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Meet the New Director of the INPTRA Board of Directors!

Effective June 16, 2017, Dianne Millette, of Canada, will join the Board of Directors, filling the Director position vacated by Katya Masnyk, also from Canada. Dianne has been involved in physiotherapy regulation since 1988 and is currently the Registrar of the College of Physical Therapists of British Columbia. Dianne is a member of the International Scientific Committee of the World Confederation of Physical Therapy, a physiotherapist, and has completed a Master's of Science, Health Administration from the University of Toronto in Ontario Canada.

We look forward to working with Dianne and we thank Katya for her service as Director of the Board. Katya and Dianne will be presenting at the 2017 INPTRA Conference. You can learn more about the conference [here](#).

2017 INPTRA Conference in South Africa June 30-July 1, 2017

Online registration closes June 19th! Preceding the World Conference for Physical Therapy this summer, INPTRA will be holding its biennial meeting in Cape Town, South Africa. [Registration](#) is open and the meeting will be held at African Pride 15 on Orange Hotel.

The educational program will focus on: Governance Issues in Regulation; Digital Issues in Regulation; Education and Regulation; Professionalism, Policy and Practice; and Data Driven Regulation. The

meeting will include speakers from around the world who provide insight into various models and approaches to regulation. There will be keynote speakers, workshops, small group sessions, and rapid fire presentations, along with a networking reception to engage the audience in a unique learning opportunity. We hope you will join us, and please feel free to email info@inptra.org with any questions.

2017 INPTRA Conference Scholarship Recipients

The INPTRA Board of Directors has awarded two scholarships to attend its meeting, 2017 INPTRA Conference: *Innovations in Physiotherapy Regulation Around the Globe*, in Cape Town, South Africa June 30-July 1, 2017 prior to the WCPT Congress 2017. Pollyana Escano, representing the Philippines, and Saurab Sharma, representing Nepal, were awarded this year's scholarships based on their commitment to furthering the physiotherapy regulatory process in their countries.

Pollyana and Saurab will be discussing the regulatory models of the Philippines and Nepal during the conference. We are delighted to offer them this opportunity to share their experiences with fellow regulators.

“How Physical Therapy is Regulated in the Philippines,” by Bernadette M. Reyes, PTRP, RPT, MHA, Member, Board for Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists, Professional Regulation Commission

The Professional Regulation Commission

[The Professional Regulation Commission](#) (PRC) regulates Physical Therapy through the Board of Examiners for Physical Therapists and Occupational Therapists. The Board for PT-OT, created by Republic Act 5680 in 1969, supervises two disciplines under one umbrella. The main office of PRC is located in P. Paredes St. Morayta, Manila.

Current Legislation Initiatives

The Board for PT-OT and the Philippine Physical Therapy Association (PPTA) are working together to file a legislative bill to replace the 48-year-old regulatory law. In the proposed bill, a major provision is the amended definition of Physical Therapy based on the one advocated by the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT):

It is providing services to people to develop, maintain and restore maximum movement and functional ability throughout the lifespan. It is concerned with identifying and maximizing quality of life and movement potential within the spheres of promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

Physical Therapy Degree Curriculum Changes

Recent government policies that added two years to secondary education affected the curriculum of the different university programs. Instead of being 5 years, the Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy (BSPT) degree will become a 4-year course beginning schoolyear 2018.

The curriculum was drafted in consideration of the program outcomes, which involve the key roles played by PT practitioners: clinicians, educators, administrators, researchers, community-based

Workers, and advocates. The courses cover all aspects of patient care: evaluation, assessment, treatment plan, intervention and documentation. Ethics, professionalism and social responsibility courses are also included. The curriculum was benchmarked with WCPT and international accrediting bodies to comply with global standards of entry-level education.

Education Oversight

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) evaluates and monitors institutions offering PT programs through the Technical Committee (TC) which is composed of representatives from the academe, the PPTA and the Board for PT-OT. This body drafts and revises the curriculum, visits schools, accredits programs and affiliation centers for graduating students, and implements the Policies, Standards and Guidelines (PSG) for academic institutions.

The Board for PT-OT may independently perform its monitoring activities of schools and health facilities where PTs are practicing.

CHED also oversees the Masteral programs and is now preparing the PSG for a Doctor of PT Program.

Licensure Examination overview

The current licensure examination contains 600 multiple choice questions covering 3 major subjects: Basic Sciences (Anatomy, Physiology and Kinesiology), Medical Surgical Conditions and Physical Therapy Application. The trend is moving towards an Outcomes Based Examination where focus is more on the learning outcomes.

Registration Designation

A person who graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in PT, has successfully hurdled the licensure examination administered by the PRC, and has taken the Oath of Professionals is considered registered and as such can append the letters PTRP (Physical Therapist Registered in the Philippines) after his/her name.

Existing PTRPs

Since the first administration of the licensure examination in 1973, more than 29,000 PTs have been registered. Less than one fourth are actively practicing.

A large percentage of registered PTs are practicing outside the country. In the 1980's, graduates of PT programs found employment in the United States, Canada, United Kingdom and the Middle Eastern countries. Today, PTs are also employed in Australia and Singapore.

Internationally-educated PTs

Internationally-educated PTs who want to practice in the Philippines may apply for registration with or without Board Licensure examination or secure a Special Temporary Permit (STP) from the Board for PT-OT. They have to submit proofs of education, training, licensure status from country of origin, work history and expertise gained. The Board then determines if the activity/undertaking of the foreign professional constitutes a practice of the profession under the scope of practice of the professional regulatory law.

Standard of Practice and Code of Ethics overview

Apart from the existing law, a Standard of Practice and Code of Ethics guide the professionals in how to carry out their functions.

- PTs have no direct access to patients. There should be a prescription from a duly registered physician.
- PTs cannot prescribe medication.
- PTs can supervise assistants but the latter have stopped practicing since the mid-90s.
- Dry needling is not common, but if applied, it is carried out by trained PTs only.
- Telepractice is not popular.
- A PT found guilty for any illegal, immoral, dishonorable conduct or any violation of the offenses enumerated by law may be penalized in ways including reprimand, monetary fine, revocation of license, and even imprisonment, depending on the gravity of the offense.

Specialties and Continuing Education

Specialties include: sports, pediatrics, geriatrics, manual therapy, oncology, orthopedics, occupational health, wellness, and community-based rehabilitation. Most PTs possessing formal certification earned them from training outside of the country.

A recent law on professional continuing education (CPD) was passed with the objective of continuously improving the competence of professionals in accordance with international standards of practice. It also mandates that PTs should earn credit units before the renewal of license. Credit units accumulated can lead to qualifications that can be transferred towards career progression.

Current Issues

There are two major issues at the moment -- the filing of a new legislative bill to replace Republic Act 5680 and labor mobility. The bill's objectives are:

- to separate the regulatory Board for PT from OT (as these are two distinct professions),
- to institute the more appropriate definition of Physical Therapy,
- to revise the scope of practice, and
- to address the direct access issue.

The provisions of the bill will be aligned with present practice and will be reflective of the needs and requirements of the times.

With the advent of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) INTEGRATION

(<http://www.asean.org>), which aims to facilitate the entry of goods, investments and services of skilled workers and professionals within the 10 member states (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam), the Filipino PTs will have to remain competitive by keeping the quality of education high and the skills and competence of professionals even better to be able to cope with changes regionally.

The PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (PQF), a national policy that describes the levels of educational qualifications and sets the standards of qualification outcomes, enables the professionals to build credentials to move up the career ladder and seek employment. To harmonize qualifications within the region, there is the ASEAN QUALIFICATIONS REFERENCE FRAMEWORK (AQRF). It is a common reference framework that functions as a translation device to enable comparisons of qualifications across participating ASEAN Countries.

To further pave the way for mobility, the Mutual Recognition Arrangements between member states have been forged in certain professions like Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry and Engineering to prequalify and facilitate the exchange of professionals. Filipino PTs are also cognizant of the demands of the

profession in the global arena, so they continue to enhance qualifications through formal post-graduate studies, specialization and continuing professional development courses.

INPTRA Board of Directors Report

Since February, to advance the business of the organization, the board of directors awarded the two scholarships to this year's conference in Cape Town, South Africa.

INPTRA Regulatory Guiding Principles

These principles on physiotherapy have been developed to provide guidance both to already-established regulatory authorities and, in particular, to those countries where physiotherapy regulation is developing or has not yet been developed. This version is based on feedback from attendees of the INPTRA 2015 conference in Singapore.

The [principles](#) provide specific areas that should be addressed in a regulatory model for physiotherapy.

While not all the principles may be feasible at the current time within a particular jurisdiction, they should provide guidance for future change.

The principles also provide the foundation for the collection of data, evidence and resources related to each of the principles.

Are you a regulator?

Click [Agencies under Regulatory Resources](#) on the INPTRA website to view country information.

- Have we included your country?
- Is your country's regulatory agency information correct?
- Is some information missing?

Send updates to info@inptra.org.

Submit your country's regulatory profile

To submit a profile of your country's physiotherapy regulation, please send the following information (in English and MS Word, please) to info@inptra.org.

- **Country:** the name of your country
- **Point of contact:** Your name, position and email address. (This is for INPTRA's information only and will not be posted on the website.)
- **Regulatory Model:** Provide a brief one-paragraph summary
- **Website:** the website address of the organization that represents physiotherapy regulators in your country