

50 Years of History

Aotearoa / New Zealand

Name/s of organisation: New Zealand Manipulative Physiotherapy Association (NZMPA)

Year organisation started: 1969

Member of IFOMPT since: 1988

Key influencers of OMPT through the years:

Dr Stanley Paris Jr., Robin McKenzie and Brian Mulligan are the international recognised leaders.

Michael Monaghan, Dr Mark Laslett, Dr Duncan Reid, Dr Wayne Hing and Dr Steve White were responsible for creating the more contemporary teaching modules.

Development over the years:

The numbers within the NZMPA had increased as a result of the relationships with the universities in NZ, the post-graduate courses and on-going education programs, which have always met the IFOMPT standard. The recent challenges have been surpassed by a new cohort of physiotherapists and tutors.

Major changes or challenges in the last 50 years:

The most recent challenge has been the perception that the NZMPA is solely about joint manipulation. This is being counteracted by a new style of teaching including webinars to educate the junior physiotherapists on the wide set of skills that are taught including exercise prescription.

Current status and challenges:

The membership is now growing after a recent decrease. The new executive has addressed the challenge by engaging with the stakeholders and especially the junior physiotherapist. The executive recognizes the need to promote musculoskeletal physiotherapy and offset any negative commentary around our roles.

The future of the organisation:

The organisation will become more active in marketing MSK physiotherapy and be able to overcome any challenges. Diversity within the executive will be a strength and understanding our history will create a greater sense of unity.

The teaching pedagogy will continue to react to the needs of the membership. The NZMPA will work with other clinical groups nationally and internationally to create unity and understanding within the profession.

The NZMPA will be more proactive in marketing the role of musculoskeletal physiotherapy nationally and internationally.
