

50 Years of History

France

Name of organisation: Organisation for Musculoskeletal Therapy-France (OMT-France)

Year organisation started: 2012

Member of IFOMPT since: 2020

Key influencers of OMPT through the years: OMT practice in France has a comparatively short history. Nevertheless, many leaders are emerging as more physiotherapists complete OMT curricula provided in community and university based programs. Our first national events were international by default. Now French congresses and events strengthen the network with French OMT practitioners and Fellows. French personnel influencing our development include: Dr. Frederic Froment, a member of the OMT-France board conducted his doctorate in the USA choosing direct access as a main topic. He contributed to the visibility and positive impacts of the Fellowship in France. We have several leading fellows who are OMPT advocates such as Thibault Desjardins (red flags screening), Jean-Philippe Deneuille (lower back), Mathieu Loubière (OMPT promotion), Sylvain Riquier (Echograph and screening) and members Francis Grondin (cervical spine), François Angeliaume (Neurodynamics).

Developments over the years: The first task was to increase our skills in manual and manipulative therapies and the second was to implement the new framework of practice necessary for a quality treatment. We have increased our available resources for members and non-members such as videos, translated articles, frameworks to make OMT more visible and accessible. We feel that we can contribute largely to facilitating direct access in France for persons with musculoskeletal disorders and pain and globally increase the level of clinical knowledge of musculoskeletal practitioners.

Any major changes or challenges in the last 50 years: Our first challenge was to create an environment where manual/manipulative therapy is recognized as an effective adjunct to musculoskeletal rehabilitation when used appropriately and not as an isolated intervention. That is why we changed our name Orthopaedic Manual Therapy-France to Organisation for Musculoskeletal Therapy-France in 2020. This helped clarify OMT-France's adoption of IFOMPT's philosophy and educational standards, demonstrating that our organization is not a community based program. From a French perspective, this change facilitated our exchanges with the public and other stakeholders and resulted in many partnerships.

Current status and challenges: 1) making our actions and purpose more visible online and in transdisciplinary contexts 2) promoting our long-term curricula that leads to our fellowship despite a lack of financial recognition 3) improve our limited impact on national health policies 4) enlarging our membership and networks with other stakeholders.

The future of the organisation: We aim to grow in numbers and become the musculoskeletal reference group within other health societies/organisations, by developing our partnerships and collaborations with institutions that promote high quality education and practice. In the future, OMT-France intends to increase the level of participation within IFOMPT and the international community. Nationally the financial and political context is not facilitating policy changes nor global interest in continuous training programs.
