

Athens, 17 July, 2011

CPD Educational Bursary Award

Report from the 16th International WCPT Congress in Amsterdam, 2011

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the MACP for the financial support that I was fortunate enough to be awarded in order to attend and present my poster at the WCPT Congress in Amsterdam. The conference had an inspiring international voice with over 100 countries being represented along with the presentation of over 5000 delegates. The Royal Dutch society for Physical Therapy offered great hospitality in a nicely organized village.

The program was very interesting covering all fields of physiotherapy discipline, with the opportunity to take part in focused symposiums, interactive demonstrations attend oral presentations in the impressive Elicium halls and poster presentations. The research presentations included studies emphasizing in findings regarding validated assessment tools and effectiveness of specific interventions in a way that encouraged evidence based practice and informed epidemiological priorities. Amongst the highlights of the congress, was keynote speaker Lorimer Moseley, who underscored the need to teach both patients and therapists the revolution in pain-related knowledge. Biopsychosocial approach was once again prevalent, however with a growing awareness of the relevance of physiotherapy in global health care. I found interesting the platform presentation by Lisa Roberts discussing that beyond the recognized importance of evidence –based practice, patient’s feedback on musculoskeletal services has shown to be a strategy making a difference in clinical effectiveness and patient adherence. Moreover, enlightening was the presentation by Leanne Bisset on the efficacy of Mulligan’s MWMs in several clinical conditions.

The fundamental role of International classifications systems and international clinical education was recognized to bridge global communities and develop physiotherapy profession even in countries where physiotherapy scope of practice and identity are not facilitated. I was happy enough to see significant representation from the Greek physiotherapy community, despite practitioners struggle towards professional autonomy in addition to the magnitude of current socio-economic crisis. The broader support of physiotherapists in oncology, HIV, as well as in patients suffering in Afghanistan or after the earthquake in Haiti was truly inspiring.

The WCPT congress was a chance to connect with the world of physical therapy, and even with the conference having reached the end, the experience, knowledge and network developed can benefit in bringing about change in individual and hopefully global basis.

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