

International  
Perspectives in  
Physiotherapy  
Regulation



2007

Vancouver, British Columbia

Inaugural Forum and Meeting  
of the

**International Network of Physical Therapy Regulatory Authorities  
(INPTRA)**

May 31, June 1, 2007  
Vancouver, Canada

Forum and Meeting Summary

Number of Attendees : 52 ( Appendix A - attendance list)  
Countries represented : 7 Australia, Canada, Israel, New Zealand,  
Norway, United Kingdom,  
United States of America

Steering Committee : **Julia Botteley**, United Kingdom  
**Ruth Grant**, Australia  
**William Hatherill**, United States of America  
**Jan Robinson**, Canada

**May 31, 2007**

**Julia Botteley** opened the Forum and provided a warm welcome to all in attendance. Julia spoke to the history of INPTRA and recognized the contribution of the Steering Committee to the content and format of the Forum.

At this evening event, a keynote address was delivered by **Glen Roberts**, Director of Health Programs, The Conference Board of Canada. Glen spoke to the global implications of health human resource planning and the implications for countries and regions in coming years. He shared population health data and provided comments on how the regulatory community is often viewed. Glen posed challenges to those present, asking regulators to consider:

- ◆ Are the standards set reasonable and necessary?
- ◆ Is the focus on competence or something else?
- ◆ Is the system responsive to the changing work environment?

He closed his talk with the promotion of global discussion on this important topic and emphasized that initiatives such as INPTRA are important to the global economy.

Greetings to the forum participants were extended by **Paul Castonguay**, President of the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators. Of special note was a visit by **Sandra Mercer-Moore**, President, World Confederation for Physical Therapy, who spoke about the importance of collaboration within the profession and the essential work of the regulatory community. She also announced the development of new networks within WCPT and the aim to include regulators within this structure.

### June 1, 2007

**Ruth Grant**, in opening the first session, briefly recapped some of the highlights of the previous evening's keynote address in the context of the objectives of the Forum, prior to introducing the distinguished panel of speakers. Topics and presenters were as follows:

- ◆ Frameworks for Continuing Competence Evaluation  
*Mark Lane, V.P. Professional Standards and Assessment, Federation of State Boards of Physical Therapy, USA*
- ◆ Regulation and Extended/Advanced Scope of Practice  
*Grant Syme, Chair, Scottish ESP Group and Research Officer to the UK ESP Clinical Interest Group UK*
- ◆ Defining "fair" Registration Standards  
*Barbara J. Safriet, Dean's Senior Fellow in Law at Yale Law School USA*
- ◆ Physiotherapy Mobility Across Jurisdictions – local to global  
*Margaret Grant, Chief Executive Officer, Australia Physiotherapy Council*

The presenters did an excellent job of providing concise yet stimulating thought on key elements facing regulators globally. Their thoughtful remarks provided participants with a platform which promoted vigorous and interesting dialogue in small groups.

Following this fully engaged breakout session, **William Hatherill** facilitated discussion aimed at identifying key areas for ongoing consideration. Ideas raised included:

- ◆ Would an international framework related to competence be useful?
- ◆ How might best practices be shared across jurisdiction?
- ◆ Perhaps a lexicon of terms might prove useful to promote clarity in discussion?
- ◆ Would it be useful to put international definition to the scope of practice of physiotherapy and related health roles

- ◆ Can consistency in registration practices be achieved? What does that really mean administratively?
- ◆ Would or could mutual recognition agreements facilitate regulatory understanding and the movement of competent therapists? How would this be initiated?

What was obvious at the conclusion of the roundtable dialogue was the need to talk more, share more and collaborate more.

The afternoon shifted focus to the Network and its potential future. **Jan Robinson** led participants through a series of pre-circulated questions focussed on the objective, membership and leadership of INPTRA. The outcomes, as agreed unanimously by the participants, were as follows:

- ◆ Unanimous confirmation to continue the development of INPTRA.
- ◆ Reconfirmation of the purpose with minor edits. (see Appendix B)
- ◆ Reconfirmation of current objectives with minor revisions. (see Appendix B)
- ◆ Principles for the fledgling organization articulated as openness, transparency and inclusiveness.
- ◆ Membership to be for all parties interested in physical therapy regulation - regulators, accreditors, educators with ongoing consideration for both established and developing regions.
- ◆ Working relationship with WCPT to continue to be fostered. The challenge of the varied mandates between the regulatory and professional association communities noted. Respecting the differences and seeking open communication highlighted.
- ◆ Executive Committee of five members to replace Steering Committee. Geographic wide representation endorsed. Chair to be selected by the Committee. Executive Committee term to be 4 years.
- ◆ Secretariat to be housed with the Chair.
- ◆ Voluntary annual contributory fee of \$100.00 for participants both organizations and individuals.
- ◆ Meetings to be held every two years. Australia to host a meeting in October 2009. Following meeting to be in combination with WCPT in 2011.

A series of tasks were set for the Executive Committee for the next four years. These will be developed in a staged work plan and shared with the network. These include:

By September 2007

- ◆ establish Executive Committee membership (W. Hatherill, USA; J. Robinson, Canada, Australia to be confirmed, and 2 additional)
- ◆ select a Chair and a Secretariat
- ◆ circulate a summary of the Forum along with the network contact list
- ◆ establish host contact for Australia meeting

By 2009

- ◆ develop a draft constitution (bylaws)
- ◆ further expand the network membership
- ◆ consolidate working relationship with WCPT
- ◆ determine a list of key stakeholders which are important to INPTRA
- ◆ further develop communication strategies within network
- ◆ develop strategy for sharing good practices
- ◆ hold meeting in Australia
- ◆ set next agenda for 2011

Evaluation of the event indicated a high level of consensus with the outcomes and a significant satisfaction with the content and opportunity the Forum presented. Emphasis was placed on growing the network and continuing to seek initiatives that will add value to our individual work despite the differences of our systems.



### **Purpose of the International Network of Physical Therapy Regulatory Authorities (INPTRA)**

The International Network of Physical Therapy Regulatory Authorities (INPTRA) provides a forum for existing or emerging physical therapy regulatory authorities, and other related organizations, to participate in exploring and further understanding regulatory systems, issues and opportunities around the world, and to facilitate international cooperation and collaboration on issues of mutual interest.

#### **Objectives**

- ◆ Facilitate international cooperation and collaboration in the exploration of issues relevant to a consistent approach to physical therapy regulation, among physical therapy regulatory authorities, related bodies, emerging regulatory structures and other organizations;
- ◆ Provide a forum for the development and sharing of good practices in the regulation of physical therapy;
- ◆ Encourage and support research, policy analysis and policy development related to physical therapy regulation, licensure and registration;
- ◆ Serve as an information source for physical therapy regulatory authorities, related bodies, emerging regulatory structures and other organizations on regulatory matters;
- ◆ Support and advocate for high standards for physical therapy education, physical therapy program accreditation, licensure, registration, physical therapy practice, professional conduct and continuing competence.