



Chair's Report – AGM 4th November 2024

I am delighted to open my second Chair's report for this AGM. It is a pleasure and privilege to be able to represent the organisation and such a fantastic executive team.

We are aware that there is a gap in opportunity in the MSK AP space to recognise AP levels of practice – for this in roles and in the independent sector. The England drive to make this a HEI route only has left the MACP in a unique position. A governed portfolio route with independent HEI sign-off – allowing individuals a choice of how to achieve this. The work here has been significant. Firstly, we decided to simplify the routes and therefore improve access. We did this by lowering the threshold for route 3 – which has opened the access to current APs. We have 2 new leads Caroline Coulthard and Sharon Chan-Braddock. We have invested in marketing materials and supportive documentation. The Irish Society of CP have entered into an agreement with us to trial 10 bursaries within their independent sector. We have interest also from South Africa in how we might support them. This is why our proposal that is upcoming for an international category is vital for this growth.

This is a real step forward in building our collaborations. We have secured collaborations with SOMM and the PPA. Using the IFOMPT /UK Adv MSK Standards was a vehicle with supportive collaborative teaching and promotion we want to lead where we can communities of practice. We are delighted to bringing down silo barriers and working with SOMM and the PPA Chairs we feel we are in a great place in securing future collaborations with other like-minded organisations.

CPD Portal

We have had some significant challenges in this space. Further information is in the officer's report. The background to this is really important. Initially the MACP had a very close working relationship with 14Fish, and we built what we felt was a great portfolio for members. There was a yearly cost that had been met by the membership fees. However, with EMIS taking over, we lost that continuity and members were finding the customer support was not anywhere near the previous levels. I have had to work hard to enable the MACP to generate an exit plan 2 years early from the signed contract.

Communications

This year continues to build on our previous year growth with regards to our communications team. I am delighted to welcome Rich Stanley who already has had an impact on the outputs. The team have been busy promoting a number of events, improving Touchnote and general MACP material online. The team are keen to develop strategic links across the EC committees – improved social media presence continues. On X we have 21K followers with steady growth seen in last 4 years. Touchnote has good engagement and we are looking at all platforms in how we can maintain good connections nationally and internationally.

Research

This has been a successful year for the research committee. In June, in collaboration with the APPN, we proudly hosted the inaugural Nurturing Research Conference at Manchester Metropolitan University. This conference was created with the mission of empowering and developing novice researchers, and it exceeded all expectations in fostering a supportive and inspiring environment.

We were honoured to have three exceptional keynote speakers—Professor Dylan Morrissey, Professor Lisa Roberts, and Professor Caroline Alexander—who shared not only their unique research journeys but also invaluable insights and career reflections. Their contributions extended beyond their keynote addresses, as they generously led interactive sessions on NIHR pathways and the development of research ideas, providing attendees with practical guidance and inspiration to pursue their own research ambitions.

We want to look at this again in 2027, due to its success and also our commitment to new researchers, we feel we have a significant role in this space.

Another success of this year was to finalise our new research awards. Details of the new awards can be found under research news on the MACP website. We are particularly excited about our new award- the Elsevier and Jane Greening award, which is an award of £10,000 to support full members in their research ambitions. This replaces the Elsevier award which had a maximum award of £5000. These awards will be launched in the new year.

We are delighted to have seen an uptake in awards applications and my thanks is to the team and Colette for their drive in improving this.

Regional Representatives

We currently have MACP representatives in place for the following regions:

North West – Lee Shimwell

Midlands - Vasileios Georgopoulos

London and South East – Angela Webster and Jess Pun

South Central – Darren Smith

South West – Becks Watson

Wales – Rob Goldsmith

The teams have successfully delivered a number of events such as a cervical spine webinar, and Gynae Masquarders. These events are free to members, and the exec is very grateful for the hard work in putting these on across the regions – thank you

CEA work

This year has focused on enhancing the governance and leadership infrastructure underpinning our portfolio routes to membership (including the onboarding of an external assessor), enhancing their accessibility.

Regarding HEI routes to membership, we've been informed of two universities closing down their MACP-accredited programmes (Brighton, Coventry) alongside Liverpool Hope being successfully onboarded, and active conversations with one other HEI to accredit their programme.

The CEA have been instrumental in the further development of the Portfolio routes and are pivotal to the long term aims of the MACP as a lead in the advanced practice space.

Knowledge Translation

A positive year has been driven by Matt with the re-start of the MACP Podcast series, a successful focussed symposium, skills workshop and networking sessions broadening the scope of rehabilitation at CSP Conference 2024 and much more.

There was active involvement of the MACP executive committee at IFOMPT 2024 in Basel with chairing, presentations and networking to facilitate knowledge exchange. We as a team worked very hard to promote the MACP on the international stage – with hosting evening socials, building networks across the globe – particularly the International membership category.

Co-production work with Environmental Physiotherapy Association in development and delivery of focussed symposium and network sessions CSP Conference 2024

MACP engagement and representation at the National MSK Conference 2024.

The MACP has a vacancy in this really important role and would like to invite members who might be interested to reach out to me if this might be something for you.

We have much work I would like to see the MACP complete on with regards this area – we have – as mentioned been building our networks and collaboration, but we do want a critical individual to focus on our models of inclusivity and belonging – so please get in touch if you have a passion for this and would like to join us.

PDC

A huge thank you to Hazel who has stepped in magnificently to support the PDC whilst Komal is on Maternity leave.

This year has been incredibly busy with continued high delivery of online courses, in addition to the return of face-to-face courses. This includes the new Strength and conditioning in Clinical practice – the lower limb course.

The PDC have delivered two face-to-face imaging courses in Dublin and there are three further MACP courses pending at St George's hospital in London in 2024.

Our courses this year have had international participants and have been delivered in the UK, Ireland and online from Australia.

The PDC consists of *Samantha Simmonds, Sinead Delaney, Tina Blewett, Basil Tyros, Ashish Sharma, Jenna Jagodzinska and Lydia Oninye Mbemena*

You will see from the reports on the web site the quite incredible work this team have been able to produce and without it, the MACP would not be able to be as impactful as it has been, resource has been key to our strategic aims

You also will see some key development plans in the report, such as more international courses, improving membership benefits with course bookings such as our 50% off offer

CPD Portal

We have negotiated an exit from 14Fish due to consistent issues and poor communication. Although we were signed for 5 years we managed to arrange an immediate exit due to Emis not meeting their terms and conditions.

Following extensive market research, the MACP has decided to commission CPDme to develop the MACP Evolve portal, which will provide mapping for the aforementioned and has additional functionality for producing a detailed CPD report for users, which can support HCPC requirements, as well as any career development that individuals may wish to pursue. There are no costs with the exit and the new provider offers better value for money which we will be assessing how we support members further with this improved margin

Digital / website

This year has seen continued positive feedback regarding the new MACP website, which was launched in August 2023 in collaboration with LightMedia. The site has proven to be extremely user-friendly, with limited to no issues encountered by users. When minor issues have cropped up, the website team has been highly responsive, quickly resolving any concerns, ensuring minimal disruption to our users and staff.

The integration of executive meetings within the website has also been a success. The document management system has allowed for easy amendment and storage of important files, making executive processes more streamlined and accessible.

As the number of issues related to the website has been significantly reduced, our digital and administrative teams have been able to dedicate more time to other key projects, such as marketing and expanding our knowledge translation resources.

IFOMPT

This year, IFOMPT celebrated its 50th anniversary and marked a significant milestone in its history. The anniversary was celebrated during the general meeting and conference held in Basel, Switzerland, in July 2024. These events underscored IFOMPT's ongoing commitment to global MSK practice, education, and research.

Marketing and Outreach: The MACP continued to work with IFOMPT's marketing team to develop a social media strategy, including the creation of promotional videos. These efforts aim to raise awareness of IFOMPT and its member organisations.

Digital Innovations: The MACP, in collaboration with IFOMPT, has been exploring innovative methods such as digital placements at the advanced practice (AP) level, helping to further expand access to training and education globally.

International Portfolio Use: The MACP is in discussions with IFOMPT and other member organisations regarding the adoption of the UK portfolio route by countries where educational programs are less developed or where accreditation at an advanced practice level is required e.g. Ireland (ICSP).

Professional Networks and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

We have a gap in the committee – the professional networks officer is essential; It is the role in building our collaborations but also I want this role to be a lead in our challenges in improving our Equity, Diversity and Belonging. As Chair I am acutely aware of this challenge to ourselves and the way we operate and strategize. With this in mind I am really mindful that we need this role, we need

it be focussed and we need it to challenge. I am welcoming of this challenge and am asking the membership, if you have a passion for this and want to influence and create change, then I would love to hear from you and welcome you onto the committee. My e-mail is available online, please reach out.

Award of Honorary Fellowship of the MACP

Dionne Ryder

Dionne Ryder is responsible for the careers of a vast number of MACP members, having been involved with postgraduate Advanced Physiotherapy education leading to MACP membership for over 20 years. As such, we cannot think of another member who is more deserving of an MACP Fellowship.

Since completing her own MACP Membership via one of the first MACP accredited MSc's at Coventry University in 1994, Dionne has been an active member of the MACP as an educator, mentor, member of the MACP Executive Committee and more recently, Editor of the seminal textbook Musculoskeletal Examination and Assessment. That she was considered the appropriate physiotherapist to take over this role from MACP Fellow, Nicky Petty, speaks highly to Dionne's knowledge and skills as an expert clinician.

After gaining her MACP membership Dionne supported countless students through their MACP membership process in her role as a senior staff member at the Royal Free where she mentored students through the process, tutored students on placement and prepared them for the viva process that formed a major part of the self-directed process to membership for many years. Students who Dionne has taught, mentored and supported all talk about her wisdom, patience and enthusiasm in helping them develop their clinical knowledge and skills, but also of her kindness in challenging and stressful situations.

From 1998-2002, Dionne sat on the MACP Executive Committee as Honorary Secretary, supporting the organisation running their first International Conference in conjunction with Kinetic Control. She successfully dealt with major contract negotiations with Elsevier, the publishers of the journal, Manual Therapy (now Musculoskeletal Science & Practice), and supported the development of MSc programmes at several Universities throughout the UK.

From 2015-2021, she acted as the External Examiner for the Coventry MSc in Manual Therapy ensuring that the standards of IFOMPT and the MACP were maintained throughout the University programme.

Dionne continues to work as a visiting lecturer at the University of Hertfordshire and in clinical practice, ensuring that both patients and physiotherapists benefit from her years of experience and dedication to the profession.

Andy Bennett

Andy became an MACP member in 2013 having completed his MSc in Neuro-musculoskeletal physiotherapy at the University of Hertfordshire with a distinction. At the time he was working at Barts health NHS Trust as an advanced physiotherapy practitioner.

He moved into his consultant role at Epsom and St Helier NHS Trust in 2015, and remains in that post 3 days a week to date. His role there has been to lead the community MSK service and during his

time there he has successfully integrated new digital innovations including the Get U Better and Good Boost platforms. He has also successfully integrated First Contact practitioners across two primary care networks to support joined up MSK service delivery.

Andy and his team secured significant funding of £300,000 to develop and implement a single point of access for community MSK services that is integrated with primary and secondary care partners, significantly reducing onward referral to secondary care and increasing the conversion rates to surgery.

Alongside Consultant Colleague Stephanie Mansell, Andy co-chaired the National Physiotherapy Consultant Group for 4 years as the MSK lead, helping to promote MSK issues through this network and with the CSP. This leadership at a national level helped pave the way for the newly formed Consultant Physiotherapist Professional Network, the newest professional network of the CSP.

Andy has presented primary research and service innovations at national and international conferences from 2015-2-23, and in his role as national Clinical Director for MSK, has spoken at at least 25 national conferences, from the CSP, to ARMA, to British Orthopaedic Association, to parliamentary meetings. At all of these he has promoted the benefits of good MSK health and good practice, founded in clinical expertise and strong innovative leadership. His research has also led to a publication in Musculoskeletal Science and Practice on Independent Prescribing activity in physiotherapists across the UK.

All of these achievements in themselves have been impressive, but the main reason for nominating Andy is for his role as National Clinical Director for MSK Conditions, a role he started in 2019. Little did he know what was ahead for him in terms of the challenges and demands of managing this national role through the COVID pandemic. His role took on huge significance with the ask to deliver MSK services differently and to provide national guidance to support all MSK services across England to work differently and to deliver safe and effective care amidst a national crisis.

Andy was able to bring together national leads for all the specialities involved, from professional and clinical bodies, to patient organisations, to third and private sector colleagues. He led on the #changechallenge project which engaged people with lived experience of MSK conditions in a way I haven't seen before.

This innovative project led into the development of a National programme of work – The Best MSK Health Pathway Improvement programme, which was a wide reaching national programme championing and driving best practice and innovation in all aspects of MSK care. I worked alongside Andy in this project as the lead for the Primary and Community MSK arm of the programme, and was very impressed with Andy's leadership and his supportive, inclusive approach to the demands placed on him and the programme.

His approach was always based in the evidence, always challenging where it needed to be, and always focused on what was best for the patient amidst the demands on the system.

He showed great leadership throughout the pandemic, and his drive to raise the profile and importance of MSK conditions was recognised and rewarded with MSK conditions being recognised by the Dept. of Health as one of the 6 major conditions to be focused on nationally. This is the first time MSK conditions have been recognised to have such an impact, and the result is that there is a much stronger focus, and importantly much larger funding stream to help improve MSK health nationally. Andy's leadership of the Best MSK programme and raising of the MSK profile undoubtedly led to these changes and it feels now that MSK is on the map.

Andy continues to offer National Leadership in his new role as GIRFT lead for Community MSK.

Neil Langridge, Chair MACP, FMACP