

50 Years of History

Brazil

Name of organisation: Associação Brasileira de Fisioterapia Traumato-ortopédica ABRAFITO (Brazilian Association of Trauma-Orthopaedic Physiotherapy)

Year organisation started: 2013

Member of IFOMPT since: 2024

Key influencers of OMPT over the years:

Palmiro Torrieri Jr, Dan Gotlib Pilderwasser and José Liberado Jr are responsible for spreading different OMPT technique concepts throughout Brazil.

Marcelo Faria Silva: Founder and first president of ABRAFITO, a researcher and renowned for his political actions regarding the defense and development of Physiotherapy in Brazil.

Professors Amélia Pascoal, Débora Grossi, Felipe Reis, Léo Costa, Nivaldo Parizotto, Rinaldo Guirro, Sergio Fonseca, Tania Salvini, and others for their valuable scientific production in OMPT/MSK taking Brazilian physiotherapy to several international periodicals.

Development over the years:

2024 celebrates 55 years of Physiotherapy as a profession in Brazil.

The two-decade history of ABRAFITO began when de Trauma-Ortophaedic Physiotherapy specialty was recognized by the Brazilian Physiotherapy Council. In 2005, three states in the south of Brazil formed the Sul-Brazilian Society of Trauma-Orthopedic Physiotherapy (SULBRAFITO). The society grew rapidly (>400 members) and was the only association. The notion of nationalization rapidly became stronger in conversations with the Brazilian Physiotherapy Council. On October 22nd, 2013, at the IV SULBRAFITO Congress in Curitiba, the Bylaws of the *Associação Brasileira de Fisioterapia Traumato-ortopédica* - ABRAFITO, were unanimously approved, with 50 founding associates.

Any major changes or challenges in the last 50 years:

The Brazilian Physiotherapy Council in 2010 resolved that specialty associations were responsible for certifying the specialist title for Brazilian physiotherapists. This presents the challenge to develop a sufficiency of evidence test with adequate criteria to evaluate physiotherapists for the title of specialist.

An important milestone was the agreement in 2017 with SECAD® through PROFISIO and ABRAFITO for a proposal for high quality systematized continuing education.

Current status and challenges:

Since its foundation, ABRAFITO's mission has been to promote activities that value education, research and professional practice so that advances in our specialty optimize physiotherapy treatment for the population. We understand the importance of dialogue with all who add value to our profession including public and private health sectors, teaching institutions, self-employed professionals, entrepreneurs in the health area and all physiotherapists.

The future of the organisation:

We believe in a strong association connected with other musculoskeletal associations worldwide working to advance the specialty.
