

IFOMPT report – Karen Richards

IFOMPT 2016 provided me the opportunity to meet up with my old Manip Therapy classmates, network with some old colleagues, up skill my knowledge and present my doctoral research to an international audience. I found there was a warm reception at the conference centre and I was impressed with how well organised the conference was. The theme, expanding horizons worked really well. There were some excellent speakers to open the plenary session. I found Gwen Jull and Anne Moore's talks about the history of IFOMPT and changes in contemporary practise thought provoking particularly Gwen's comments about the disparity between how spinal and peripheral pain is managed. One of the hardest things about a conference is deciding which concurrent session to attend. Annina Schmid's talks on neuropathic pain and entrapment neuropathies were thought provoking, made me reflect on my own practise and consider how I can teach this topic to my undergraduate students better. Lisa Roberts' talk about communication and Sue Greenhalgh and Emma Willis' presentation about Cauda Equina syndrome were excellent. I've taken some of these messages back to my Advanced scope role in Emergency Department and have implemented some changes to my own practise and patient resources. I also enjoyed the sessions that focused different research areas. I attended the sessions on whiplash, lateral hip pain and headache management. Whilst I feel fairly well read on these topics, it was great to hear a synopsis of the work that has been done and future directions for research. I also really enjoyed Jeremy Lewis's presentations, he just talks so much sense and it was great to hear an update on his work. IFOMPT 2016 is the 3rd IFOMPT conference I've attended, each one has been memorable and I'm already looking forward to Melbourne 2020!