

IFOMPT Conference Report 2016

Biannually the IFOMPT hold a large international conference and in 2016 it was hosted in Glasgow. It was a great opportunity for musculoskeletal therapists in the UK, and particularly MACP members. By securing a generous award from the MACP I was able to attend for two full days of the conference. The comprehensive and diverse programme was matched with the multidisciplinary and multinational variety of the attendees. I was impressed at how many international delegates had travelled to Glasgow to share and develop their clinical skills and knowledge. While it was great to see some familiar faces, both on the stage and in the audience, there were a host of new personalities with fresh ideas and information to discuss. From the offset two clear approaches to musculoskeletal management emerged. There were the traditionalists promoting a biomedical model but also a large group supporting a biopsychosocial model. For a historically manual therapy based organisation, it was refreshing to see that these very different management approaches were discussed and the merits of both recognised. With the large paradigm shift in musculoskeletal medicine over the last few years, conferences like this are a perfect opportunity for all delegates to update and improve their knowledge base. This was supported through the use of an interactive app which allowed questions to be sent to the panel, timetables to be managed and was a platform for note taking. A handy solution to a very busy conference, with several lecture programmes running simultaneously! There was also an extensive social programme which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Overall, it was an excellent learning, networking and thought provoking experience. Sharing my experience with my colleagues on my return to work allowed these benefits to be enjoyed by a much larger group. I look forward to the next conference in Melbourne 2020!