

IFOMPT 2016 Conference Report - Ross Mallett

I thoroughly enjoyed my week in Glasgow attending the MACP conference. It was a fantastic opportunity to immerse myself in current dialogue surrounding the profession and its changes and challenges as we move forwards. The whole week was extremely well organised at a great venue (lunch was great and plenty of coffee). As others have mentioned in today's digital world access to up to date advances in the evidence base are no longer delivered through such conference platforms but are shared via various media. I found the carefully selected panels of speakers and researchers throughout the week invaluable in bringing previously disseminated information alive, putting it into context and inspiring me to engage more and revisit many aspects. There was lots of tweeting and great use of a cleverly designed app to ask questions to the speakers and get you around the many sessions on offer. It was really very difficult to decide which to attend at times. My particular highlights were the sessions related to patient perceptions, beliefs and expectations with Lisa Roberts and Harriet Wittink. I was delighted to be being able to listen to so many speakers of renowned reputation that I have referred to, cited and admired over the years, such as Lorrimer Moseley and Gwen Jull to name just a couple. I agree with others that have suggested more use of recording, podcasts or streaming from the conference would spread excellent CPD even further.

As a lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University the new appreciations I have gained from attending the week has already begun to filter into shaping teaching sessions and programmes for students. I have been able to facilitate MSc students embarking on their dissertations just this morning to consider some of the gaps in our evolving evidence base. I was able to network with peers and colleagues from many organisations forging or refreshing communication pathways. We are excited about better working links with IMTA to attract students who have undertaken IMTA training to use this towards completed a Master's degree.

To sum up the week would be difficult but it made me feel I was in the right place to be at the forefront of what's happening within our speciality as a physio. Just need to figure out how to secure funding to get to the next one down under.