all participants to attend live. Recordings will be available to ACPOHE members following the events.

2.2. AI in Occupational Health: Key Insights and Resources

IFPOHE Executive Committee member **Tracey Atkinson** recently attended the UK ACPOHE webinar "**AI is Coming to Occupational Health and Healthcare Generally, Whether We Are Ready or Not**", presented by **Cameron Black**. The webinar examined the opportunities and challenges of integrating artificial intelligence (AI) into occupational health practice. Topics included the potential benefits of AI, associated risks, and practical approaches for safe and ethical implementation.

Key messages included the need for:

- Specialist education and training in AI
- Clear governance and regulatory frameworks
- Clinical validation of AI tools
- Robust data security and confidentiality
- Professional accountability and appropriate indemnity
- Contingency planning for AI system failures



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The session also highlighted recently published guidance from the Association of Occupational Health and Wellbeing Professionals (iOH) and the Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM) [AI Guidance for UK Occupational Health Jan26.pdf](#), together with the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy (CSP) guidance [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) principles in action | The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy](#) on the responsible use of AI in healthcare.

Further information:

AI Guidance for UK Occupational Health (iOH & SOM)

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy – Artificial Intelligence (AI) Principles in Action

2.3. ACPOHE International Membership [Memberships | ACPOHE](#)

Health professionals working in occupational health and ergonomics are invited to join the **Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Occupational Health and Ergonomics (ACPOHE)** as **International Members**.

Annual membership fee: £50

- Membership provides access to:
- Live and recorded educational webinars
- Professional learning resources
- Continuing professional development opportunities
- An international community of occupational health physiotherapists

For webinar registration and membership information, please visit the **ACPOHE website**.

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 and **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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IFPOHE Executive Committee Elections

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 (i.e. IFPOHE Member Organisation if you have one, or your national organisation if you don't).

Feedback

The Committee asked for 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. The results of the survey are as follows:





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i. Engagement with the Newsletter

Most respondents (8/10) receive the IFPOHE Newsletter, and the majority circulate it to their members either regularly or occasionally. There's strong appetite for more connection — 8 of 10 respondents would welcome IFPOHE-facilitated regional online meetings (2–3 times a year) with other organisations in their World Physiotherapy Region.

ii. Awareness of the Global Standards for OHP

Awareness among respondent organisations is high (8/10 aware), but there's a clear gap at the broader membership level — most respondents said their wider membership is only "maybe" aware, suggesting the Standards haven't fully trickled down to individual practitioners yet.

iii. Putting the Standards into Practice

Uptake is split roughly down the middle: half of respondents are actively using the Global Standards (e.g., embedding them in curricula, translating summaries, using them in training and advocacy), while the other half are not yet doing so.

iv. Common barriers cited include:

- OHP not yet being an established or formally recognised specialisation in some countries
- Limited time and capacity to engage with and promote the Standards
- Lack of integration into educational curricula
- Existing national standards taking priority over the global framework
- Limited practical guidance for real-world implementation

v. How IFPOHE Can Help

- Webinars and accessible recordings of past sessions
- Case studies and real-world/practical examples (including photos) from different countries
- Support integrating the Standards into undergraduate, postgraduate, and CPD education
- Materials translated or adapted into regional languages
- Practical implementation tools and guidance documents
- Positioning OHP within broader agendas (e.g., healthy workplaces, ageing workforce, climate/sustainability)
- Supporting mentorship and small pilot projects between regions

vi. Mentoring & Resource Sharing

Several organisations expressed willingness (or potential willingness) to mentor developing OHP/ergonomics groups, spanning entry-level, postgraduate, and CPD contexts. Most respondents are also willing to share resources from their own countries.

vii. Newsletter Content

There's strong interest in using the newsletter as a platform: most respondents would like IFPOHE to promote their events, and most are interested in showcasing OHP and ergonomics developments from their own country.



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viii. Other Suggestions

- Mark World Day for Safety and Health at Work annually
- Share campaign materials that raise the profile of the profession more broadly

Membership

- I. Discussions are currently underway with the Mexico group which is interested in becoming an IFPOHE Member. Documentation is currently being completed.
- II. 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 “get to know” you type of Zoom meetings.
- III. 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.

Call for Contributions – Special Issue (JFMK)

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 Gioftos—aims to showcase advances in research and innovative practices in posture, balance, and gait.

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)

With our best wishes,
from the Executive Committee

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